

Wednesday 31st March

L.O. Understand what the Resurrection means to Christians today.

What does the Resurrection mean to modern Christians?



Modern Christians see the Resurrection of Jesus as the key event that is central to their belief. The idea that Christ died in order to save humankind means that they have hope in the future - hope that death does not mean the end.

Part of being a Christian is having a strong **faith**; a belief in the events of the past and that they are still significant now.

What evidence is there, though, that the Resurrection actually happened? What questions do you have about the events of Easter Sunday? Are there any alternative explanations as to what could have happened? Could Mary and the people who were there at the time have made mistakes? Have a think, and discuss with your partner...

This video explores some of the same questions that we have been thinking about:



As you heard in the video, the main source of evidence is the Bible, specifically the *Gospels*, which are the first four books of the New Testament that deal with the life, teachings and messages of Jesus.

They are the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and were written at different times, between 66 and 110 CE (AD). There are differences between their accounts of the events of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, but also some similarities.

As we read each of them, try to spot how they agree and disagree about the events.

Glossary:

Sabbath - a day of religious observance, free from any kind of work, kept by Jewish people

Tomb - an enclosure cut in the earth or in rock for burying the dead

Linen – a woven cloth – this was cut into strips to wrap a body in for burial

Anoint - smear or rub with oil, typically as part of a religious ceremony

Disciples - a personal follower of Christ during his life, especially the twelve Apostles

Mourning – being sad that someone has died

Galilee – a region in Northern Israel, where Jesus and his followers lived

Matthew 28:1-10

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Mark 16:1-8 and 9-14

- ¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb. ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"
- ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.
- ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.
- ⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"
- ⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.
- ⁹ When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.
- ¹¹ When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

Luke 24:1-44

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, ^{5b} but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! ^{6b} Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"

⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of cooked fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

John 20:1-29

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb ^{1b} and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ¹¹ but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

How were the accounts similar?

How were they different?

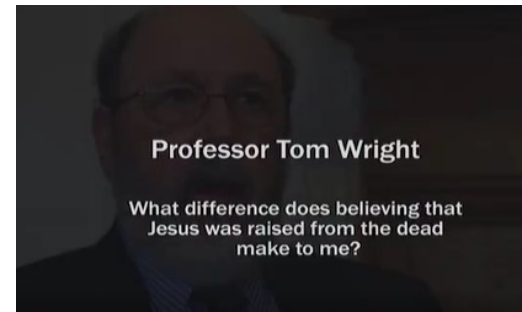
Use these sheets to compare the four different versions and make notes in your books.

The Resurrection of Jesus - four accounts from the four different Gospels in the Bible, written by the disciples Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. How are they similar, and how are they different?			
Matthew 28:1-10	Mark 16:1-8	Luke 24:1-12	John 20:1-10
<p>1. About the Sabbath, all seven of the disciples were sleeping. Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body.</p> <p>2. As they went, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.</p> <p>3. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>4. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p> <p>5. They went back to the tomb and found the stone rolled away.</p> <p>6. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>7. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p> <p>8. They went back to the tomb and found the stone rolled away.</p> <p>9. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>10. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p>	<p>1. About the Sabbath, all seven of the disciples were sleeping. Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body.</p> <p>2. As they went, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.</p> <p>3. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>4. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p> <p>5. They went back to the tomb and found the stone rolled away.</p> <p>6. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>7. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p> <p>8. They went back to the tomb and found the stone rolled away.</p> <p>9. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>10. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p>	<p>1. About the Sabbath, all seven of the disciples were sleeping. Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body.</p> <p>2. As they went, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.</p> <p>3. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>4. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p> <p>5. They went back to the tomb and found the stone rolled away.</p> <p>6. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>7. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p> <p>8. They went back to the tomb and found the stone rolled away.</p> <p>9. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>10. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p>	<p>1. About the Sabbath, all seven of the disciples were sleeping. Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body.</p> <p>2. As they went, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.</p> <p>3. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>4. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p> <p>5. They went back to the tomb and found the stone rolled away.</p> <p>6. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>7. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p> <p>8. They went back to the tomb and found the stone rolled away.</p> <p>9. They went in and found the tomb empty.</p> <p>10. They were confused and did not know what to do.</p>

Does that fact that Gospels are different, make them seem more, or less, believable? Can they be used as evidence? This brings us back to our original question:

What does the Resurrection mean to modern Christians?

Watch the two short videos on the next screen; two Christians explain what the Jesus being raised from the dead means to them.



What do you notice about their belief?

Do they have any doubts about the truth of the Resurrection?

What do you think?

L.O. Understand what the Resurrection means to Christians today.

Write a short paragraph explaining what Christians believe about the events of the Easter story. Use these sentence starters to help you:

Christians believe that

Some of the evidence for this is

Jesus being raised from the dead is important to Christians because