



## Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

*All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!*

[www.huldahministry.com](http://www.huldahministry.com)  
[information@huldahministry.com](mailto:information@huldahministry.com)



HULDAH MINISTRY

# LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

## 【 RESURRECTION IS A FACT 】

*As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.*

*The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This late deception will be worse than the first."*

*"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.*

*After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*

*There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.*

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.*

**MATTHEW 27:57-28:6.**

Last month we examined an interesting article about the ‘Shroud of Turin’. While it has been claimed by a growing number of scientists that the Shroud is indeed the actual cloth of Jesus Christ and that the final scientific dating of the Shroud has yet to be conducted, there are of course some opposite opinions. The following article entitled “*IS THE SHROUD OF TURIN REAL?*” might be helpful to maintain a balanced view.

Shroud of Turin: Is It Authentic? [Excerpts] An amazing cloth shroud...The cloth has a realistic imprint that looks like a man's face. According to tradition, the shroud was miraculously formed when it covered Jesus' body in the tomb. Some people quote Matthew 27:59, Mark 15:46, and Luke 23:53 to justify the possibility of this miracle. These verses seem to indicate that a single cloth was used to wrap Jesus when He was taken off the cross. But was this same cloth wrapped around Jesus' body when it was placed in the tomb?

After the crucifixion, Jesus' body would have been bloody from Pilate's whipping (Matthew 27:26), the crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29), and the nails driven into His hands and feet (Acts 2:23). More blood flowed from the spear wound in His side (John 19:34). So this cloth would have absorbed a lot of blood.

Now did this cloth remain on Jesus' body as it was carried to the grave? From a cursory glance at the accounts in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, you might think so. However, John reveals more details (John 19:38-40). Joseph of Arimathea took the body prior to its placement in the grave. Later Nicodemus joined him, applying about 75 pounds of spices and wrapping the body in several strips of linen.

To apply the spices, the caretakers must have removed the bloody linen covering Christ at the cross. We have no reason to assume that they reused this single cloth. Instead, we would expect them to follow Jewish customs of cleanliness.

Also, no Gospel author mentions a second single-cloth linen around Jesus' body-only a small cloth wrapped around Jesus' face and several other linen strips around the rest of his body (John 20:7).

At Jesus' resurrection, both John and Luke mention the strips of linen and the cloth on His face (Luke 24:12; John 20:3-7). They mention nothing else. We have no reason to assume any other cloths were present in the tomb. To do so requires us to impose our ideas on the Bible, contrary to reasonable inferences, which is not the way to "rightly divide the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The Bible, read carefully in context, rules out the Shroud of Turin as Jesus' burial cloth.

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v4/n2/problematic-apologetics>

However, as Guy Cramer claimed (which we examined last month), if the image on the Shroud was created by ionization through the process of resurrection, in complete darkness where there was no entrance area for lightening to strike Christ's body and to create such an image, mightn't there be still the possibility for its genuineness?

On the third day after Christ's crucifixion when Peter and John went into the tomb there were strips of linen lying there but the Scripture does not specify them as “*folded up by itself*”, while they saw the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head remained there ‘*folded up by itself, separate from the linen*’. Jesus' funeral was hurried because the Sabbath began in less than three hours, which means that there was no time to anoint the body with aromatic spices and it had to be done later. It might be thinkable that the head and the body were separately, possibly very roughly wound with linen so that later application would be easier. After the very quick burial procedure done by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea with ‘*a mixture of myrrh and aloes*’, the corpse was laid on its rock bed of a private vault in Joseph of Arimathea's own garden ‘*at the place where Jesus was crucified*’, and a heavy stone was rolled over the entrance. After two consecutive Sabbaths, when the women returned to the tomb in which they had seen how Jesus' body was laid, with spices and perfumes, there was extreme urgency in the task of anointing it because His body had already been there three days and three nights. In consideration of these circumstantial accounts it might be assumed that the linen was not completely wound around Jesus' body but just temporally wrapped, leaving space for later treatments.

There are many good coverage of the arguments about “*EVIDENCES OF JESUS CHRIST'S RESURRECTION*”, one of which is quoted below.

"I claim to be an historian. My approach to Classics is historical. And I tell you that the evidence for the life, the death, and the resurrection of Christ is better authenticated than most of the facts of ancient

history ..." E. M. Blaiklock - Professor of Classics, Auckland University

The Resurrection of Christ is the most powerful event in history. It has affected the last 2000 years of history and politics, from peasants to kings to nations. Christianity has spread across the entire world, into every country and into a vast number of ethnic groups and languages. Billions of people have experienced the life-giving, healing, forgiveness and freedom offered by God because Jesus Christ conquered death and rose again from the grave. The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor 15:12-22 that without the resurrection of Christ, the Christian faith is useless. "And if Christ be not raised," Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." There are many skeptics who disregard the resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth as a fable. However, the evidence for Jesus' resurrection is extremely strong, even to the point of converting some who sought to disprove it:

**The Empty Tomb:** Though well-trained Roman soldiers guarded the tomb of Jesus Christ, it was empty 3 days after Jesus' death as Jesus had repeatedly foretold (Matt 12:40, Mark 8:31). The guards had fled (a death penalty offense). The massive stone had been rolled away, and the body was gone – and was never produced by the enemies of the Christians. The linen grave clothes in which the Jews bury their dead were still in the tomb, undisturbed. From the Jewish historian Josephus to a compilation of 5th-century Jewish writings called the "Toledoth Jeshu", even Jewish sources and traditions admit that the tomb was empty. The body was never found.

**Living Witnesses:** There were a multitude of witnesses who saw Jesus Christ alive after his death. The disciples, the travelers on the road to Emmaus and a number of women all spoke to Jesus alive. Thomas doubted until he was able to put his fingers into Jesus' wounds (John 20:26-27). He later spread the Gospel all the way to India. The apostle Paul tells of 500 people to whom Jesus appeared at one time, most of whom were still alive and available for questioning when Paul wrote his letter (1 Cor 15:6). When several people testify in a courtroom that they witnessed an event, and their accounts are found consistent with each other, their testimony is considered factual information. Jesus Christ was seen alive many times by hundreds of different people over the course of forty days after his death (John 20-21, Acts 1:3).

**The Disciples:** Christ's followers, who had been fearful and who had run away when Jesus was arrested, were completely changed after the Resurrection and became courageous witnesses. Peter, who had denied knowing Christ when recognized by a simple servant girl, became the powerfully bold leader of those who had seen Christ alive, speaking to the thousands gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Shavuot – Pentecost. A person may die for a lie if they do not know it is a lie. But people do not give their lives up and face severe persecution to spread a lie they themselves invented. The fact that the disciples willingly suffered beatings and persecution and death is strong evidence that they had actually witnessed the resurrection they refused to stop telling people about.

**Saul of Tarsus:** A devoutly religious Pharisee, who persecuted the Church and had Christ's followers thrown in prison, Paul had his life absolutely changed by his encounter with Christ. He became a devoted follower of Christ himself, spreading the Gospel throughout Turkey and Greece in the face of beatings and shipwrecks and imprisonment and, finally, execution.

"If the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt." - F. F. Bruce, Manchester University

#### **Skeptics' Arguments Against the Resurrection:**

**The Hallucination Theory** claims that the witnesses who met the resurrected Jesus were all "seeing things" - they were hallucinating. However, this goes against common sense as well as psychological principles. Five hundred people do not all hallucinate the same thing. Jesus appeared to many people at many different times. Also, the body was never produced.

**The Swoon Theory** argues that Jesus did not die – that he simply fainted from loss of blood and exhaustion. However, this also goes against common sense. The Romans were professionals who severely whipped Jesus, hung him on a cross, and then stabbed him in the side with a spear to make sure he was dead. He was in the grave for three days, wrapped head to foot in a burial cloth, without food or water or medical treatment. When he appeared to his disciples he was completely whole and healthy and his

appearance inspired awe and worship that lasted throughout the rest of the disciples' lives.

**The Disciples Faked the Resurrection:** Discouraged, fearful fishermen and former tax collectors, whose teacher had been viciously murdered, were in little position to take on a detachment of trained Roman soldiers guarding the tomb. They would have had to create a fantastic plan in order to fight off or bribe the professional soldiers, raid the tomb, unbind the grave clothes from Christ's body, take the body away, and hide it where nobody would ever find it. The Roman soldiers faced death if they failed in their guard duty, and the disciples had little money for bribing anybody. Many people would have had to be involved in the conspiracy, and all those involved would not only have known the truth, but would know that they were risking meeting the same fate as their recently crucified leader. And what purpose could it possibly serve, if Jesus were dead? They would have had nothing to gain. Their leader was gone and they would have only faced persecution and death for their invented resurrection story.

And again, the disciples' attitudes completely changed after the Resurrection and especially after Pentecost. They became bold and courageous in spreading their message, fearless of beatings or imprisonment. They never sought to fight Rome or to establish any position or kingdom or authority for themselves. They had nothing to gain, physically speaking. They simply went about the known world, telling their story in spite of persecution and suffering, poverty and ridicule. Their message quickly spread across the Middle East and Europe and even into Asia without any military conquest or political support involved- and in spite of strong opposition. Only belief and hope based in the reality of their experiences would have produced such dedication in the lives of Christ's followers.

Perhaps the greatest evidence today of Christ's resurrection is the work that he is still doing in the lives of every day people. In the name of Jesus, people are still being healed emotionally and physically and spiritually by the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Sinners are being freed from the burden and pain and shame of sin – sometimes immediately, sometimes after long years of steady work by the Holy Spirit in their lives. Hearts are being mended and lives are being turned around. The best evidence today is the faithful follower of Christ who can say, "He saved me, and I am not the person I used to be" just as the apostles testified 2000 years ago. (*the April 07, 2009 eNews issue* <http://www.khouse.org>)

There are several ways of testing the truth of a past event; 'eye-witness accounts' and 'circumstantial evidence' as well as the scientific method of 'observation, deduction and experimentation', archaeology, and paleontology. The first two ways are available for the resurrection. The historical basis for the life, death, and resurrection of Christ may be said to be more firmly established than for other figures in His time. As for the indirect circumstantial evidence five can be pointed out; 1) the completely missing body in the tomb, 2) the sudden change seen in the disciples from the coward and fearful to the bold 3) the beginning of Sunday worship by breaking the revered and traditional Sabbath worship 4) the birth of the Church within two months after the resurrection and its rapid growth and spread to the world as a historical phenomenon 5) transformed lives of believers in the name of Jesus Christ up to this day. As lawyers have frequently observed the eye-witness accounts and the circumstantial evidence are more than adequate for any jury to reach an unanimous verdict, so, all of the facts above taken together, will make a convincing case for the resurrection. On the other hand, there are still many who try to find another interpretation of the basic facts behind the resurrection; 1) theft 2) error 3) hallucination 4) swoon 5) plot. David Pawson summarises the reasoning behind such opposition against belief in the resurrection; 'Why is it easier to accept the authenticity of Homer's Iliad than the Gospels, and that Julius Caesar invaded Britain than that Jesus rose from the dead? In both cases, the evidence is far better for the latter. However, we can believe the former without having to do anything about it. Life can go on exactly as before. But the resurrection is quite a different matter. If Jesus rose from the dead, the claims he made for himself are valid and the claims he makes on us are equally valid. We cannot ignore him any more. We would not just have to change our minds, about him and about God, about ourselves and others; we'd have to change our morals as well. For he claimed that we are all accountable to him for how we live our lives and that he would decide our eternal destiny on this basis. In a word, if he is right, all of us have been wrong...Behind the reluctance to believe the evidence for the resurrection lies the reluctance to face its significance...They want to live life their way, not his.' (quoted from 'The Resurrection', Sovereign World)