

“The Resurrected Jesus”

John 20:11-29; Luke 24:36-43

→ Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. (John 11:25-26)

SOME WRONG UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE RESURRECTED JESUS

1. The spirit of Jesus “lives on” in the hearts and minds of his followers – but his body is dead now.

- It is part of a ‘worldview’ that followers of Jesus have.
- ‘It is important for people to “share their faith” with others so they too can learn about this great teacher.’

2. The soul or spirit of Jesus is “alive” and resurrected with God in heaven—but his body is still dead now.

- Greek philosophers believed in the immortality of the ‘soul’ (Gk. *psyche*).
- Jesus said Abraham, Isaac & Jacob were alive, but their bodies were decayed & still on earth. Luke 20:37f –“God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”
- Many professing Christians wrongly believe that Jesus is alive in heaven *without a body*.

3. The body of Jesus was “exalted to heaven”—but he never had a bodily resurrection on earth.

- ‘Jesus is in heaven and he does have a body—but his resurrected body went there immediately.’
- However, the Bible is clear with MANY examples of Jesus’ physical body (including wounds from the crucifixion) after his death and resurrection.
- The Bible also clearly presents the ascension of Jesus’ body into heaven as taking place after his bodily resurrection.
- “The resurrection has to do with what happened to Jesus’s *dead* body as it lay in the tomb; the ascension has to do with what happened to Jesus’s *living* body after it exited the tomb.”

4. Jesus came back to ordinary earthly life. I.e., “Resuscitation”

- NT: Lazarus in John 11:44; Jairus’s daughter in Mark 5:21-43; the widow’s son in Luke 7:11-17
- OT: Elijah raised from the dead a widow’s son in 1 Kings 17:17-24
- In these situations, a dead person was brought back to life. But each one would eventually die again.
- But this is not what the Bible says about Jesus’ body.

THE RESURRECTED JESUS REVEALED IN THE BIBLE

1. The resurrected Jesus had an actual body. John 20:16-17; Luke 24:41-43

- When Mary recognized Jesus in the garden by the tomb, she clung to him. v.16-17
- In a separate account, the disciples encountered Jesus in the Upper Room. Luke 24:36-43
- At first, the disciples thought they saw a “spirit”. v.37 Ref. 1 Samuel 28 –They believed in spirits. The idea of a disembodied spirit of a dead person was not unfamiliar to them.
- Jesus shows them he is NOT a spirit—but has “flesh and bones”. v.38-40
- Jesus eats with them. v.41-43

2. The resurrected Jesus had a transformed body. John 20:19

- John makes the point that the doors to the room were locked—and Jesus ‘appeared’ among them.
- When the resurrected Jesus appeared to 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, he could veil himself.
- The transformed body is what we sometimes call the “glorified” body of Jesus.

3. The resurrected Jesus had Jesus’s actual body. John 20:24-29

- Jesus’ body still had the wounds from the crucifixion: The mark of the nails on his hands; the wound from the spear on his side.

A CLOSING INVITATION... John 20:30-31