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LIFTED UP: RESURRECTION

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JESUS SAID HE WOULD BE LIFTED UP TO DESCRIBE HIS DEATH - BUT THAT IS JUST THE BEGINNING BECAUSE HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE WAS COMING BACK!

¹ Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Matthew 28:1–10 (ESV)

NO ONE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD BELIEVED IN RESURRECTION!

As far as the ancient pagan world was concerned, the road to the underworld ran only one way. Death was all-powerful; one could neither escape it in the first place nor break its power once it had come. Everybody knew there was in fact no answer to death.¹

N.T. WRIGHT

THE JEWS WERE AN EXCEPTION BUT THEY BELIEVED IN AN ONCE-FOR-ALL RESURRECTION AT THE END OF DAYS.

SO, NO ONE WAS EXPECTING JESUS TO BE RESURRECTED; EXCEPT JESUS HIMSELF!

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH HANGS UPON THE RESURRECTION!

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:12–22 (ESV)

COMMON OBJECTIONS TO THE RESURRECTION: ²

1. JESUS DIDN'T REALLY DIE. **ANSWER:** THE ROMANS KNEW HOW TO KILL SOMEONE AND BE CERTAIN HE WAS DEAD AND THE DISCIPLES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FOOLED BY A HALF-DRUGGED BEAT UP JESUS.
2. THE WOMEN WERE CONFUSED IN THE EARLY MORNING LIGHT AND SAW SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE JESUS. **ANSWER:** THE LIGHT WOULD HAVE GOTTEN BETTER!
3. THEY HAD A VISION OF SOMEONE THEY LOVED WHO HAD DIED – THEY SAW A GHOST! OR, THEY HAD A “SPIRITUAL” VISION OF JESUS WHO WAS “ALIVE” IN THE HEAVENS. **ANSWER:**

If the disciples simply saw, or thought they saw, someone they took to be Jesus, that would not by itself have generated the stories we have. Everyone in the ancient world took it for granted that people sometimes had strange experiences involving encounters with the dead, particularly the recently dead. They knew at least as much as we do about such visions, about ghosts and dreams—and the fact that such things often occurred within the context of bereavement or grief. They had language for this, and it wasn't resurrection.³

N.T. WRIGHT

4. THE BODY WAS STOLEN AND THE DISCIPLES SIMPLY CLAIMED HE WAS RAISED. **ANSWER:** VIDEO CLIP⁴

THE MOST PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION OF THE EVIDENCE SURROUNDING THE RESURRECTION IS THAT JESUS ACTUALLY ROSE FROM THE GRAVE.

LET'S LOOK AT A LATER APPEARANCE OF JESUS IN ACTS 22:3-16.

³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. ⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. ¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

Acts 22:3–16 (ESV)

IF JESUS IS TRULY RESURRECTED THEN HE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN WE CAN IMAGINE.

WE’RE USED TO THINKING ABOUT THE LOVE OF JESUS, THE GRACE OF JESUS, THE KINDNESS AND TENDERNESS OF JESUS – AND THAT IS ALL TRUE! – BUT LOOK AGAIN AT THE PORTRAYAL OF JESUS IN THE SCRIPTURES AND YOU WILL SEE TIME AND TIME AGAIN A JESUS OF POWER.

LET’S END BY LOOKING AT SOME OF THE DEPICTIONS OF JESUS IN THE FINAL BOOK OF THE SCRIPTURES.

¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Revelation 1:13–18 (ESV)

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Revelation 19:11–16 (ESV)

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

Revelation 21:22–25 (ESV)

¹ Wright, N. T.. Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church (p. 35). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

² TAKEN FROM A LONGER AND MORE EXHAUSTIVE LIST BY N.T. WRIGHT IN SURPRISED BY HOPE.

Wright, N. T.. Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church (pp. 61-62). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

³ Wright, N. T.. Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church (pp. 58). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

⁴ [\(1\) If Jesus' Resurrection Were A Hoax - YouTube](#)