

He Came to Life

The Resurrection Unleashed an Incredible Power

Incredible

Incredible – something difficult to believe

Vs. 17 – God gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Vs. 19 – Abraham did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead.

Vs. 24 – We believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus Christ our Lord.

“An historical fact which involves a resurrection from the dead is utterly inconceivable” – Rudolf Bultmann

Unleashed

This is good news, because there is hope for us when we are powerless.

“[Paul prays that we would know] what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.” Paul, quoted in Ephesians 1:19-20

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection.” – Paul, quoted in Philippians 3:10

The Resurrection Provides Unlimited Mercy

We need mercy

vs. 25 - ... Jesus our Lord who was delivered up for our trespasses

Trespasses – when we cross the line of what God has said

God gives mercy

Who delivered him up?

Acts 2:23 "This Man [was] delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God."

We cannot exhaust his mercy

Because the worth of the cross is infinite

Because God is glorified in showing us mercy again and again

The Resurrection Upholds Perfect Justice

Perfect justice

Why did Jesus die? Because he had taken our sins on his shoulders.

Why was Jesus raised? Because he had atoned for the sins which killed him! In other words, it would be unjust for Christ to remain dead when the sins which demanded his death were defeated and put away.

“Jesus Christ’s sacrifice atoned for the sins which killed him, so there was no longer any reason for him to remain dead.” – John Piper

Our salvation is a demonstration of God’s justice

What does Jesus’ conversation with the father look like?

Every person must believe that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead

²²That is why [Abraham’s] faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Why do we need to know that God has a supernatural power, and that it is available to us?
2. What do you need mercy for? Do you believe that Jesus provides that mercy to you?
3. How is the resurrection a demonstration of God’s justice?
4. Do you believe in Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection for you? Have you been saved? If not, why not? You can make that decision right now by thanking him in your heart for sending Jesus for you.