

A Scientist Looks At The Resurrection

Abridged by Daniel Gordon Ang, *Harvard Physicist*, doi.org/10.54739/mjqv

The bodily resurrection of Jesus is the litmus test for Christianity. If Jesus died and rose again, he was who he claimed to be: the physical incarnation of God (Mt. 16:16). If Jesus had died and stayed dead like any other human being, then as Paul says, Christians are most to be pitied of all people, for their faith would be based on a lie (1 Cor. 15:19).

Evidence for the Resurrection can be summarized around three historical claims: 1) Jesus was crucified and died, 2) his body was buried in a tomb that was empty a few days later, and 3) his disciples experienced encounters with him in his newly resurrected body.

The first claim is the least controversial. Almost no historian disputes that Jesus lived in the first century AD, carried out a ministry for a few years and was crucified to death by the Romans. Even the skeptical scholar Bart Ehrman argues vigorously for the historical veracity of these basic facts, based on both Christian and non-Christian sources.

The second claim is Jesus' burial and the empty tomb. Specialist scholars have examined Roman crucifixion and Jewish burial practices, and they conclude that Jesus' burial in a tomb by Joseph of Arimathea is historically credible. Similarly, there are strong arguments to support the claim that the tomb was found empty. A commonly cited reason is that the gospel accounts are rendered more credible by their agreement that women were the first witnesses to the empty tomb.

The third claim is that in the weeks after his death, his disciples claimed to have encountered the risen Jesus. More than mere visual apparitions, the accounts of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances are also replete with tactile details (e.g. Mt. 28:9, Lk. 24:30, 40, Jn. 20:22, 27). Additionally, only a limited number of Jesus' disciples claimed to have witnessed the risen Jesus, as we see in 1 Cor. 15:3-7. The claimed post-resurrection appearances of Jesus are distinct from incidences of mass psychological hysteria.

Thus, we have good historical reasons to believe that Jesus was crucified and died on the cross (near-certain); Jesus was buried in a tomb which was found empty a few days after (highly probable); and in multiple instances, several of Jesus' disciples encountered a person they believed to be the risen Jesus (near-certain).

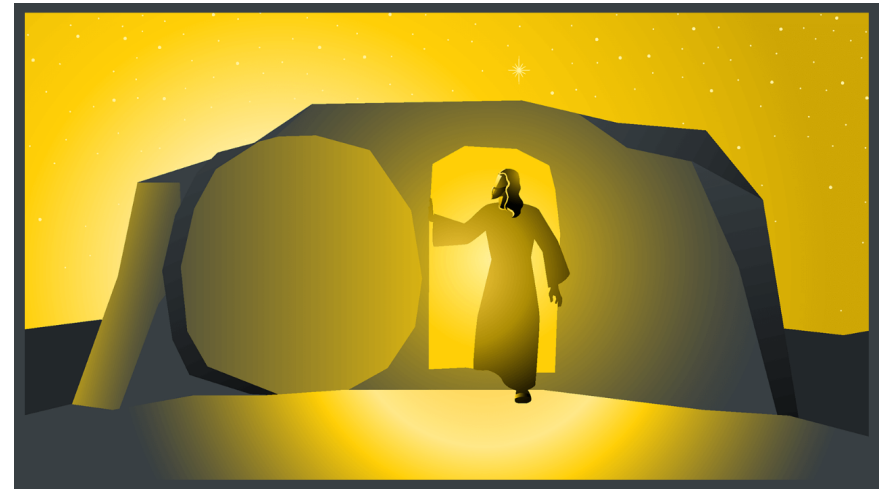
Skeptics have proposed a wide array of explanations which have been debunked by William Craig's *Reasonable Faith* and Michael Licona's *The Resurrection of Jesus*. Once one removes the requirement that some non-supernatural explanation must be true, it's clear the theory that Jesus rose from the dead is a more plausible explanation than any other.

After examining the evidence, I chose to see what would happen if I acted as if it was all real. Jesus certainly does not want me to know him like I know cold, dispassionate facts about molecules or electrons. Instead, he wants me to know him as a living, personal, loving God. He gives us reason to hope that one day, all of us, too, will be resurrected as he was, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet" (1 Cor. 15:52, ESV).

So I believe. I join millions of Christians through time and space who also chose to follow Christ. Far from undermining my scientific work, my faith gives it purpose, meaning, and foundation. It is a foundation that I hope every person reading these words will share at some point.



Welcome to **Journey** EVANGELICAL CHURCH



"He is risen!"
"He is risen, indeed!"



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14614 Magnolia Street, Westminster, CA 92683
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Order of Service

March 31st, 2024

Call To Worship.....	Elder Victor	
Worship in Music	Congregation	
Worship in Word.....	The Resurrection	Pastor Ted
Worship in Response	Congregation	
Benediction.....	Pastor Phil	

Ways to connect:

He is risen! We thank Jesus for suffering and dying on the cross, that He would take our sins, and offer us His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Today: Easter Egg Hunt (15 min. after service, CE Bldg upstairs). Children, parents and grandparents, please go up the center stairs.

4/5: Youth (7-9, Wongs) fellowship will be at the Wong's home for life group.

4/7: New Bible Hour (9am, upstairs) We will begin Henri Nouwen's book *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. See Pastor Phil if you need a book.

4/7: Training: From Guest to Member (12-12:35, Sanctuary) Welcome Team and all who would like to learn how to grow Journey, please join us next Sunday.

4/20: Dating Couples Group (Tue, 7:30pm): email ted@journeyec.org for more info.

4/28: Joshua's baptism (Sun, 11:30am): witness this young man's profession of faith.

Silent auction: bid to own an original work on canvas by Wes, located by the Mission Corner. The piece *Blossoms of the Journey* (Isaiah 52:7) expresses the peace and beauty of sharing the Gospel. All proceeds will be directed to Orlando STM team expenses. For info, email roger@journeyec.org.

Elders <name@journeyec.org>

Cliff Char—Young Adults, Worship Music

Hiro Kono—Women, Growth

Joshua Cain—Christian Education, Youth

Peter Leung—Children, Church Sec., Welcome

Phil Jen Kin—Personnel, Facilities & Property,

Rick Chou—Nominations, Pastoral Staff Search

Staff <name@journeyec.org>

Ted Kau—Sr. Pastor, ted@journeyec.org

Paul Eng—Chinese Pastor, pastorpaul@

Phil Yoder—Youth Pastor, phil.yoder@

Ron Jue—Deacons, GO Team, Legacy

Victor Wong—CFO, CIC, Vietnamese, SERVE, Hospitality

Deacons <name@journeyec.org>

Pat Leung—lead deacon, Agnes Liu, Alan Hung, Allie

Poblete, Darryl Mu, Jeff Way, Paulah Wong, Shirley

Chun, Teresa Jue, Valerie Yee, Wesley Lin

Peter Leung—Children's Dir., peter@journeyec.org

Roger Yee—Administrator, roger@journeyec.org

Amy Mu—Office Assistant, amy@journeyec.org

The Resurrection

Pastor Ted • Luke 24:36-53, ESV

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹ See My hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch Me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. ⁵¹ While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Three Evidences

Physical, vv. 36-43

Biblical, vv. 44-49

Changed _____, vv. 50-53

Response Arc

Invitation to _____, vv. 36

Startled & Frightened, vv. 37

_____, vv. 38 and prior

Disbelieving Joy & Awe, vv. 41

Believing, Joy, Worship, vv. 52-3

For discussion and application:

- Is all doubt a sin? How can we discern between honest questions vs. sinful doubting?
- What causes you the most doubts? How have you dealt / are you dealing with it?
- Is the Great Commission every Christian's job, or just for those gifted in evangelism?
- Is faith with no repentance all that is needed for salvation?
- Where are you currently in your response arc?
- Whose salvation are you willing to pray /already praying for daily? 24:49
- How far are you willing to go for your faith in Jesus: be inconvenienced, embarrassed, lose friends, suffer financially, even lose your life?