

God Does Raise the Dead

Acts 26:1-11

This week, Easter/Resurrection Sunday

Acts 26:8 Why is it considered incredible among you people if **God does raise the dead?**

Next week, The Lord's Supper Sunday

Acts 26:23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that **by reason of His resurrection from the dead** He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

Paul made it clear that his imprisonment was the result of his belief in the resurrection as it affirms his hope in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.

#1 Paul asks Agrippa to listen patiently knowing his understanding of Jewish customs. (1-3)

#2 Paul described his Jewish upbringing and faithfulness. (4-5)

#3 Paul ties the hope of the promise to God raising the dead. (6-8)

#4 Paul acknowledges his old hostility to the name of Jesus. (9-11)

Acts 26:1 Agrippa said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and proceeded to make his defense:

2 “In regard to all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am about to make my defense before you today; 3 especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions among the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

Acts 26:4 “So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem; 5 since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.

Acts 26:6 And now I am standing trial for **the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers**; 7 the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews. 8 **Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?**

Acts 26:9 “So then, I thought to myself that **I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth**. 10 And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. 11 And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

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#2 Paul described his Jewish upbringing and faithfulness.

Galatians 1:13 For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; 14 and **I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.**

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Acts 13:30 **But God raised Him from the dead**; 31 and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. 32 **And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers**, 33 that **God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus**, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'You are My Son; today I have begotten You.'

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Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 **But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death**, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

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Acts 25:18 When the **accusers** stood up, they began bringing **charges** against him not of such **crimes** as I was expecting, 19 but they simply had some points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a dead man, Jesus, whom Paul asserted to be alive.

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#4 Paul acknowledges his old hostility to the name of Jesus.

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The fact that God raised Him from the dead legitimizes...

1. ...the person of Christ and all He claimed as the Son of God.
2. ...God's plan of salvation with Jesus as Savior, King and Lord.
3. ...the abundant life He supplies to all who repent and believe.
4. ...the victory and power over sin to all who live in Christ.