

# THE RESURRECTED KING

1 Corinthians 15:1-28

## 18: *The Resurrected King* (1 Cor 15:1-28)

The good news of our Resurrected King is the cornerstone of Christianity. If Jesus didn't rise, then our faith is futile...but if He did, our faith is so firm, that difficult days & even death cannot shipwreck our future hope.

beourguest

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VISUAL NOTES

### The Gospel Message in a Nutshell

#### 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (CSB)

Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, that He was buried, that **He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**,

**Gospel** means "GOOD NEWS" and here's what that message is: **Christ died for our sins, was buried, and He was raised on the third day**. This same message could be found hundreds of years before in **the Scriptures** - *meaning the Hebrew Scriptures* - the Old Testament! (e.g. Peter quotes Ps 16:10 in Acts 2:25-31; see Hosea 6:2).

›**Isaiah 53**, written 700 years before Jesus lived, died, and resurrected.

**Isaiah 53:8b-9** (CSB) For **he was cut off from the land of the living**; he was struck because of my people's rebellion. He was **assigned a grave with the wicked**, but he was with a rich man at his death, because he had done no violence and had not spoken deceitfully.

This man would *DIE* because of the **rebellion** of the Jewish people. He would be **assigned a grave with the wicked** - dying with criminals & supposed to be buried with them...BUT...he was **with a rich man at his death**.

- The New Testament explains how Jesus died between 2 thieves (Mt 27:38, Mk 15:28, Lk 23:32-33).
- Before being buried with "the wicked", Joseph - "**a rich man**" - asked the Roman procurator who had Jesus crucified, for permission to bury Jesus in his own brand new tomb instead (Mt 27:57-60).

**Isaiah 53:10-11** (CSB) Yet the Lord [YaHWeH] was pleased to crush him severely. When you make him a guilt offering, he will see his seed, he will prolong his days, and by his hand, the Lord's pleasure will be accomplished. **After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied**. By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities.

This doesn't sound like it ends with death, but with continued life! This predicts not only the death of Jesus, but **His resurrection**, and redemption of **many**!

✓ This is the **Gospel** message about Jesus, the **Christ** (aka *Messiah*), **according to the Old Testament Scriptures**.

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## Many Saw the Risen Jesus

**1 Corinthians 15:5-8** (CSB) and that **He appeared** to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then **He appeared** to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. Then **He appeared** to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, **He also appeared to me.**

- **Cephas** (pr. K-fäs) is Simon Peter (Lk 24:34). **Cephas** is the Aramaic term for Greek "Peter".<sup>1</sup>
- The **12** is referring to the apostles Jesus called (minus Judas the betrayer).
- **500** could be referring to others who saw & heard Jesus on the mountain in Galilee with the apostles (Mt 28:16-21).
- **James** should be translated as "Jacob" (Greek *lakōbos*) - most likely the half-brother of Jesus (Mt 13:55; Gal 1:19; 2:9; Ac 15:13; Jas 1:1; Jude 1) who becomes one of the elders in the Church of Jerusalem.
- Jesus appeared multiple times after that **to all the apostles** and others during the 40 days of His resurrection & ascension (Acts 1:3; Jn 21:1-14).
- Paul tells his story multiple times in Acts (Acts 9:1-9; Ac 22:6-11; 26:12-18).

**Acts 9:4-6** (CSB) Falling to the ground, he heard a **voice** saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul said. "**I am Jesus**, the one you are persecuting," he replied. "But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Paul, MVP of the other team, exchanging jerseys and joining the team he previously considered the arch rival. **WHY?** His answer? Jesus appeared to me.

## Grateful for Grace

**1 Corinthians 15:9-11** (CSB) For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and **His grace toward me was not in vain.** On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it is I or they, so we proclaim and so you have believed.

Paul is grateful for God's **grace** given to him, knowing that he didn't deserve it. And now, he doesn't care who gets the credit, but only that people hear about Jesus, and that they believe the GOOD NEWS of Jesus! Some where walking away from what they had been taught, and this was a great concern to Paul. Some of them were even denying the future physical resurrection of those who had died.

## Some Deny the Cornerstone of Christianity

**1 Corinthians 15:12-14** (CSB) Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "There is no resurrection of the dead"? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.

Almost everyone in that day believed in life after death.

- The Greek/Roman concept of life after death focused on a disembodied immortal soul, but not a physical resurrection of the dead.<sup>2</sup> They viewed the spiritual as good and the physical as bad, so the idea of being shackled to a resurrected body was sickening to them.<sup>3</sup>
- On the Jewish side, Pharisees believed in resurrection, but Sadducees did not (Mt 22:23; Acts 23:8)
- ✓ Those who follow the teachings of Jesus believe in a body/soul unity - like the resurrected Jesus (Jn 6:44; 11:25).

We see this major philosophical difference between Christians & Romans when Paul shared the GOOD NEWS of Jesus with the people of Athens. When Paul told them about Jesus rising from the dead, some were intrigued and wanted to hear more but for others, "**When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some began to ridicule him.**" (Acts 17:32).

✓ The resurrected King is the foundation of our .

✗ If Jesus didn't rise, then our **faith...is in vain** - empty - false.

## We Are Liars?

**1 Corinthians 15:15-16** (CSB) Moreover, **we are found to be false witnesses** about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that he raised up Christ—whom He did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

🔍 If people won't rise from the dead in the future, then Jesus didn't rise in the past. And if Jesus didn't resurrect in the past, then the message of the apostles is a BIG FAT LIE!

🎯 The Christian message RISES or falls on this one claim, that Jesus of Nazareth physically rose from the dead!

<sup>1</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 825.

<sup>2</sup> Craig Blomberg, 1 Corinthians, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), 295.

<sup>3</sup> John F. MacArthur Jr., 1 Corinthians, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 408.

## No Resurrection = No Future Hope

### 1 Corinthians 15:17-19 (CSB)

And if Christ has not been raised, **your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins**. Those, then, **who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished**. If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

If Jesus has not been raised, then we have *NO FUTURE HOPE*. What we do now means NOTHING in eternity.

Think about that for a moment: If Jesus has not been raised:

✗ Your faith is false - you've bought a lie.

✗ Those who we look forward to seeing loved ones in the heavenly kingdom...NOPE! It's over.

And if that's TRUE we might as well live by the motto, **"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die"** (1 Cor 15:32).

## Death Through One, Life Through One

### 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (CSB)

But as it is, **Christ has been raised from the dead**, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the **resurrection of the dead also comes through a man**. For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; afterward, **at His coming**, those who belong to Christ.

**Adam's sin impacted all of us** - We are born with a sin nature that will reveal itself at a young age. Because of our sin, every person WILL die, unless Jesus returns first.

Adam blatantly disobeyed God's commands, the Lord Jesus perfectly OBEYED the commands of God the Father. Jesus died, not because of His sin, but because of our sin. But **Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep** [Christian lingo for death]. The **firstfruits** were the first crops harvested, with a larger crop to follow. Just as Jesus physically rose from the dead, so will **those who belong to Christ...at His coming**. What a day that will be! Love ones be reunited and WE WILL SEE our Resurrected King - the one who gave His life for ours!

✗ Some think there is a 7 year gap between a secret coming and the second coming. (I don't.)

1. Paul talks of **the resurrection** of those who belong to Christ (v23)

2. which is then followed by **His final victory** over the enemies of God.

## The End of Sin and Death

### 1 Corinthians 15:24-25 (CSB)

**Then comes the end**, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when He abolishes all rule and all authority and power. For He [Son] must reign until He [Father] puts all his enemies under His feet [Son].

Paul borrows this language from the Scriptures of putting enemies under His feet like a footstool is from **Ps 8:6** and **Ps 110:1** - the favorite Old Testament chapter quoted by the New Testament writers - that God the Father would put all Jesus' enemies under His feet. This is the "footstool" language as seen in **this ancient carving of a victor's enemy being placed under his feet as a footstool**, just as Joshua had his leaders do to the kings who fought against the Hebrew people (Joshua 10:24).

• 1 Cor 15:24-25 also brings to mind the writing from **Daniel 7:13-14** that Jesus quoted when standing on trial before His death (predicting that every people, nation, and language will serve Him and His kingdom will never end). This is further amplified by Paul in Phil 2:9-10 where he writes that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.



## One Final Enemy to Defeat Forever

**1 Corinthians 15:26-27a (CSB) The last enemy to be abolished is death.** For God has put everything under his feet.

Paul is also using cultural language to show what happens after Jesus defeats all His enemies. After the top military general squashed the Roman Emperor's enemies, the general would return to Rome and demonstrate his submission to the Emperor, rather than claiming the glory for himself. <sup>4</sup>

## WRITE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

## The Son Fulfills the Mission

**1 Corinthians 15:27b–28** (CSB) Now when it says “everything” is put under Him [Son], it is obvious that He [Father] who puts everything under Him [Son] is the exception. When everything is subject to Christ, then the Son himself will also be subject to the One who subjected everything to Him, so that God may be all in all.

In Adam, mankind sinned and did NOT fulfill the mission of being *UNDER God* and *OVER the world*, but **Jesus did fulfill the mission** of being *UNDER GOD* and *OVER the world*.<sup>5</sup>

## God Became an Obedient Man

**Philippians 2:5–11** (CSB) Adopt the same attitude as that of **Christ Jesus, Who, existing in the form of God**, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead **He emptied himself** by assuming the form of a servant, **taking on the likeness of humanity**. And when He had come as a man, **He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death**— even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the Name that is above every name, so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow**— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— and **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

## What's this mean for Christians?

### 1. Christians must BELIEVE that Jesus is LIVING.

✓ Look back to Our Resurrected King and remember: ***If He rose from the dead, I can trust what He said.***

### 2. Christians must BE LIVING like Jesus is RETURNING.

✓ If we were living what we say we're believing, we will be making a spiritual impact on those around us. Are we?

## What's this mean for non-Christians?

**Non-Christians should CONSIDER that claims of JESUS.** If Jesus IS who He claimed to be - God with skin on - He is the ONLY way to God, your good will not outweigh your bad. Turn from your sin and turn to Him!

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

## discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? You might need to look back in your notes to help explain your answer.
2. After considering the significance of the resurrection of Jesus, explain how you have researched or examined good reasons to trust the claims about the risen Jesus? (You can't convince others if you aren't first convinced.) If anyone from your group would like resources you might consider: "*Evidence that Demands a Verdict*" by Josh & Sean McDowell (see QR code →).
3. **Read 1 Cor 15:5-11.** Discuss the significance of each of the multiple eyewitnesses who claimed to see the risen Jesus. Why are the claims of James and Paul so intriguing (James was formerly a skeptic - Mark 3:20-21)?
4. **Read 1 Cor 15:12-23.** What are the ramifications if Jesus DID NOT rise from the dead AND if Jesus DID rise?
5. What other questions has this teaching or discussion prompted for us to talk about?
6. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**

