

The Resurrection and Ascension

Why is the resurrection a key belief in Christianity?

To do...

 In this space, write words and draw emojis to describe how the women were feeling at different points in the story.

Jesus' body had been taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb on Friday evening. Three days later, on Sunday, some of his women followers returned to wash and anoint Jesus' body. Luke's Gospel describes that when they arrived, things were not as they expected...

The Resurrection

*Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found **the stone rolled away** from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly **two men in bright shining clothes** stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, "**Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised.** Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.'"*

*Then the women remembered his words, returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles. But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; he bent down and saw the **linen wrappings** but nothing else. Then he went back home amazed at what had happened.*

Luke chapter 24 verses 1-12

Tombs were often in caves, and they were sealed by having a huge round stone rolled across the doorway.

Luke doesn't say who the two men in bright clothes were, but it is usually assumed that they were angels.

To do...

 What two things had changed since Jesus' body had been placed in the tomb?

The linen wrappings were what Jesus' body had been wrapped in for burial.

That Jesus had died on the cross and then rose from the dead is one of the key beliefs of Christianity.

Christians believe that:

- the resurrection shows the God has power over death
- Jesus was physically risen from the dead - he was not a ghost or apparition
- because God has power over death, for his followers, death is not the end of their existence. They believe that they will experience resurrection (life after death) as well.

To do...

-  How do the events of this passage seem to fulfil this prophecy of Jesus from earlier in his ministry: 'The Son of Man (meaning Jesus) must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life'?
-  How does this prophecy show that Jesus was omniscient (all-knowing)?

The moment when Jesus went to heaven is called the 'ascension', which means 'going up'.

To do...

-  Luke states Jesus went to heaven. Find this line and highlight it.

To do...

For Christians, the resurrection and ascension give hope for their own future salvation, proof that Jesus was divine and confidence in his power over evil and death.

-  Design a T-shirt, to be sold at a Christian festival, which expresses the way Christians feel about the resurrection. Use simple designs and few words.

Luke goes on to describe how Jesus appeared to the rest of the disciples and his other followers, helping them to understand what had happened and what it meant.

Jesus Is Taken Up to Heaven

Then he led them out of the city as far as Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up into heaven. They worshipped him and went back into Jerusalem, filled with great joy, and spent all their time in the Temple giving thanks to God.

Luke chapter 24 verses 50-53

