

## **A The resurrection of Jesus:**

### ❖ **The hindrances.**

- A stone, a seal, and some roman soldiers were put in place to prevent Jesus' disciples from stealing His body (Matthew 27:62-66).
- However, Jesus' disciples were just some coward Galileans. They ran away when Jesus was arrested, and they were hiding somewhere in Jerusalem (John 20:19).
- The priests and the pharisees were not afraid of the disciples. They were afraid of Jesus. Satan encouraged them to prevent Jesus from getting out of the tomb Himself.

### ❖ **The victory.**

- The stone, the seal, and the guards trembled before the presence of one angel of God. When the Father called Him, the Son took the life He had surrendered back (Acts 2:24; John 10:17-18).
- The elders bribed the guards to make the people believe the impossible (Matthew 28:11-15).
- The failed attempts to prevent Jesus' victory only managed to make some scared soldiers proclaim that Jesus had been resurrected.

## **B The witnesses:**

### ❖ **Those who were resurrected with Him.**

- The stones that covered the tombs of some saints were removed by an earthquake. They remained in their tombs until a second earthquake marked the resurrection of Jesus and theirs (Matthew 27:52-53).
- These people were resurrected incorruptible and ascended to Heaven with Jesus (Ephesians 4:8 NIV)
- Before ascending, they appeared to many in Jerusalem and testified of the resurrection of Jesus.

### ❖ **Those who saw Him.**

- As written in the New Testament, many people saw Jesus resurrected and became witnesses of His resurrection (Acts 2:32).
  - (1) A group of women (Matthew 28:8-10)
  - (2) The roman guards (Matthew 28:11)
  - (3) Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9; John 20:16-18)
  - (4) The Emmaus disciples (Luke 24:13-15; Mark 16:12)
  - (5) Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
  - (6) Those gathered in the upper room (Mark 16:14; John 20:19)
  - (7) Thomas (John 20:24-26)
  - (8) More than 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6; Matthew 28:16-17)
  - (9) James, the brother of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:7)
  - (10) Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8)
- We're also witnesses of His resurrection by faith (John 20:29).

## **C The importance of the resurrection:**

### ❖ **"If Christ is not risen..."**

- The firstfruits were an offering to God. The first and best fruit from a field was offered (Deuteronomy 26:1-11). It represented the whole harvest.
- According to 1 Corinthians 15, if Jesus is not risen, our faith is futile. Since Jesus is risen: Our preaching makes sense (v. 14); We testify that God is truthful (v. 15); We believe that we will also be resurrected (v. 16); We have faith that our sins are forgiven (v. 17); We'll see those who have died again (v. 18); We have hope in a better life (v. 19).
- Finally, the resurrection of Jesus guarantees that the last enemy (death) will be defeated (1 Corinthians 15:26, 54-55)