

WHY RESURRECTION STILL MATTERS

Summer 2022, Acts 22:30-23:11

August 28, 2022

*But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead,
how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?
¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.
¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised,
our preaching is useless and so is your faith.
1 Corinthians 15:12-14*

A new reason to preach the resurrection

³⁰ The next day, since the commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.”² At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.³ Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!”

⁴ Those who were standing near Paul said, “You dare to insult God’s high priest?”

⁵ Paul replied, “Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: ‘Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.’”

⁶ Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead.”⁷ When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.⁸ (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.)

⁹ There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. “We find nothing wrong with this man,” they said. “What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?”¹⁰ The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

Acts 22:30-23:11

1. Paul’s relationship with the Gentiles ultimately gets him into trouble in Jerusalem
2. Paul takes advantage of his Pharisee training about the resurrection
3. God uses riots and Romans, temple politics and family connections, even two years in prison in Caesarea, a to open doors for Paul’s preaching the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome

What would be your resurrection text?

²⁶ “Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷ The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸ Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

³² “We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

“ ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father.’

³⁴ The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words:

“ ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’

³⁵ So it is stated elsewhere:

“ ‘You will not let your Holy One see decay.’

³⁶ “For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed. ³⁷ But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸ “Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

Acts 13, Paul’s sermon in Pisidian Antioch (quoting Psalm 2, Isaiah 55 and Psalm 16)

1. The “good news” (“What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us”) is confirmed by the resurrection
2. Resurrection shows Jesus fulfills the promises made to David and Abraham
3. But resurrection also proves that Jesus fulfills the shadows of the promises to Moses: forgiveness and justification (see Romans 4:25)

The value of resurrection today

1. It keeps our focus on Jesus and the cross

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

Philippians 3:7-4:1

2. Resurrection challenges the heart of secularism

I believe in

the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen..

The final lines of the Apostles' Creed

3. Resurrection is our glorious hope!

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5 (see also Keller's "Growing my Faith in the Face of Death" article)

Resources for further studies in Acts

The Bible Project team has great stuff on Acts at <https://open.life.church/items/179224-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has several sermons on texts in Acts which are available at

<https://www.biblebb.com/brefindex/act.htm> He has no sermons available on this text, but several of his resurrection sermons from Acts would apply:

Acts 24: <https://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/0066.htm>

Acts 13: <https://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/3191.htm>

and especially this sermon from Acts 2: <https://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/2102.htm>

Spurgeon has 45 more sermons on the resurrection. One of the best is from Philippians 3:10, <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-power-of-his-resurrection/#flipbook/>

Tim Keller has a wonderful article at Christianity Today (April, 2021) on hope and resurrection at

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/april-web-only/timothy-keller-hope-times-fear-resurrection-better-world.html> Keller also addresses the impact of the resurrection on his own

diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in *The Atlantic* at

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/03/tim-keller-growing-my-faith-face-death/618219/>

For a resurrection primer check out Michael Horton's "Risen Indeed" at

<https://whitehorseinn.org/resource-library/articles/risen-indeed-2/> and "Can We Still Believe in

Resurrection" at <https://www.monergism.com/can-we-still-believe-resurrection>

This Gospel Coalition "Why the Resurrection Changes Everything" article includes a survey of many of the key resurrection texts: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-the-resurrection-changes-everything/>

I found Persis Lorenti's "The Resurrection and the Life" article on the Apostles' Creed interesting at

<https://www.placefortruth.org/blog/the-apostles-creed-the-resurrection-the-life>

D. A. Carson has a wonderful essay from Acts 17 on "Worldview Evangelism" at

<https://www.monergism.com/athens-revisited-exegetical-study-acts-17-da-carson>

Deffinbaugh's Acts messages are at <https://bible.org/series/studies-book-acts> His sermon on Acts 23 is at <https://bible.org/seriespage/sanhedrin-caesarea-acts-2230-2335>

Allistair Begg has a sermon in this text which focuses on the how God works through the circumstances of Paul's life at <https://www.truthforlife.org/resources/sermon/all-things-god-works/>

For those who want to dig deeper into the worldview clash at Mars Hill, I recommend Andrew Klavan's challenging "Speaking Truth into Modern Culture" at <https://youtu.be/Cckiti7as44>

John Stott's *The Spirit, The Church and the World: The Message of Acts* (IVP, 1990) and F. F. Bruce's work: *New Testament History* (Doubleday, 1980) and *The Book of the Acts* (Eerdmans, 1984). For this passage, I also like Kistemaker's commentary (Baker Book House, 1990).

Harry Boer, *That My House May Be Filled* (Eerdmans, 1957)

The ACTS of Jesus & the SPIRIT

LUKE ACTS

- A UNIFIED, HIGH-VOLUME WORK
- FROM THE SAME AUTHOR: LUKE
- A TRAVELING CO-CHURCH WITH PHOENIX (ACTS 13:15)

TRADITIONAL NAME: The Acts of the Apostles

ACCURATE NAME: The Acts of Jesus & the Spirit

1 INTRODUCTION

2-7 IN JERUSALEM

8-12 JUDEA & SAMARIA

13-20 THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

21-28 PAUL'S WITNESS SPREADS TO ROME

EXAMPLES OF FAITHFULNESS TO KING JESUS:

- SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN WORD & ACTION
- FORMING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE ARE EQUALS
- TRUSTING IN THE POWER & GUIDANCE OF THE SPIRIT

created by the Bible Project

PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS					
YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS	
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia		
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia				
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch		
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians	
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15			
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	
53-54	Antioch				
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans	
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23			
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years		
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28			
60-67 circa	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy	

Acts Timeline (ESV Study Bible)

	A.D.	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Death, resurrection of Christ (A.D. 33 [or 30])†		█										
Pentecost (30/33)		█										
Stephen stoned (31/33)		█										
Paul converted (33/34*)			●									
Paul meets with Peter in Jerusalem (36/37*)				█								
Paul ministers in Syria/Cilicia (37–45)				█	█	█						
Peter witnesses to Cornelius (38*)				●								
James, brother of John, martyred (41–44)					█							
Peter rescued from prison, leaves Jerusalem (44)					●							
Paul's second Jerusalem visit (famine relief) (44–47*)					█	█						
Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)						●						
Peter and Paul at Jerusalem council (48–49*)						█						
Paul's second missionary journey (48/49–51*)						█	█					
Claudius expels Jews from Rome (49)						●						
Paul's third missionary journey (52–57*)							█	█				
Paul ministers in Ephesus (52–55)							█	█				
Claudius dies; Jews allowed back to Rome (54)							●					
Nero's reign (54–68)								█	█	█		
Paul arrested in Jerusalem (57*)								●				
Paul imprisoned in Caesarea (57–59)								█				
James, brother of the Lord, martyred (62)									●			
Paul under house arrest in Rome (62*)									●			
Luke writes Gospel of Luke and Acts (62*)									●			
Paul released, resumes ministry, rearrested (62–64)									█			
Paul and Peter martyred in Rome (64–67*)									█			