

March 2016

From the Pastor



An Absurd Story

A friend of mine died, and I buried him a couple of days ago. I just had lunch with him today.

Do you believe me? Of course not! You would think the story to be absurd. No one has come back to life after he has died. Well, almost no one.

The story of Easter seems absurd. How could a man die and three days later come back to life? How is that possible?

It is only possible if the person who arose from the dead was God Himself. It is only God who has the power to conquer death.

Jesus claimed to be God many times when He was here on earth. Here are two verses from the gospel of John that are quotes of Jesus.

John 10:30 *"I and the Father are one."* ESV

John 8:58 *"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.'"* ESV

Jesus made another fantastic claim. He claimed that the Son of Man (a title for Messiah) would be in the grave for three days and come back out and thus prove He was God. Look at what He said to the religious leaders of His day.

Matthew 12:38-40 *"³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, 'Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.'³⁹ But he answered them, 'An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.'"* ESV

The amazing thing that happened is that Jesus did rise from the dead. Look at



what the apostle Paul wrote about what Jesus did.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 *“³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.”* ESV

The absurdness of the resurrection is only absurd if Jesus is not God. However, Jesus is God and proved it by His rising from the dead. This Easter tell others the absurd story of how a Man you know came back to life proving He was not only a Man, but also God.

In Him and for His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Aré". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'Aré' at the end.