

Evidences of Resurrection according to John
Harringay United Church-Baptist
Easter Sunday 12th April 2009.

Introduction:

People never see things the same way. When something is presented to people and they are asked to write about the presentation, their stories will always be different. No two stories are the same. This is because we interpret what we see and hear from our understanding, previous experience and our belief system.

Despite many records and films about the holocaust, even the recent and ongoing slot on BBC One 7-730PM 'the Diary of Anne Frank' some notable people like Rev. Floriano Abrahamowicz and Bishop Richard Williamson express doubt about the holocaust and probably they may deny the second world war.

That is people for you; you believe what you choose to believe even in spite of evidence(s). The holocaust of the Second World War the whole world fought only half a century ago and some of the eye witnesses, survivors and participants are still alive is still being denied by some people. You could imagine when no one is available to give the eye witness account anymore and we have to rely on the written account, then we are faced with the danger of wiping the incidents we do not like off the pages of the world history.

I think to a larger extent that is what Christ's life, death and resurrection face. Of all the world's religions, Christianity has faced much opposition, antagonisms, the denial of its authenticity and has been accused of brainwashing. That enough makes it special. Why people would want it extinct, why would people not want to hear about a saviour for their sins? The question can go on and on.

For the sake of those who want to know and for Christians, it is good and important to know their apologetics well hence these evidences are presented.

Every gospel wrote that Christ died on the Cross and was buried in a new tomb nearby. But today I am restricting myself to the account John that we have just read.

The stone has been removed v2: It was Mary Magdalene that went to the tomb first. The Tomb had been secured with stone and sealed which makes it illegal for anyone to tamper with it. They also posted guards to make sure the environment too is secure. But the grave cannot hold its tenant, God caused an earthquake that shook the tomb, Angels came down and rolled the stone away and the guards cannot stop them. If the body of Christ had been present, there would have been stench but there was none. That was the first evidence that His body was not there in the grave any more.

The body was not found: Mary saw that the stone had been rolled away; she concluded that the body must have been stolen. One might blame her for spreading the rumours without concrete evidence that the body was stolen. But until one has finished reading the narrative it would be wrong to conclude with an opening paragraph. One thing Mary did was to go to the rest of the Disciples to tell them what she had seen. And since women evidence is not recognised in those days Peter and John ran to the tomb to verify Mary's claim. Although John reached to tomb first, he did not go in but he bent down to look and saw strips of grave linen. Peter went in first and he did not find the body but saw the grave linen and the head line neatly folded. John went in after and he did not find the body either but find the same grave linen found by Peter.

When John wrote this account, he used three different Greek words for *seeing* John 20:5, 'blepo' the verb simply means "to glance in, to look in." In John 20:6, 'theoreo' the word means "to look carefully, to observe." The word "saw" in John 20:8 'eido' means "to perceive with

intelligent comprehension." Their Resurrection faith was now dawning?

It is amazing that the disciples did not expect that Jesus would be alive again despite the fact that Jesus had told them figuratively and directly many times before, in John 2:19, he used His body as the temple; as Jonah in Matt 12:40; directly in Matt 16:21, 20:19, 26:32 and Luke 24:6-7.

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and conversed with her V17: All the evidences the disciples have seen this far were inanimate, now the human evidence appeared. Whilst Peter and John went back to the rest disciples, Mary Magdalene stayed behind still weeping. Weeping is part of Jewish culture to express their sorrow and anguish about the death of a loved one, so it is not appropriate that Mary did this, because she had been forgiven much hence much is desired of her and she did not hesitate to give much for her Lord.

When Christians weep it must not be a hopeless one like the people in the world, but that is hopeful that they will live again but that they will be missed physically.

When Mary looked again into the tomb, she two Angels one at either end of the table they laid Jesus on.

There is something unique about this that I want to share with you. I believe that this depicts the mercy seat (Ex 25:17-19) where atonement was made for the people by the high Priest once a year.

This tomb table with the two Cherubim on either side of it and Christ's blood been shed is the new mercy seat. And that Christ is in the right hand of God is now our high Priest who had made a perfect atonement once and for all. Is it not wonderful, praise God hallelujah.

It is interesting to note that Jesus did not show himself to everyone but only to those whom he would charge to spread the good news.

Other Appearances:

Jesus appeared to the Disciples v19 whilst the door was still shut but Thomas was not with them.

A week after the first appearance to the disciples with Thomas present v 26. He allowed Thomas to feel the marks of his wounds in v27 then Thomas exclaim, my God and my Lord. But Jesus remarked that he believed because they had seen him but blessed are those that do not see and yet believe.

Conclusion: Warren Wiersbe writes "Dr. Robert W. Dale, one of Great Britain's leading Congregational pastors and theologians, was one day preparing an Easter sermon when a realization of the risen Lord struck him with new power.

"Christ is alive!" he said to himself. "Alive - alive - alive!" He paused, and then said, "Can that really be true? *Living* as really as I myself am?"

He got up from his desk and began to walk about the study, repeating, "Christ is living! Christ is living!"

Dr. Dale had known and believed this doctrine for years, but the reality of it overwhelmed him that day From that time on, "the living Christ" was the theme of his preaching, and he had his congregation sing an Easter hymn every Sunday morning. ,I want my people to get hold of the glorious fact that Christ is alive, and to rejoice over it; and Sunday, you know, is the day on which Christ left the dead."

Historical faith says, "Christ lives!"

Saving faith says, "Christ lives in me!"

Do you have saving faith?

John wrote his account to prove that Jesus is the Christ the son of God, and believing in him gives you eternal life. Do you believe this?