

LESSON 20

Foundations Curriculum

Jesus Rose from the Dead — Part 2

By Manoel Rocha

Introduction

Jesus Rose from the Dead — Part 2

In this twentieth lesson, we will continue the theme of the resurrection of Jesus, focusing on the implications of this glorious fact. Every circumstance of the life of Jesus has its greatness, from His birth to His resurrection and exaltation. Based on the fact that Jesus rose, ten affirmations will be presented in this lesson to strengthen and ground our faith in Christ, as well as to reveal what this fact represents for Christian history and for our present lives. Furthermore, it points to our expectation of the return of Jesus to come for us.

Based on the fact that Jesus rose, as discussed in the previous lesson, ten affirmations will be shared below.

✓ FIRST AFFIRMATION

The resurrection of Jesus is unique

People mistakenly try to compare the resurrection of Jesus with other experiences of which they have heard. For example, the false doctrine of the reincarnation of the dead.

What is reincarnation? Reincarnation is a false doctrine that says that people, after death, can return to this life in another body, being able to assume any body, even the body of an animal! And that this process is repeated multiple times until the person reaches perfection (the so-called fullness of being). This false doctrine is the basis of the faith of religions such as spiritism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shiite Islam, among others.

Why do we say it is a false doctrine? Because there is no biblical basis for it. No indication in the Holy Scriptures points to this possibility. Quite the contrary.

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

Another confusion concerns the resurrection of certain people recorded in the Holy Scriptures, such as Lazarus, for example (John 11).

How was the resurrection of Lazarus? Just like Lazarus, there are many documented cases of people who died and returned to life. However, these people returned in the same body they had before death and, later, of course, came to die again. They are not alive to this day. They merely received more time of life on earth, in the same body they possessed, and then died physically.

The resurrection of Jesus itself also raises doubts and wrong interpretations by some. The fact is that the resurrection of Jesus is unique. He rose in a new body. He is the only one who remains alive (He did not die afterward like the others).

The resurrection of Jesus is different from any other experience that has ever existed. Because He died physically (and remained dead for three days), and God the Father raised Him from the dead with a new body, in the likeness of His body in the flesh, yet an incorruptible, eternal, transformed, and glorified body.

✓ SECOND AFFIRMATION

The resurrection of Jesus is proof that the Scripture is true

“Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.’”

Luke 24:44–49 (NKJV)

When Jesus rose, He recalled the words and prophecies of the Old Testament that spoke about Him — everything that the Law of Moses and the Psalms said about Him and what was to come. Everything the Scriptures said has been fulfilled to this day. And it will continue to be fulfilled.

“Having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come — that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

Acts 26:22–23 (NKJV)

✓ THIRD AFFIRMATION

The resurrection of Jesus is proof that His claims are true

“But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.’”

Matthew 12:39–40 (NKJV)

“On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, ‘Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise.”’”

Matthew 27:62–63 (NKJV)

The chief priests and Pharisees spoke among themselves about Jesus having said He would rise on the third day and, because of this, requested that guards be placed at the tomb to prevent any attempt by the disciples to steal the body. Just as they feared this possibility, the disciples also reached the same conclusions about Him having announced His resurrection days later.

“So the Jews answered and said to Him, ‘What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.”

John 2:19–22 (NKJV)

The text above was also a confirmation for the disciples of what Jesus had said.

✓ FOURTH AFFIRMATION

The resurrection of Jesus is proof that the testimony of the apostles is true

It confirms the testimony of the apostles, who were with Him, ate and drank in His company, and spoke with Him after His resurrection.

“...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did

both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.”

Acts 10:38–41 (NKJV)

✓ FIFTH AFFIRMATION

Jesus conquered death!

“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:54–57 (NKJV)

“...whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.” **Acts 2:24**

Why was Jesus not conquered by death? Because He had no sin; He did not experience wrongdoing or deceit. The wages of sin is death (that is why we die), but He could not receive those wages since He had lived a perfect and blameless life.

“Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth.” **1 Peter 2:22**

✓ SIXTH AFFIRMATION

Jesus guarantees our victory over death

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NKJV)

“Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”

Romans 4:23–25 (NKJV)

Jesus was delivered up because of our transgressions; He paid the debt that belonged to us. He was raised because of our justification. God accepted His sacrifice for us.

We who believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus were united to Him in His death through baptism and rose in newness of life in Him!

“...for he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:7–11 (NKJV)

We have not yet been raised (in an eternal sense). He will give us eternal life and will raise us on the last day. This is our faith and our guarantee in Him. He promised this.

We walk and have this assurance: that if we walk with Him, we will be raised in Him on the last day.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

John 8:51 (NKJV)

“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:40 (NKJV)

✓ SEVENTH AFFIRMATION

Jesus will return and will judge the living and the dead

This is to produce fear in our hearts. He is alive and He will judge us.

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.”

2 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)

“For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

John 5:26–29 (NKJV)

The Lord will return and will judge the living and the dead with righteousness. We should rejoice in this.

✓ EIGHTH AFFIRMATION

Jesus gave us His life

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’” **John 14:23**

*“For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.
I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live,
but Christ lives in me.”*

Galatians 2:19–20 (NKJV)

He gave us His life through His Spirit who came to dwell in us. We received the life of Christ to resist sin and to be holy. The guarantee is a pledge that the Lord will return to come for us (2 Corinthians 1:21–22).

✓ NINTH AFFIRMATION

Jesus is the resurrection and the life!

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”*

John 11:25–26 (NKJV)

✓ TENTH AFFIRMATION

Jesus called us to be His witnesses

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

You may be asking yourself: how can I be a witness if I was not there and did not see the risen Jesus?

If we believe (and have believed), we must testify that He rose and that He is alive. This is the foundation of our faith and it will certainly impact other people.

*“Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed.
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”*

John 20:29 (NKJV)

We are those blessed ones! We came to believe many years later. We did not see the resurrection of Jesus happen, as the apostles witnessed in that era, but we believe in it. This faith reached us.

“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 1:1 (NKJV)

When Peter wrote these words, he was saying that they (at that time) had the obligation to believe because they had seen, they had been there. But the Church to which he was writing did not participate in that. They came to believe much later. But they had the same faith that we have today and, because of it, they faced persecution and death for the love of Jesus.

Jesus said He needed to go to the Father in order to send the Holy Spirit. He went to the Father.

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”

1 Corinthians 15:14–18 (NKJV)

The Word of God says: if Christ has not risen, our preaching is empty, our faith is empty, we are false witnesses, we remain in our sins, and all our labor is in vain.

We know that Christ rose, that our preaching is not empty, that we do not remain slaves to sin.

For a deeper understanding of this, read 1 Corinthians 15:1–58. Here Paul speaks about the glory of the transformation of our bodies.

Today we can affirm with complete certainty of faith that Jesus rose and is alive! Hallelujah!

It is worth remembering that, for centuries, the brothers and sisters of that time did not have access to the Bible as we know it today. They knew only the manuscripts of the Old Testament. We have today an organized and accessible body of content that they did not have. For this reason, we need to reclaim and preach to the world that Jesus is alive.

Important note:

Jesus did not reincarnate in another mortal body, nor did He merely revive in His same fleshly body. His body is a new body that will live forever! Jesus is alive!

CONCLUSION

In this twentieth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we continued the teaching on the resurrection of Jesus, bringing ten truths that arose from it. The resurrection of Jesus has great significance and importance for our life and faith. It is unique and has nothing to do with the doctrine of “reincarnation”; it guarantees our victory over death; it is proof that the testimony of the apostles is true; it attests that Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead; it guarantees our own resurrection, among other things. It is also very important that we be witnesses of this to the world — after all, it was for this that He called us: to witness His love, death, resurrection, and His return.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01 Can you explain why the resurrection of Jesus is unique?
- 02 Do you know why death could not hold Him?
- 03 What does the resurrection of Christ guarantee to those who believe in Him?
- 04 Are you afraid of death, or do you believe that death has already been conquered?
- 05 Do you long to have a body like that of Jesus?
- 06 Have you ever had an encounter with the risen Jesus?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)