

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 ESV



**BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH**

## Worship Service & Communion

Sunday, 6 April, 2025

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**Worship Services In-person & Online 10:40am & 6pm**

 <https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

**Sunday School In-person 9:30 - 1015am**

 **ZOOM** links provided

**Midweek In-person & Online Service (Wednesday)**

**Noon & 7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided**

**Youth Service in-person 7pm (Friday)**

 **WhatsApp** 845 - 5752 or Tel: 426 - 4707

email: [info@bereanbarbados.org](mailto:info@bereanbarbados.org)

[www.bereanbarbados.org](http://www.bereanbarbados.org)



# The Resurrection of Jesus

William Lane Craig

I spoke recently at a major Canadian university on the existence of God. After my talk, one slightly irate co-ed wrote on her comment card, “I was with you until you got to the stuff about Jesus. God is not the Christian God!”

This attitude is all too typical today. Most people are happy to agree that God exists; but in our pluralistic society it has become politically incorrect to claim that God has revealed Himself decisively in Jesus. What justification can Christians offer, in contrast to Hindus, Jews, and Muslims, for thinking that the Christian God is real?

The answer of the New Testament is: the resurrection of Jesus. “God will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead” (Acts 17.31). The resurrection is God’s vindication of Jesus’ radical personal claims to divine authority.

So how do we know that Jesus is risen from the dead? The Easter hymnwriter says, “You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart!” This answer is perfectly appropriate on an individual level. But when Christians engage unbelievers in the public square—such as in “Letters to the Editor” of a local newspaper, on call-in programs on talk-radio, at PTA meetings, or even just in conversation with co-workers—, then it’s crucial that we be able to present objective evidence in support of our beliefs. Otherwise our claims hold no more water than the assertions of anyone else claiming to have a private experience of God.

Fortunately, Christianity, as a religion rooted in history, makes claims that can in important measure be investigated historically. Suppose, then, that we approach the New Testament writings, not as inspired Scripture, but merely as a collection of Greek documents coming down to us out of the first century, without any assumption as to their reliability other than the way we normally regard other sources of ancient history. We may be surprised to learn that the majority of New Testament critics investigating the gospels in this way accept the central facts undergirding the resurrection of Jesus. I want to emphasize that I am not talking about evangelical or conservative scholars only, but about the broad spectrum of New Testament critics who teach at secular universities and non-evangelical seminaries. Amazing as it may seem, most of them have come to regard as historical the basic facts which support the resurrection of Jesus. These facts are as follows:

**FACT #1:** *After his crucifixion, Jesus was buried in a tomb by Joseph of Arimathea.* This fact is highly significant because it means, contrary to radical critics like John Dominic Crossan of the Jesus Seminar, that the

location of Jesus' burial site was known to Jew and Christian alike. In that case, the disciples could never have proclaimed his resurrection in Jerusalem if the tomb had not been empty. New Testament researchers have established this first fact on the basis of evidence such as the following:

1. Jesus' burial is attested in the very old tradition quoted by Paul in

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Paul not only uses the typical rabbinical terms "received" and "delivered" with regard to the information he is passing on to the Corinthians, but vv. 3-5 are a highly stylized four-line formula filled with non-Pauline characteristics. This has convinced all scholars that Paul is, as he says, quoting from an old tradition which he himself received after becoming a Christian. This tradition probably goes back at least to Paul's fact-finding visit to Jerusalem around AD 36, when he spent two weeks with Cephas and James (Gal. 1.18). It thus dates to within five years after Jesus' death. So short a time span and such personal contact make it idle to talk of legend in this case.

2. The burial story is part of very old source material used by Mark in writing his gospel. The gospels tend to consist of brief snapshots of Jesus' life which are loosely connected and not always chronologically arranged. But when we come to the passion story we do have one, smooth, continuously-running narrative. This suggests that the passion story was one of Mark's sources of information in writing his gospel. Now most scholars think Mark is already the earliest gospel, and Mark's source for Jesus' passion is, of course, even older. Comparison of the narratives of the four gospels shows that their accounts do not diverge from one another until after the burial. This implies that the burial account was part of the passion story. Again, its great age militates against its being legendary.

3. As a member of the Jewish court that condemned Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea is unlikely to be a Christian invention. There was strong resentment against the Jewish leadership for their role in the condemnation of Jesus (I Thess. 2.15). It is therefore highly improbable that Christians would invent a member of the court that condemned Jesus who honors Jesus by giving him a proper burial instead of allowing him to be dispatched as a common criminal.

4. No other competing burial story exists. If the burial by Joseph were fictitious, then we would expect to find either some historical trace of what actually happened to Jesus' corpse or at least some competing legends. But all our sources are unanimous on Jesus' honorable interment by Joseph.

# Order of Service

April 6, 2025, 10:40 a.m.

**THEME: "Worship King Jesus"**

- i. Welcome – Pastoral welcome
- ii. Announcements: Mark Murray
1. Meditation
2. Prayer of Adoration and Invocation: Elon Richards
3. **Congregational Song: #164 Nothing but the blood**
4. OT Scripture Reading: Leviticus 4:13-26 Kelly Hunte
5. NT Scripture Reading: John 12:34-50 Destiny Burkett
6. **Congregational Song: Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery**
7. Prayer of Confession and Assurance: Pastor Garnes
8. Prayer of Thanksgiving & Offertory: **We Don't Have to Slay the Lamb**
9. **Special by The Berean Bible Church Choir**
10. Pastoral/Intercessory Prayer: Christopher Boyce
11. **Song: King of my Life I Crown Thee Now**
12. Sermon: Pastor Paul Garnes
13. Communion – Distribution of Elements
14. **Congregational Hymn: HG #343 The Communion Hymn**
15. Benediction

## ITEMS FOR PRAYER



- For His sacrifice at the cross for our reconciliation.
- For our upcoming Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- For IBYC and the Grenada missions trip
- For the persecuted church.
- The newly appointed Elders and the proposed building project.
- For God's Word to be faithfully preached.
- Pray for the ministry and wellbeing of our Pastor and family.
- For the guidance of our Government.
- For healing for our sick members and grace for our shut-in members.
- For the Berean Churches, Gazettes, Dominica, Grenada and DR Congo.
- For the friends of Berean – The Gilmours, Haecks, Hulls, Moores, Montagues, Porchers, Rogers, Rudders and Taylors.
- For unemployed members to find meaningful employment.
- For the peace of Jerusalem. Psalm 122:6-8

## April Birthdays



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|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 8 – Signe Watson        | 15 – Kenny St. Cyr         | 23 – Wendy Jones     |
| 12 – Matthew Bovell     | – Tanique Murray           | 24 – Susan Greenidge |
| – Patricia Scott        | 19 – Renee Springer-Haynes | 26 – Marcia Mayers   |
| 10 – Malaeah Codrington | 22 – Joy-Ann Beckles       | 27 – Marlene Skinner |
| 12 – Ta-Zaria Alleyne   | 23 – Chirlene Black        | 29 – Kevin Gaskin    |
| 14 – Joel Ward          | – Dazil Blackman           | – Jamar Watts        |

## Anniversaries



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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 – Kenny & Jodi St. Cyr      | 12 – Patricia & Noel Archer |
| 18 – Ricardo & Julia Licorish |                             |