

Crucifixion breaks the power of

1. Sin – and its corruption
2. Law – and its judgment
3. Devil – and his evil intent

Resurrection breaks open the power of a new life in our living, sovereign Lord.

Jesus’s Spirit—the Holy Spirit in union with his spirit as a human—had to have come back to him for him to rise from death.

Giving up his Spirit was his point of death; receiving it back was his point of resurrected life.

As we identify with Jesus’ death and are “buried with him,” we also identify with Jesus’ resurrection and are “raised with him through faith in the power of God” (Rom. 6:3–4; Col. 2:12).

The stone was apparently rolled away more for us to see the empty tomb than for Jesus to get out. After the resurrection, he moved through walls/doors and appeared and disappeared.

If Jesus had not been raised:

- One would rightfully ask: Was he who he claimed to be? Was he really God? There could be no conclusive answer.
- This would cast doubt on everything we know and believe about Jesus. The teachings would still be instructive, but who he is would be left to darkened mystery and doubt. One could justifiably conclude that Jesus was a good man, a human, who gave his life for his cause.
- We might still claim atonement for sin because Jesus died on our behalf. But so what? He died thousands of years ago—a great guy, but we would only have his memory, example, and teaching, like countless other great people. Nothing would be for here and now or for eternity.
- The Christian message would ultimately be pointless and hopeless. “If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Cor. 15:14). “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. . . . If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all people” (1 Cor.15:17, 19).
- This would shatter everything in Christian belief. Our best hope would be to hold to the Old Testament and become Jewish.

1. The resurrection confirms the atonement.

We have assurance of forgiveness of sin. “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” (Romans 4:25).

2. The resurrection confirms that Jesus defeated death.

Christ rose from the dead because death could no longer hold him, and we no longer have to fear death because Christ has triumphed over it. “Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God” (Romans 6:9–10).

“Death (Hades) has been swallowed up in victory,” and God “gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:55–57).

3. The resurrection confirms that Jesus Christ is sovereign Lord & one w/ YHWH.

Paul affirmed that Christ is “declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).

“I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore” (Revelation 1:17–18).

4. The resurrection gives Christians a living hope—we will be raised like him.

Jesus’ resurrection proves that physical death is not the termination of human existence.

Christ is described as the first fruits of the resurrection from the dead, meaning that his resurrection is a precursor to the resurrection of all believers. And “as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23).

“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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:3–4).

5. The resurrection previews the ultimate Christian victory over all opposition.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus is depicted as a lamb that had been slain, but was standing again (5:6). This same Lord was “the lion of the tribe of Judah” that had overcome his foes (5:5).

Christians too will overcome as a result of the Lamb’s sacrifice and victory over death (cf. Revelation 12:10–12).