

Most Significant Event

07/14/2013

Hymns: 13 In the Garden
Scripture: Psalm 16:7-11

22 The Old Rugged Cross

What is the **most important event** in all of history? We're going to explore that question today and attempt to answer it conclusively. After searching around, I found one thing is certain. There are lots of opinions and lots of top-ten lists on this topic. Our task is to boil it all down and reach the right conclusion.

For example, many important events come to mind in the fields of science and technology. Here's a historical list:

1. Discovery of Fire
2. Development of the field of Metallurgy
3. Invention of the Wheel
4. Printing Press
5. Classical Physics and Chemistry – Laws of Motion, Periodic Table
6. Steam Engine
7. Airplane
8. Modern Physics – atom splitting, nuclear power, nuclear bomb
9. Transistor – heart of modern communications and computer
10. DNA – the code used to define all living things

While these inventions and discoveries mark important advances in science and technology, **they pale in comparison** to events documented in the Bible. You've heard the expression “of Biblical proportions.” Here's a list of some of these important events:

Biblical:

Event	Significance
Creation of the Universe	Resurrection implies a prior creation
Fall of Man	A redemption plan (resurrection) was required by the fall
Universal Flood – Noah and the Ark	Demonstrates God's redemption through faith
Tower of Babel	Man's spoiled kingdom points to God's coming kingdom run by the resurrected Lord
Abrahamic Covenant	Promised a redeemer through faith
Bondage of the Jews in Egypt	Bondage speaks of sin. The resurrection defeated sin.
Giving of the Law	Identified and codified man's need for a Savior
Promised Land Possessed by the Jews	The Messiah came from there and the risen Messiah will rule from there
Resurrection of Jesus Christ	
Giving of the new Covenant – the Gospel of grace	Resurrection is a fundamental part of the Gospel

As you may recall, last time we identified nine passages in the Bible that serve as summaries. In our quest to unfold the truth of the Bible in order of emphasis, we compiled a list based on the number of references to each topic. Do you remember the number-one event given there? It was the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now you may say, that you agree that the resurrection of Jesus was huge, but can it really be compared to the creation of the universe? That depends on your point of view. Before modern times, man viewed the sun and planets as moving around the earth. That was an earth-centric point of view. Over time, man came to understand that the earth and planets actually travel around the sun. The concept of a sun-centered solar system was born.

The point here is that God's plan of redemption was in place *before* creation. And central to that plan was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We can call this a *Son* point of reference.

I Peter 1

[18] Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, ...;

[19] But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

*[20] **Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,***

*[21] Who by him do believe in God, **that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.***

So hopefully that helps show that God's view is more Christ-centered and less universe-centered. This is not the only argument in favor of the primary importance of the resurrection, but it is one. We'll cover an even more compelling one as our study proceeds. Let's briefly go through our list of key biblical events again from the point of view of the resurrection.

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Giving of the new Covenant – the Gospel of grace Resurrection is a fundamental part of the Gospel

From the nine summary passages we've chosen, five indicate that Jesus rose from the dead. Let's look at the pertinent parts of some of them now:

Acts 2 (Apostle Peter)

*[22] Ye men of Israel, hear these words; **Jesus of Nazareth**, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs,*

which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

*[23] Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, **ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:***

*[24] **Whom God hath raised up,***

There's the resurrection.

having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

[25] For David speaketh concerning him,

Peter here refers to prophesy of David and quotes it:

I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

[26] Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

*[27] Because **thou wilt not leave my soul in hell** [that is, the grave], neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

So there's David's prophesy that Jesus would rise from the dead.

[skipping..]

[29] Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

*[30] Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him [that is David], that **of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ** to sit on his throne;*

There we have Peter's witness and David's through Peter that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Let's now move on to our next summary passage for today.

Acts 13 (Apostle Paul)

[26] Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham [he's referring to Jews here], and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

*[27] For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because **they knew him not** [that "him" refers to Jesus], **nor yet the voices of the prophets** which are read **every sabbath day**, they have*

fulfilled them in condemning him.

[28] *And though they found no cause of death in him, **yet desired** they Pilate that he should be slain.*

[29] *And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.*

[30] **But God raised him from the dead:**

[31] *And he was **seen** many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his **witnesses** unto the people.*

Notice the specific reference to **many witnesses** of the fact of the resurrection.

[32] *And we declare unto you **glad tidings**, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,*

[33] *God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that **he hath raised up Jesus again**; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.*

[34] *And as concerning that **he raised him up from the dead**, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.*

[35] *Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, **Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.***

[36] *For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and **saw** corruption:*

[37] **But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.**

Did you catch that? It sounds a bit familiar doesn't it? The Apostle Paul just quoted **and expanded upon** the same prophesy of David here in **this passage** that the Apostle Peter quoted in **his sermon** in Acts chapter 2. That must be a **very** important prophesy.

We've covered two of the summary passages in Acts that included the witness of the Apostles Peter and Paul, and by prophesy, David, attesting to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have three more summary passages to go. Next, let's look at another by the Apostle Paul.

I Corinthians 15 (Apostle Paul)

[3] *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that*

Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

[4] *And that*

he was buried, and that

he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

That's the gospel (I Corinthians 15:1) in a nutshell – the clear definition of the good news of Jesus Christ. And as part of the gospel, the Apostle Paul testified to His resurrection.

[5] *And that*

he was seen

of Cephas [that is, Peter],

then of the twelve:

[6] *After that,*

*he was seen of **above five hundred brethren at once**; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep [that is they died].*

[7] *After that,*

he was seen of James;

then of

all the apostles.

[8] *And last of all*

he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Perhaps you've been following the latest sensational court case in the news these days (if not, you've probably been doing a lot of sleeping) – the trial of George Zimmerman. After a marathon session of deliberation, the jury rendered their verdict. The defendant was declared not guilty on all charges. The judge informed Mr. Zimmerman that he had no further business with the court.

It's too bad there were not a few more credible witnesses in the George Zimmerman case. Perhaps that would have avoided the media circus that we've had to weather and the prolonged stress upon those most directly involved in the outcome. Clearly, evidence is very important in these cases, and some of the most important evidence is that of **eye witnesses**.

The Apostle Paul is emphatic on that score. The implication here is that if you don't believe him, just ask **one of the hundreds of eye witnesses** who saw Jesus **at the same time** after He had risen from the dead. That expression “*above five hundred brethren **at once***” is particularly powerful. Paul referred to just *single* sighting. It was by **more than** 500 people. That doesn't preclude other witnesses or other mass sightings. He refers to just this one as sufficient. To make it easy, Paul even points out a dozen or so specific people and even gives the names of a few. It's also interesting to note to here that the fact that Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried, was **known, established, and not even in dispute**.

Unfortunately, we will have to break it off here today and finish up on this topic next time. There's a lot more to cover, and we don't want to have to rush through it. But before we go, let's apply this personally.

Application

What does this mean to you? What is the most important event in **your** life?

Jesus said:

Matthew 16

[36] *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

[37] *Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Of course, those are rhetorical questions. The answer is “Nothing.” We see people all around us today who have no hope of new life in Christ. To them, this life is all there is. They desperately hang on to life and obsess over every new potential disease, test, and medical procedure. They're willing to spend every last dime (especially if it's *your* dime) to prolong their life. Yet when that last dime **is** spent and that last breath **is** breathed, they too must stand and give an account before a Holy God.

Are you prepared for that moment? Have you made your peace with the Creator? If not, God has provided the way:

Romans 10

*[9] That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that **God hath raised him from the dead**, thou shalt be saved.*

[10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead to offer you the gift of eternal life. What will **you do** with the most significant event in history?

Benediction

Jude 24-25

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to **present you faultless** before the presence of his glory **with exceeding joy**, To the only wise God **our Saviour**, be **glory** and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.