

a) ¹ THE DOCTRINE OF THE RESURRECTION

i) Introduction

(1) On the Third Day

(a) The resurrection is the climactic moment in all four Gospels

(i) The details are different in each account

(ii) The resurrection itself is not pictured

(iii) The central affirmation is the same-God raised Jesus thus overturning the verdict of the human courts and their accusations.

(b) Paul asserts that all Christian faith rests on the resurrection. "If Christ has not been raised that your faith is in vain".

(c) Christian faith is faith in the Risen Lord.

(d) One cannot prove the resurrection, but one can argue about its plausibility.

(2) The Nature of the Resurrection

(a) God raised Jesus; Jesus did not raise himself.

(b) The Risen Lord was not a ghost; he was a physical reality but different.

(3) The Lord and his Kingdom

(a) The resurrection proclaims that the crucified one is now King of the Kingdom of God. That is to say Jesus' resurrection has implications for all of history as well as for us individually.

(b) Jesus' Lordship is liberating for all people

(c) Jesus' resurrection points forward to the time when the kingdom will be fully established. God's purpose will be achieved.

(d) We live "between the times".

(i) The Kingdom of God was present in Jesus

(ii) One day it will be present in all creation

- (iii) The decisive battle has been fought and won; victory is assured.
- (iv) Our task in living between the times is to in some way show the world how it will be when Jesus rules God's Kingdom in power and glory.
- (v) Living between the times means we take evil seriously but we take God and His power more seriously. So, we fight evil now being assured of the ultimate victory.