

Parson to Person

RESURRECTION SUNDAY / FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.’ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matthew 7:24–29 NKJV).

The teachings of Jesus were indeed astonishing. As noted above, the people were astonished when they heard Him speak—and noted that *“He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”*

There is a reason Jesus spoke with authority: because He is the Supreme and final authority on all things.

In John’s Gospel we read, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1–5, 14 NKJV).*

Jesus’ Supremacy and authority should be understood (if not by John’s declaration alone) by the fact that hundreds of prophecies declared His birth, life, ministry, death, burial, and resurrection in indisputable detail. Statisticians show that fulfillment of all the prophecies—by one man—in one lifetime—is numerically incalculable. In fact, a study group declared that the probability that Jesus of Nazareth could have fulfilled eight of the sixty major prophecies would be 1 in 10¹⁷; that’s 1 in 100, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000 making the evidences indisputable. Peter W. Stoner claimed that this number of silver dollars would be enough to cover the face of the entire state of Texas two feet deep, and that, statistically speaking, if one blindfolded man heading out of Dallas by foot in any direction was able on his very first attempt to pick up one specifically marked silver dollar, the odds would be the same: 1 out of 100, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000 (a hundred quadrillion).

First century contemporary eyewitnesses (by the scores) supported Jesus’ localities and activities and attested to His miracles. History indisputably documents the existence as Jesus of Nazareth—even among those who do not accept His personhood as God incarnate—and the clear and reliable evidences of His physical resurrection. Our calendar alone should speak loudly as B.C. and A.D. declare Jesus’ historicity.

Our Lord said He would be rejected by men, falsely accused, arrested, condemned to death, beaten, mocked, crucified, die, be buried in an unused rich man’s tomb, rise from the dead after three days and three nights, and secure salvation to all who believe! These facts were clearly declared in advance and came to pass with detailed accuracy supported by manifold evidences. Therefore, if Jesus was able to both declare and fulfill His own death, burial, and resurrection, it would serve us well to attend to everything else He said.

He is the way, the truth, and the life! May we attend to Him with diligence. We will not be disappointed if indeed we do!

Happy resurrection Sunday 2021.

I Love you all,

Pastor Paul