

Why Seek Ye the Living among the Dead?

Daniel 10:1-21; Luke 24:1-35 / Job 19:23-29

I. God Has a Good Question for Christians

A. If the promises of God are genuine, why act as though they were less than absolute fact? And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, **Why seek ye the living among the dead?** (LUKE 24:5)

B. Resurrection has always been at the heart of belief. For *I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another, though my reins be consumed within me.* (JOB 19:25-27)

C. To reject or ignore the Resurrection is to reject the God of Scripture and isolate one's self from historic Christianity. Behold, *the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.* (ISAIAH 59:1) Apostles Creed

II. The Heart, Not the History, Is the Problem

A. The best attested fact of ancient history does not fit the parameters of fable. For *we have not followed cunningly devised fables*, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, *but were eyewitnesses* of his majesty. (2 PETER 1:16)

B. One, well documented report, has formed the core of the Christian message for 2,000 years. For I *delivered unto you first of all that which I also received*, how that *Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures*; And that he was buried, and that *he rose again the third day* according to the scriptures: And that *he was seen of Cephas*, then of *the twelve*: After that, he was seen of above *five hundred brethren at once*; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of *James; then of all the apostles.* (1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-7)

C. Examination of the facts and careful reflection, not gullibility, have enabled people to believe. And *they remembered* his words, And returned from the sepulchre, *and told all these things* unto the eleven, and to all the rest. *It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.* And *their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.* Then arose *Peter*, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he *beheld the linen clothes* laid by themselves, *and departed, wondering in himself* at that which was come to pass. (LUKE 24:8-12)

D. Nothing good will develop till people know and understand the facts. So then *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* But I say, *Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth*, and their words unto the ends of the world. But I say, Did not Israel know? First *Moses saith, I will provoke you*

to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.
(ROMANS 10:17-19)

III. What Will You Do with the Facts?

A. Understanding the doctrine of Resurrection develops for believers through experience with God's Word. *We have also a more sure word of prophecy*; whereunto ye do well that ye **take heed**, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.** (2 PETER 1:19-21)

Christians testify: Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of His will, which is necessary unto salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased. [Westminster Confession of Faith 1:1]

B. Jesus united Resurrection, Revelation, and Redemption; to believe in Him is to accept these three doctrines. Then *he said* unto them, O **fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.** (LUKE 24:25-27)

C. The implications are enormous. And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.** (ACTS 16:30-31)

D. Take your questions to the Bible and return to the faith of Job. And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: **should not a people seek unto their God?** for the living to the dead? **To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.** (ISAIAH 8:19-20)

Come ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness:
God hath brought His people forth
Into joy from sadness.
Now rejoice, Jerusalem,
And with true affection
Welcome in unwearied strains

Jesus' resurrection. [St. John of Damascus]