

## A CONTRAST BETWEEN THE RAISING OF LAZARUS AND JESUS

*“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,” (John 11:25)<sup>1</sup>*

	<b>Raising of Lazarus</b>	<b>Resurrection of Jesus</b>
<b>Tomb</b>	<b>Opened to let Lazarus out</b> <i>“So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.” “Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” (John 11:38, 39a)<sup>2</sup></i>	<b>Opened to allow people in</b> <i>“And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,” (Luke 24:2) “And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.” (Matthew 28:2)</i>
<b>Grave Clothes</b>	<b>Worn by Lazarus</b> <i>“The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”” (John 11:44)</i>	<b>Still in the tomb</b> <i>“Simon Peter... saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.” (John 20:6-7)</i>
<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Many Jews</b> <i>“Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.” (John 11:45)</i>	<b>Angels</b> <i>“The angel said to the women...He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.” (Matthew 28:6)</i>
<b>Reaction of Jewish leaders</b>	<b>Desired to kill Lazarus</b> <i>“But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.” (John 12:10-11)</i>	<b>Lied to the people</b> <i>The chief priests “said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’” (Matthew 28:13)</i>
<b>Results<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Temporary: Lazarus returned to his normal life<sup>4</sup></b> <i>“So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him.” (John 12:2)</i>	<b>Eternal: Jesus ascended into heaven in His resurrection body<sup>5</sup></b> <i>“...when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” (John 20:19; cf. Acts 1:9)</i>

<sup>1</sup> Jesus’ resurrection is the first “permanent” resurrection; all the other resurrections in the Bible were “temporary” in that those raised to life died again. (Jesus: The Greatest Life of All by Charles Swindoll)

<sup>2</sup> It was Jewish belief that the spirit of the departed hovered around his tomb for four days, seeking an entrance again into his body. But after four days the spirit finally left for the face of the body was so decayed that it could no longer be recognized.

<sup>3</sup> There is a difference between resurrection and resuscitation, or re-animation. Resurrection refers to putting on a new, glorified body, while re-animation, or resuscitation, mean raising the person in the old, mortal body in which they died. [https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_136.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_136.cfm)

<sup>4</sup> According to Eastern Orthodox Church tradition, sometime after the Resurrection of Christ, Lazarus was forced to flee Judea because of rumored plots on his life and came to Cyprus. There he was appointed by Barnabas and Paul the Apostle as the first bishop of Kition (present-day Larnaka). He lived there for thirty more years, and on his death was buried there for the second and last time. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazarus\\_of\\_Bethany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazarus_of_Bethany)

<sup>5</sup> Jesus is the First Fruits of those who are raised from the dead. "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20)