

He Has Risen

An angel gave the most significant announcement in the history of the world. After witnessing the crucifixion of Jesus, some disciples heard an angel proclaim, "He has risen" (Matthew 28:6).

This time of the year provides us with a wonderful opportunity to give some attention to the key foundation stone of our faith. Christianity stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus. If it did not happen, then Christianity is a false religion, and Jesus should be rejected as the Messiah.

What makes the angel's announcement so significant?

It confirmed victory over the devil.

- Jesus' resurrection confirmed that the devil would not get the last word. He would not win. He would not be victorious in this spiritual battle.
- Friday evening, it seemed like the devil had won. Jesus died, and no one from heaven came to His aid. While on the cross, He was mocked, humiliated, and put to death with two criminals.
- If Jesus' story ended at His death, Satan would have experienced complete victory. But through the resurrection, God verified His true identity (Romans 1:1-4).
- Jesus kept His word (Matthew 16:21-23). Everything happened exactly the way He said (Matthew 28:6). The promise of God made in Eden was fulfilled (Genesis 3:15).
- No matter how bad things get in this world, Satan has already been defeated!

It confirmed victory over death.

- Why did the angel have to calm the women (Matthew 28:5)? Angels can be terrifying! They are extremely powerful spiritual beings.
- Death is something that most people fear more than angels. Since it dwells in the realm of the unknown, most people are afraid to experience it.
- Those who serve Jesus do not have to be afraid to die. He conquered death and Hades (Revelation 1:17-18). He defeated death and the devil (Hebrews 2:14-15). His death assures the faithful that they will also be raised in glory (1 Corinthians 15:50-57).
- Those who pledge allegiance to the Lamb will be blessed when they die (Revelation 14:13).

It confirmed victory over sin.

- Jesus had to die and be raised for us to be saved from our sins. There was no other way. Sin is so serious that it took God's Son to redeem us from it!
- The resurrection verified that God's plan of redemption was accomplished. Jesus accomplished the work of the Messiah. Salvation, reconciliation, justification, and forgiveness can be obtained because of Him (Romans 5:8-10).
- Disciples have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-5). They can trust in the words of Mark 16:16.

Conclusion:

Have you responded in obedience to the risen Savior?

- Shawn Jeffries