

## Hope of the Resurrection

### I. Introduction

#### A. Our Need For Hope

1. A growing anxiety over the future.
2. Humans are hope based creatures. Politicians run on hope. There is good reason for this, because humans cannot live without hope. If hope dies, what remains? We simply must have something to hope for that transcends this world, yet has evidence in this world (i.e. the resurrection).

#### B. Hope in the Scriptures

1. When we use the word 'hope' we usually desire some future thing and are uncertain of its outcome. But the Bible uses this word very different. When the Scriptures uses the word "hope", it denotes a confident expectation of a future blessing, it used in order to communicate the reality that God is going to do good to us in the future.

#### C. Hope and the Resurrection

1. Hope= *elpida*= profound certainty. This hope centers on one profound, explosive event—the Resurrection of Jesus.
2. "The Resurrection [is a] key to understanding the whole Bible and to facing all the challenges of life—suffering, personal change, injustice, moral clarity, and the uncertainty of the future."<sup>1</sup>
3. "Our hope is not bases on scientific advancement or social progress but on God himself."<sup>2</sup>

### II. Hope of the Resurrection

#### A. The Resurrection brings a Certain Hope

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-10, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Keller, *Hope in Times of Fear : The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter* (New York: Viking, 2021), xiv.

<sup>2</sup> Keller, xx.

he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> 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, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

2. This account from the Apostle Paul tells us that the resurrection is historical and reasonable. The testimony of the apostles regarding the resurrection is based in historical events—their testimony is not simply a made up story to give meaning to the life of Jesus—these men and women literally saw Jesus crucified on Friday, and literally saw him that Sunday morning and over the subsequent weeks.
  - a) He truly died—and the grave was truly empty—this is not simply a ‘spiritual event’—these 1st century eyewitness knew what a dead bodied was, and they knew what they had taken down off the cross and buried in the tomb was indeed a lifeless corpse. Paul emphasizes this.
  - b) Many eyewitness’ can attest to this—this is not the hallucination of one person, one time...but rather a collection of accounts by multiple people, over an extended amount of time.
3. Unlike other faith, Christian Faith begins by saying here is what Jesus has done in history for you; he has died on the cross (for your sins) and he was risen to life on the third day—do you believe this? Changes us rationally!
4. Our hope as Christians is not grounded in wishful thinking or self-delusion—but the certainty of Jesus resurrection.

B. The Resurrection brings a Living Hope

1. Also changes us personally, at a deeply existential level.
2. Relational not just rational—power that raised Christ lives in us.
3. To know the power of the resurrection—

- a) Philippians 3:10-11, “....that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”
- b) Ephesians 1:18-21, “having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”
- 4. 1 Peter 1:3, 21, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”
  - a) A Living hope is the kind of hope that has power and produces genuine change in a person’s life. This is a substantial, vibrant hope that holds and sustains us. It is living because we certainly expect it to happen. “Peter writes of a sure hope, a hope that holds the future in the present because it is anchored in the past.”<sup>3</sup>
  - b) “Christian hope is ever-living because Christ, the ground of that hope, is ever-living. The present reality of the Christians life is defined and determined by the reality of the past—the resurrection of Jesus Christ—

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<sup>3</sup> Edmund P. Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter : The Way of the Cross, The Bible Speaks Today* (Leicester, England ; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1988).

and is guaranteed into the future because Christ lives forevermore.”<sup>4</sup>  
(Jobes 2005)

5. Our hope is not just rational....but deeply relational—it is a living hope. The resurrection is an event that causes us to completely restructure the orientation and direction of our lives.

C. The Resurrection brings a Future Hope

1. Firstborn (Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5); firstfruits (1 Cor. 15:20) from the dead...pledge of the remainder or assurance of a full harvest...Jesus’ resurrection does not simply direct our attention to our future resurrection—it guarantees it.
2. Hope not only in the future, but hope that comes from the future.
3. “The resurrection is the beginning of the restoration of the natural order or the world, the world as God intended it to be.”<sup>5</sup>
4. The resurrection of Jesus is the in-breaking of God’s new creation into this world. A world with no more death, no more sin, no more disease...Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of all this.

III. Closing Thoughts

A. What is our only hope in life and death?

1. That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.
2. Do you have this hope—this certain, living, and future hope. Follower of Jesus this is the hope you have—may you experience this today through the power of the Spirit.
3. Christian baptism is an invitation to participate in this hope today! To be united to the Father, Son, and Spirit forever. Visible action communicating to us that we have been buried and risen with Christ.

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<sup>4</sup> Karen H. Jobes, *1 Peter, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005).

<sup>5</sup> Keller, 24.

## **B. Bibliography**

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