

# NT 14 The Resurrection Validates the Cross

*Romans 4.25 Jesus was crucified for our sins and raised for our justification*



For a summary of reasons to believe that the resurrection actually is a reality, historically, see Lee Stroble, *The Case for the Resurrection* and/or Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*.

**BIG IDEA 1: JESUS CAME INTO A DARK WORLD.** God's project was in deep trouble—virtually dead. God's will was not done, earth was no paradise and God was estranged from humanity.

- Judaism had reduced faithfulness to Sabbath, circumcision, kosher, ritual and a place (Jerusalem).
- Judaism was a cacophony of different sects with conflicting messages.
- Hellenistic Roman culture was about as debased as possible.
- Even the best thinkers and teachers were pessimistic.
- Jesus came into a "Age of Anxiety" see ER Dodds: *"One reason for the success of Christianity was simply the weakness and weariness of the opposition: paganism had lost faith both in science and in itself." Dodds says pagan society crumbled under a massive "failure of nerve."*

**BIG IDEA 2: THE LIGHT SHINED IN THE DARKNESS (John 1.5)**

- × God was in Christ and the world saw God—Incarnation – John 1.14
- × God became a true human for the first time since Eden—Philippians 2. 5-11
- × God's will is being done – the Kingdom is Coming because the King has come to do the Will of the Father as he intended.

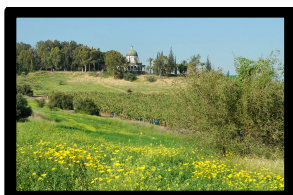
## This is what makes Jesus the Light of the World (Recapitulation of the Lesson Themes about Jesus)



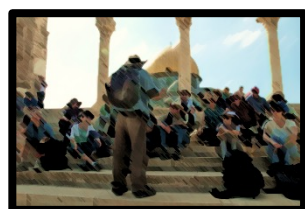
1. Jesus is God's presence



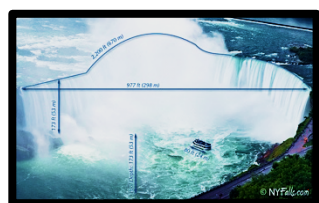
2. Jesus is truly human



3. Jesus is the Renewer of God's Original Intentions for obedience



4. Jesus the Teacher shows God's plan



5. Jesus the Savior provides what is needed to be reconciled to God through his atonement

### **BIG IDEA 3: JESUS IS WELCOMED BY SOME, NOT ALL**

He is welcomed as relief from the misery of disintegration and despair: Mk 2.5, 5.2-13, Jn. 8 2-11.

He offers rest to those with burdens too great to carry. Mt 11. 28-30 *Come unto me you who labor and are heavily laden and I will give you rest.*

But light also reveals what some would prefer to keep hidden: John 3.19-20. *This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.*

- × Light exposes illegitimate power Mt 2.16. Herod's raw cruelty.
- × Light cuts away false assumptions Mt 3.9 Claims of being Abraham's children
- × Light attacks fake leadership and pride of place Mt 23.13-38.

- × Light cuts down self-righteousness Lk 18. 10-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- × Light recreates the foundation of right behavior Mt 5. 20-48 \_\_\_\_\_
- × Light shines into hypocrisy Mt. 6.1-5, 7. 3-5, 7.21 \_\_\_\_\_
- × Light calls futile what is most treasured. Mt 6.19 \_\_\_\_\_
- × Light enrages bigots Jn 7.45-49 \_\_\_\_\_
- × Light calls out prideful phonies Mt 9.11-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- × Light enrages those willfully blind Jn 9.24-34 \_\_\_\_\_
- × Light displays ugly motives Mt 21.12-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Light enraged those who refused the light to the point where they, with full malice, sought to extinguish the light. Mt 26.59, 66; 27.1, 22-23, 27-50

## **BIG IDEA 4: BUT THIS LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS AND THE DARK NEITHER COMPREHENDS NOR EXTINGUISHES (CONQUERS) THE LIGHT.**

**John 1.5**

- × God turns the degradation of the cross into the crowning event in history.
- × From the powerless humanity of a manger birth to the helpless one hanging on a cross, the human Jesus becomes the means of both condemnation of sin and consummation of being made right with God.
- × Jesus is the judgment of God against sin and the means by which sin is removed.
- × Jesus died for the very cause that killed him.
- × "...he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Finally, the serpent's head is crushed. But **how do we know, and where do we see and experience that victory?**

## **BIG IDEA 5: BIBLICAL IMAGES OF THE ATONEMENT—What the cross means.**

Research from Emil Brunner, *The Christian Doctrine of Creation and Redemption* (CDCR)

**Introduction: What's at stake** in the doctrine of the atonement? Each of the Images or Theories results in a different understanding of the following theological concepts—from slightly different to radically different.

- Nature of God
- Nature of Humanity
- Nature of Sin
- Biblical characterization of the law
- Biblical description of the work of Christ.

The "theories of atonement" aim at one thing—to clarify the historical fact of **the cross of Christ**, which otherwise would be **"something completely irrational and obscure."** "In their different ways they all want to say two things: owing to Sin, man's situation in relation to God is dangerous, sinister, and disastrous. But man cannot alter [*pun?*] this situation. God alone can do this; and He has done it in Jesus Christ, through His death on the Cross." (Emil Brunner, *CDCR*, p. 286.)

### **IMAGE 1: Atoning Sacrifice--SUBSTITUTION**

Leviticus throughout  
 Hebrews throughout  
 Heb 2.7  
 1 Jn 2.2, 4.10  
 Romans 3.25

### **IMAGE 2: Penal suffering – the idea of justification--Courtroom**

Is 53.6 The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.  
Verdict: condemnation – katakrima [Rom 8.1ff] –Curse [Gal 3.13] Rom 3.26 – God shows his justice  
He was crucified for our sins – Rom 4.25  
He bore our sins in his body on the tree—1Pet 2.24

### **IMAGE 3: Bond – debts – Slaves -- Redemption**

Sins as debts to be canceled – Mt 18. 21ff, Col 2.14  
The bond against us is canceled – Col 2.14 – he set it aside nailing it to the cross

The Idea that we are owned by someone/thing else--God  
Redeems – 1 Pet 1.18; Eph 1.7  
Sets us free – Mat 26.28 – new covenant of forgiveness  
Tit 2.14 –that he might redeem us from all iniquity

### **IMAGE 4: Ransom:**

Rev 5, 1 Tim 2.6  
Mark 10.45, Mat 20,28 SON OF MAN came Not to be served, but to serve and give his life a Ransom  
for many

### **IMAGE 5: Christus Victor—**

Christ triumphs over the powers – Col 2.15  
Rescued us from power of darkness and Transferred us into kingdom of the son of his love –Col 1.13

### **IMAGE 6: Passover lamb –**

Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world –Jn 1.29  
Last Supper imagery  
John's hour of crucifixion

### **IMAGE 7: Diplomatic: Reconciliation**

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself 5 Cor 5. 18-19; Rom 5.11, 11.15.

### **IMAGE 8: Cleansing (Laundry), clothed with Christ:**

Wash your robes white in the blood of the lamb Rev 7.9-14 ; Baptism imagery of Rom 6; 2 Cor 5. 2-4.  
Gal 3.27

### **IMAGE 9: Death to life**

Rom 6; Eph 2.5 – dead in trespasses and sin; crucified with Christ – Gal 2.19

**Subjective Atonement – Abelard** Moral Influence Theory: The main idea in Abelard's approach to the atonement is that the death of Jesus on the cross gives us a supreme demonstration of the Love of God, which should kindle a corresponding love in our hearts. So for Abelard atonement amounts to a "clearing up of understanding." See Brunner, p. 288.

- Nothing in God requires justice; no debt; no satisfaction
- Merely a manifestation of the love of God-- suffering in and with creatures
- Aim is to soften human hearts & lead to repentance
- No obstacle in God prevents pardon for sins; obstacle is in human heart, hardened by sin. Love softens that heart...
- Problems:
  - Biblical evidence and imagery throughout scripture



- Can human nature be susceptible to repentance by seeing good work of Christ? sub-biblical view of human nature
- Undermines the necessity for Jesus and the cross, which serve only the purpose of making an emotional impression on man.
- If the cross is not necessary, but could have accomplished the same result some other way, then what happened to Jesus was not love but either sadism or masochism.

### **Objective Atonement – Anselm – *Cur Deus Homo*—*Satisfaction of God's honor***

It is only the sacrificial death of the Son of God, which possesses infinite value that is sufficient to vindicate God's honor and to expiate the guilt of humanity, which is infinite. Brunner, p. 289. Adopted by both the Roman Church and the Reformers. The question is who is reconciled? God or humanity?

- Stresses the absolute necessity of atonement by grounding it in the very nature of God.
- Sin is withholding from God the honor due his name
- Restoring God's honor could be done by punishment or by satisfaction
- Required the gift of God's son since an infinite satisfaction is required
- Christ rendered obedience to law, but this was his duty as man
- Since he was sinless and under no obligation to die, he brought infinite glory to God – and as a work of supererogation it merited a reward, which Jesus did not need but passed it along to sinners in the form of forgiveness of sins.

Problems:

- grounded in the honor of God, rather than his justice.
- starts from the feudal society in which he lived where custom allowed an injured party to demand appeasement to injured dignity.
- Misses the stand-in nature of Jesus -- he died for me.
- Does not require faith to operate: Jesus placates God and the application is therefore universally available.
- SELF-DEFEATINGLY OBJECTIVE—God is reconciled to humanity, but are humans in need of reconciliation with God?

### ***BIG IDEA 6: THE RESURRECTION VALIDATES THE CROSS & VINDICATES JESUS.***

God raises Jesus as the evidence that the payment was sufficient and that the atonement is effective.



GE Ladd—NOTE WELL: When Jesus died, did anyone fall down and say in the cross they could see the love of God?

- × The cross *by itself* was (and is) an utter and complete tragedy.
- × It takes the resurrection to show that the cross has meaning.

- × And from the Cross, Jesus Christ reigns: the Kingdom came and started all over.
- × And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all to myself. John 12.31-32
- × Philippians 2. 5-11 Jesus given the name above all names that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord of all.

Where are the powers of this world who sought total Kingdom? Herod, Pilate, Caesar, Nero, Domitian, Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Isis, Osama bin Laden, Idi Amin, Mao Tse-Tung, Nietzsche, Ayatollah Khomeini and name your own claimants to be Lord of history. In a huge irony, On December 25, 1991, the **Soviet** hammer and sickle flag [was] lowered for the last time over the Kremlin.

What the resurrection does is not only for Jesus, but also for us

#### The Ancient Fable of the Sultan and his Son

One day when the sultan was in his palace at Damascus, a beautiful youth, his favorite son, rushed into his presence, crying out that he must depart as swiftly as possible to Bagdad. With that he implored the Sultan to give him his swiftest horse. The sultan asked why he was in such haste to go to Bagdad. "Because," said the young man, "as I passed through the palace garden just now, death was standing there and when he saw me he stretched out his arms as if to threaten me. And now I must lose no time in escaping him."

The young man was given permission to take the sultan's horse and flee. And when he was gone, the sultan stomped into the garden and found death still there. "How dare you make threatening gestures to my favorite son?"

Death, astonished, answered, "I assure your majesty, I did not threaten him, I only threw up my arms in surprise at seeing him here, because I have an appointment with him tonight in Bagdad."

Death up to the resurrection was inescapable.

#### Col 2.12

When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead

#### Col 3.1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.... for you have died and your life is hid with X Christ in God.

#### Eph 2.4-7

But God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love...even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ... and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

With the Apostle Paul, we say, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.<sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."

#### **Jesus is vindicated:**

Ac 2.24 -- But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

Ac 3.15 -- you killed the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

Rom 6.9 -- We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

1 Cor 15.17 -- If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are *still in your sins*.

1 Pet 1.3 -- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus X from the dead....

2 Tim 1.10 But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Rev 1.17b-18 -- Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and every; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

**Consider the differences between “immortality” and “resurrection” as theological constructions. What the implications of each and what are the human nature attributes of each?**

? Pantomime the reactions of specific characters to the resurrection—let class decide the names of the Character(s)

### Reactions to the news about the resurrection

Matt 28.5-7 Fear -- in the fear not.

Mk 16.8 -- fear and astonishment

Jn 20.4ff -- anxiousness -- they both ran  
belief

Mary -- grief turned to joyous recognition

Mt 28.11-14 -- chief priests -- conspiracy of cover-up -- cynical damage control -- also fear. Determination. Lying and spin by guards and “power” On December 25, 1991, the **Soviet** hammer and sickle flag lowered for the last time over the Kremlin,  
.

Lk 24.22-24 -- Amazement, disbelief. Investigation, but no evidence except the empty tomb.

Jn 20.25 – Thomas—Disbelief and stubborn reliance on verification -- unless I put my finger in the nail prints....

Mk 16.12-13-- disbelief of each other.

Lk 24.11 -- seemed an idle tale --Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary mother of James and other women -- they were not believed.

Matt 28.17 -- When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted.



## **ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT YEAR**

### **CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 7, SUNDAY, AND JANUARY 11 THURSDAY**

Read Acts 1-18

Use this reading to outline the Book of Acts (notice Acts 1.8)

WHO is the main actor in this section of Acts?

When does the intervention of the Holy Spirit with special effects occur?

### **MARKERS FOR ACTS**

Acts 1	Ascension
Acts 2	Day of Pentecost
Acts 4	Jewish Persecution—No other name
Acts 6	First church fight
Acts 8	Samaritan conversion
Acts 9	Conversion of Saul