

Why did God raise Jesus from the dead?

When the great Christian and British scientist Sir Michael Faraday (1791 – 1867) – whose discoveries of electromagnetic induction, diamagnetism, the laws of electrolysis, and his world-changing invention of the electric motor – when Faraday lay dying, some journalists questioned him as to his speculations for a life after death.

“Speculations!” he countered. “I know nothing about speculations. I am resting on certainties. ***I know that my Redeemer liveth, and because He lives, I shall live also.***”

If historical facts can be established and regarded as certain, it is absolutely certain that within 72 hours of Jesus of Nazareth being brutally crucified on a Roman cross, the same Jesus of Nazareth was unmistakably brought back to life. “Put to death in the flesh, He was made alive by the power of His Father through the Holy Spirit.

Death could not keep its prey, Jesus my Savior
He tore the bars away -- Jesus my Lord
Up from the grave He arose...!

But why? Suppose you had the chance to share the good news about Jesus, and a listening (perhaps wondering) friend stopped you to say,

“Wait a minute. Let’s just suppose its true. Jesus came back from the dead. Why? Why did God the Father bring Him back? **Why raise Jesus from the dead?**”

Would you have an answer? A clear one? Three reasons are trumpeted in Scripture.

**#1 God raised Jesus from the dead to say
“That’s what I promised!” about my Messiah!**

Speaking at the bidding of the Holy Spirit, 8 centuries before, the prophet Isaiah predicted the brutal death of Jesus (cf. Isaiah 53:5-8).

He was wounded for our transgressions
He was crushed for our iniquities
The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all
Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter
He was cut off from the land of the living
Stricken for the transgression of my people

And yet in that very same prophetic chapter, Isaiah was also prompted to predict that Lamb’s resurrection (cf. Isaiah 53:10):

Though it was the will of the Lord to crush Him

When his soul makes an offering for sin,
Yet he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days.
The will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand!

Doesn't sound like a dead man to me! Of his victory over the grave, David prophetically sung,

“Therefore my heart is glad, my whole being rejoices,
My flesh also dwells secure.
For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol
or let your Holy One see corruption.
You make known to me the path of life...”

#1 Reason? God promised to raise His sacrificed lamb, THE Messiah, from the dead. Rock solid –
God always delivers on His promises.

**#2 God raised Jesus from the dead to say
“Yep! He did it!!” about Jesus’ sacrifice.**

Romans 4:24-25 (p.942)
“...it will be counted to us who believe in Him who
raised from the dead Jesus our Lord.
He was delivered up for our trespasses
and raised (up) for our justification.”

Did Jesus actually pay for ALL of your sin, ALL of my sin, ALL the penalty for EVERYONE’S
SIN? When God raised Jesus from the dead, He shouted, “Yes, He did!” I raised him as proof that
when you believe, I will declare you righteous. Raised for your justification.

In the resurrection of Jesus, God the Father shouted through God the Holy Spirit, “Yep! I
promised it!” and “Yep, He did it!” But there’s one more reason.

**#3 God raised Jesus from the dead to say
“Yep! Only I can give you life!”
(resurrection life today and when you die!)**

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though he
die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me **shall never die**. Do you believe this?”

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen
asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all
die, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive**.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has
caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Conclusion

Quite frankly, we who follow Jesus need to be absolutely certain and crystal clear about the
powerful truth of Jesus’ resurrection. We live increasingly in a world where hope is dying, where

people are not certain life is a good thing. Teenagers are less certain than ever before that getting to age 20 is worth it.

But the Good News offers answers to our most important questions.

#1 WHO IS GOD? Jesus made it clear: The very best God is a perfect, generous, patiently seeking, listening and responsive Father you could ever imagine.

#2 WHO ARE WE? Marvelously are made in His incredible image. Yet deeply compromised in our sin, needing a real rescue we cannot do ourselves.

#3 HOW DOES GOD LOVE US?

- God loves us first.
- His surprisingly love putting His son on the horrible cross in our place.
- His love is full of lavish grace.
- His love relentlessly looks for our repentance.

#4 WHY DID JESUS DIE? (Good Friday evening) ...to break the penalty and power of sin in us and over us, and set us free.

#5 Today WHY WAS JESUS RAISED? God's promise required it. Jesus's finished sacrificial work shouts in it. Our life is the very same resurrection life that empowered the Savior out of that grave.

In the midst of a violent storm, a small bird was clinging to the limb of a tree, seemingly calm and unafraid. As the wind tore at the limbs of the tree, the bird continued to look the storm in the face, as if to say, "Go ahead. Shake me off. I still have wings. I'll live anyway."ⁱ

That's what believing the Good News about the Lord Jesus Christ gives us. Wings. A perfect yet loving Father – who always keeps his promises -- gave His son, in our place, to set us free to fly in the resurrection life of Jesus. We get our wings when we believe in Christ. We get our wings to fly in Christ. We get our wings to face any storm with hope that will not quit.

May we, as those who are coming to be baptized this morning, use our wings to freely and beautifully share the Gospel.

Copyright 2019 © David A. Staff
All rights reserved

ⁱ Wayne A. Lamb, *100 Meditations on Hope*.