

Since Peter brought out so forcefully the great fact that Jesus arose from the grave, this was ample proof ~~of His Messiahship~~ that He was truly the Lord's Anointed as predicted in the Scriptures of the Old Testament. The Messiahship of Jesus had been vindicated by the resurrection. The fact that God had raised Jesus from the dead justified belief in the supernatural claims which Jesus had made during "the days of His flesh." Peter truly shows the necessity of the death and resurrection of Jesus to be the basis of the forgiveness of sins. The doctrine of Christian salvation with all its wonderful blessings rests upon the two primary facts that Jesus died and rose again. The resurrection was ~~also~~ essential in demonstrating the atoning value of Christ's death and instrumental as well in effecting His exaltation to the right hand of God. Over and over again Peter stresses the message of Jesus "whom God raised from the dead." (Acts 3:15; 4:10) Such stress was given to this message that it led the Sadducees to persecute the apostles "because they taught the people, and proclaimed in Jesus the resurrection from the dead." (Acts 4:2) Even in spite of persecution and imprisonment Peter and the other apostles preached this message as a firm and solid conviction. These early followers of Jesus were willing to suffer and die for the gospel of the resurrection. The general importance of the witness of the primitive Christian community to the resurrection is brought out strongly in Acts 4:33 where we read, "And with great power gave the apostles their witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." Later we find Peter in his message to Cornelius, a Gentile, ^{recorded in Acts 10} bringing home the great truth of the risen Christ, speaking of "Him God raised up the third day, and gave Him to be made manifest, not to all the people, but unto witnesses that were chosen before of God, even to us, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. And He charged us to preach unto the people, and