



# Author of Life: The Resurrection of the Dead and the Origins of Christianity

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Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.3.3. About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, ~~if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah.~~ When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not cease. ~~On the third day he appeared to them restored to life. For the prophets of God had prophesied these and myriads of other marvelous things about him.~~ And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still up to now, not disappeared.



*The Road to Emmaus,*  
by Daniel Bonnell

Romans 1:1-4: Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead (τοῦ ὀρισθέντος υἱοῦ θεοῦ ἐν δυνάμει κατὰ πνεῦμα ἁγιωσύνης ἐξ ἀναστάσεως νεκρῶν), Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 2:22-24: “Israelites, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 But God raised him up (ὄν ὁ θεὸς ἀνέστησεν), having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

2:36: Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ (ὅτι καὶ κύριον αὐτὸν καὶ χριστὸν ἐποίησεν ὁ θεός), this Jesus whom you crucified.”



## **Resurrection is NOT:**

- Reanimation
- Resuscitation
- Assumption

**Resurrection is:**

Corporate and eschatological new life given by God



# Disagreement on the nature of the Resurrected Body

Dan 12:1-3: At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.



St. Etheldreda's, London

# Disagreement on the nature of the Resurrected Body



Dura Europas Synagogue

# Reconstructing Early Christian Resurrection Belief

1 Cor. 15  
(50s CE)

Mark	Matt	Luke	John
Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea	Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea	Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea	Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea
Women discover the empty tomb (3)	Women discover the empty tomb (2)	Women discover the empty tomb (unspecified, but at least 5 [24:10])	Women discover the empty tomb (1)
One angel inside	One angel outside	Two angels inside	Two angels inside
		Appearance to two travelers	Appearance to Mary Magdalene
		Appearance to the 11 in Jerusalem	2 appearances to “the disciples” in Jerusalem, one week apart
	Appearance to the 11 in Galilee		One appearance in Galilee while fishing
		Ascension in Jerusalem	

Gospels  
(70ff CE)

# Reconstructing Early Christian Resurrection Belief



1 Cor. 15  
(50s CE)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 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 which is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospels  
(70ff CE)

# Reconstructing Early Christian Resurrection Belief

Some claims:

- 1- Joseph of Arimathea
- 2- Empty tomb
- 3- Paul's silence
- 4- Centrality of the Visions
- 5- Visions and Tomb



*Empty tomb,  
Hanna  
Cheriyen  
Varghese,  
Malaysia*