

# The Power of the Resurrection and Exaltation of Jesus

## A Brief Study of Acts Chapters Two and Three

### I. The key verse – Acts 2:32-33

1. *This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.*

- a. One of the many things that distinguish Christianity from the false religions of the world is the fact that our God, who came to live among us in human flesh and willingly suffer the penalty for our sins, experienced a physical resurrection from the dead.
- b. Many Christians so often emphasize the cross of Christ, and rightly so. Yet, this is done too often at the exclusion of the resurrection. Nonetheless, the resurrection of Christ was the primary preaching of the Apostles and should be ours today. Many books such as “The Davinci Code” and other so-called biographies, as well as many pseudo-Christian religions, have deceived millions into believing that Christ was never raised from the dead and that He still has a grave somewhere with His body in it.
- c. In this lesson we will learn the importance of Jesus Resurrection and exaltation.

2. Other important truths concerning Christ’s resurrection and ascension:

- a. Our salvation is dependent upon our belief that Christ was resurrected (Rom. 10:9-10).
- b. Our own resurrection and victory over sin is dependent upon Christ’s resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-20)
- c. No guarantee of Christ’s power helping us with our physical infirmities (Rom. 8:11)
- d. Christ’s exaltation gives us authority and power in this life (Eph. 2:1-6)
- e. Christ’s exaltation means he will work with us by signs and wonders (Mark 16:15-20).

3. Who raised Jesus from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Where is Jesus now physically? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Jesus receive? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Jesus do with what He received? \_\_\_\_\_

### II. The Wonderful Plan of God for our Salvation – Acts 2:22-31

1. Notice Acts 2:23. Who were the ones who crucified and killed Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What was God’s part in our Lord’s sacrifice? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Notice the word "foreknowledge." This word is the word from which we derive our English word "prognosis." It is the same thing that a doctor does when he has examine a person thoroughly and is able to tell them what the sickness is and how long they will live.
  - b. God knew that sending His only begotten Son into a wicked world would cause Satanic men to kill Him. Jesus knew of His death by the hands of wicked men (Matt. 17:22; 20:18; Matt. 26:24, 45; Mark 8:31; Luke 24:1-8) and this was written about in Scripture (Mark 9:12; Luke 24:25-27). God had determined that this would be necessary from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8).
  - c. Read Acts 2:25-31. As we stated above, Scripture predicted what would happen to the Lord and we read in these passages that David prophesied clearly concerning what would happen to Jesus. Why is it important to study Scripture to understand the sacrifice of Christ?
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- d. Read Acts 3:18-26. Shouldn't the people have understood this truth? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. How does knowing this truth transform lives? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Avoiding Erroneous Scripture interpretations that cast aspersions on God's character:

- a. **A very important note about Acts 2:23:** Many have, unfortunately, misinterpreted this passage to teach an erroneous idea that God predestines all the murders and death that have ever come about. Does Jesus predestined death as the Lamb of God for the sins of the world mean that God also ordains abortion? Child rape and murder? The atrocities of Mussolini, Hitler, Hussein, Al Qeida? Jesus death served a purpose and so God was behind it and *allowed* sinful men to crucify His Son because of the beneficial outcome.

Notice the words "*delivered up*:" this means God *gave up* His Son for this purpose. Jesus murder and death had a purpose. The majority of atrocities committed today have no purpose and should not be blamed on God's sovereignty. Besides that, many of these people die without Jesus and go to an eternity in hell. This does not please God who wills that all men be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

Jesus said no man takes my life but I give it. He could have called for a legion of angels to rescue Him from it but He preferred to endure the death of the cross. Jesus dies by the hands of evil men in order to provide an UNLIMITED atonement for the whole world. We should not read into this the false idea that God is behind all of the wicked and heinous acts of sinful men in this world. God abhors the murderous acts of wicked and evil men and will one day remove evil from our midst forever.

- b. Read Acts 3:13-17. Who does God hold responsible for the murder of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
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- c. According to the above passage, what was God's primary part in all that happened to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
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**Conclusion:** It is important that we proclaim a message of a good God and a risen Savior to this lost and dying world. These truths are important to our everyday Christian life.