

A Sign For All Time — Episode 2 Study Guide

"If Jesus Didn't Rise, None of This Matters" · Matthew 12:40 · 1 Corinthians 15:1–8

The big idea: Christianity does not rest on a feeling or a moral example. It rests on one historical claim: Jesus rose. If that didn't happen, none of this matters. If it did, everything changes.

I. The Sign He Promised — Matthew 12:40

- For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the _____ be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- Jesus didn't point to a vague sign. He named the day and the proof in advance — His own resurrection.

Ask yourself: Would I have believed a promise that specific — or would I have waited to see if He kept it?

II. The Gospel That Was Delivered — 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

- I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was _____, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.
- Paul isn't offering an opinion. He's passing along a fixed, received report — death, burial, resurrection, all "according to the scriptures."

Ask yourself: Do I treat the gospel as something I feel, or something that actually happened?

III. The Witnesses Who Saw Him — 1 Corinthians 15:5–8

- He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.
- Paul names living eyewitnesses on purpose — people his readers could still go ask. This was a claim built to be checked, not believed blindly.

Ask yourself: Have I ever actually looked at the evidence, or just assumed there wasn't any?

IV. The Stakes If He Didn't — 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 19

- And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also _____.
- And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your _____.
- If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Ask yourself: Am I building my life on a fact, or just a feeling I hope is true?

The stakes: If Jesus didn't rise, none of this matters. But He did — and that changes everything.

Scripture list: Matthew 12:38–40 · 1 Corinthians 15:1–19 · Romans 10:9–10

Talk it over

1. Why does Paul anchor the whole gospel to one historical event instead of a feeling or a philosophy?
2. Paul names specific living witnesses, including over 500 at once. Why does that detail matter?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, and 19 aloud. Why does Paul refuse to soften what's at stake if the resurrection isn't true?
4. If someone asked you today, "how do you know Christianity is true?" — what would you actually say?
5. Does your own faith rest more on evidence or on emotion? What would it look like to shore up the former?

Two kinds of people

If you have already obeyed the Gospel: let the resurrection be more than a holiday you celebrate once a year. It is the fact your whole life stands on — revisit it, and let it steady you.

If you have not yet obeyed the Gospel: hear it (Romans 10:17), believe it (Mark 16:16), repent of your sin (Acts 17:30), confess His name (Romans 10:9–10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Memory verse (KJV)

"And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." — 1 Corinthians 15:4

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And may the Good God of Heaven bless you — and bless you real well.