



the **HOPE** *of Easter*





Without the Resurrection

- Without the Resurrection, our whole belief system is false, futile and tragic.
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
- Some people in the Corinthian church were saying there is no Resurrection of the dead. This is a theological issue about which different sects of Judaism disagreed.

Without the Resurrection

- The Pharisees were experts in the Law who emphasized careful obedience to the law; their influence shaped rabbinic Judaism.
- They believed in a future bodily resurrection of the righteous at the end of the age (at the final judgment, the Day of the Lord), when the wicked would be punished and the righteous would be vindicated.

Without the Resurrection

- The Zealots were a revolutionary group who believed that Israel's faithfulness required violent resistance to Roman rule.
- They also believed in a future bodily resurrection at the end of the age.
- The hope of the Resurrection fueled their willingness to die for the kingdom of God.

Without the Resurrection

- The Essenes were a separatist community who withdrew from mainstream society to live in communes in the wilderness to pursue purity and righteousness.
- They believed in an afterlife but not a bodily resurrection, just an immortality of the soul.

Without the Resurrection

- Hellenistic Jews were Jews who had integrated into Greek society while maintaining faithfulness to Judaism.
- They also emphasized an immortality of the soul instead of a bodily resurrection because they were heavily influenced by Greek dualistic philosophy.

Without the Resurrection

- The Sadducees were a priestly aristocratic group centered on the Jerusalem temple who only held the Torah as sacred and rejected any beliefs not explicitly found in the Torah.
- They did not believe in the Resurrection or even spirits or angels.

Without the Resurrection

- Most of the Corinthian church were Gentiles, so their skepticism about resurrection came from Greek philosophy, which taught gnostic dualism.
- Their view was humanity was body and soul, the soul was eternal and divine and the body was material and mortal.
- Paul wants to show them that God values the physical world and He will ultimately show this in the Resurrection.

Without the Resurrection

- Paul explained to the Corinthians that you can't believe in the Gospel of Jesus and not believe in a future bodily resurrection of the dead.
- It simply doesn't make sense.
- Christ was raised in body, not just in soul.

Without the Resurrection

- Paul reminded them that the Gospel they had received proclaimed that Christ was raised from the dead.
- He then used the rhetoric technique developed by ancient Greek philosophy, which attempts to debunk a claim by showing that following the logic of the claim would lead to absurdity or contradiction.

Without the Resurrection

- He took the claim “there is no resurrection of the dead” (verse 12) and followed it to its logical conclusion, which has absurd, unacceptable results.
- Paul built a tight causal chain of conditional clauses (if/then) to show that denying the Resurrection collapses the entire Christian faith.

Without the Resurrection

If there is no resurrection of the dead
then Christ has not been raised
then our preaching and your faith is in vain
then we are misrepresenting God
then we are still in our sins
then the dead in Christ have perished
then our hope in Christ is only for this life
then we are of all people the most to be pitied

Without the Resurrection

- If there is no resurrection of the dead, then the rest of the world should feel sorry for Christians because that means we are putting our faith in something that has no eternal hope.
- Without the Resurrection, our faith is meaningless and hopeless, and we are still in bondage to sin.

Without the Resurrection

- The Resurrection of Christ is directly related to the work He accomplished on the Cross.
- Denying the Resurrection is to deny the efficacy of the Cross. It means all our preaching of the Gospel is pointless. If you believe this, your faith is false, futile and tragic. You cannot believe in Jesus and not believe in a bodily resurrection.

Christ's Resurrection

- Christ's Resurrection guarantees our future resurrection.
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
- Here Paul flipped the script and followed the logical conclusion of the claim that Christ has been raised from the dead, which is what the Gospel teaches and what the Corinthians had already accepted as true.

Christ's Resurrection

- Paul described our salvation and the coming of the kingdom of God as a multi-step process, a theology called “inaugurated eschatology.”
- This is how Christ could say “the kingdom is here” when He came the first time, even though the future, final kingdom where there is no more sin, mourning, death or pain had not yet come.

Christ's Resurrection

- Paul described Christ's Resurrection as the "firstfruits." In Old Testament law, the firstfruits were the first part of the harvest that were offered to God, symbolizing the dedication of the entire harvest to God (Leviticus 23:9–14).
- The offering demonstrated their trust in God's continued provision because they gave the first of their harvest before reaping the rest.

Christ's Resurrection

- Jesus was the “firstfruits” of the “harvest” of humanity.
- He was resurrected first, guaranteeing the future resurrection of all those who trust in Him.
- Jesus' Resurrection was the beginning of the resurrection of all humanity who trust in Him.

Christ's Resurrection

- Paul explained that just as death came through one man (Adam), so life comes through one man (Jesus) (verses 21–22).
- He explained the two-step process of the Resurrection.
- Christ was raised first, then “at His coming,” those who belong to Him will be raised, the full harvest.

Christ's Resurrection

- This is the resurrection of the dead at the end of the age taught by the Pharisees, but Paul explained that it is accomplished through Christ.
- Christ will return for His Church, and the dead in Christ will be resurrected. Then comes “the end.” He will destroy every power, put all enemies under His feet, and deliver the kingdom of God to His Father (verses 23–28).

Christ's Resurrection

- The kingdom of God is already here. Christ is reigning now in the hearts of His people and in their communities, the Church.
- But it is not yet here in all its fullness, when all evil will be destroyed.
- Christ conquered sin and death in His Resurrection, but He has not yet destroyed death (verse 26).

Christ's Resurrection

- That will happen at His Second Coming.
- Death is defeated but not gone.
- Its power is broken, but its presence remains.
- People still die the first death, but because of Christ, those who believe in Him will be raised to eternal life with Him.

Christ's Resurrection

- One day, all things will be made new, and there will be no more evil, mourning or pain (Revelation 21:4).
- In that final consummation, all things will be subjected to Him, and God will be all in all (verse 28).
- Every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Christ is Lord (Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10).

Not Believing in the Resurrection

- Not believing in the Resurrection means you don't really know God.
- 1 Corinthians 15:29-34
- Paul expanded the argument and transitioned from negative refutation to positive instruction with if/then.

Not Believing in the Resurrection

If the dead are not raised, **then** ...

Why baptize for the dead?

Why do we risk danger?

Why not just live for temporal pleasures (eat and drink)?

Not Believing in the Resurrection

- Paul's phrase "baptize on behalf of the dead" (verse 29) has been much debated among scholars and theologians.
- This phrase reflects Corinthian behavior, not apostolic instruction. It's descriptive, not prescriptive.
- Paul did not support this practice, but he used it in his rhetorical argument to show their inconsistency between belief and practice by denying the Resurrection.

Not Believing in the Resurrection

- In Romans, Paul used the imagery of baptism to say that if we die with Christ, we will also live with Him (Romans 6:1–14).
- If we aren't going to rise from the dead as Christ did, why do we practice baptism? What does it mean?
- Then it would only be like the baptism of John, the baptism of repentance.

Not Believing in the Resurrection

- But Acts is very clear that there is a major difference between the baptism into Christ and the baptism of John (Acts 18:25).
- A baptism that only leads to repentance, turning back to God in this life, is an incomplete Gospel.
- The baptism of Christ points us to a bodily Resurrection from the dead like His.

Not Believing in the Resurrection

- Paul also rightly explained that the apostles wouldn't risk losing their lives if there were no hope of the Resurrection. If this life were all there was, they would try to live as long as possible.
- Finally, he arrived at the “absurd” conclusion – if there is no Resurrection, we might as well just “eat and drink” and get as much pleasure as possible while we can – hedonism.

Not Believing in the Resurrection

- There were similar hedonistic sayings in Greek philosophy, but this is a quote from Isaiah, when God called His people to repentance, but they responded with this phrase, so God said their sin would not be atoned (Isaiah 22:12–14).
- Paul moved past the absurd statement to sharp rebuttal and exhortation to “wake up” and stop sinning.

Not Believing in the Resurrection

- To deny the Resurrection meant they didn't understand why Jesus came, His kingdom, or the Gospel. Which meant they didn't really know God.
- Their faith was just a set of rules to live by, not a relationship with the living God through Christ.
- They were missing out on the real joy and fulfillment that come from Him.



IRAN CONFLICT

Iran War and Jewish Temple

“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

Daniel 9:27

Iran War and Jewish Temple

Jesus affirms this in Matthew 24: “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

Matthew 24:15–16

Hindrances to the Temple

- Al Aqsa Mosque, Dome of the Rock
- Arab nations
- Palestinians
- Hamas
- Hezbollah



Dome of the Rock

The Western Wall

Al-Aqsa Mosque



Iran and Israel

- Could the Abraham Accords become the Abraham Alliance?
- Would a compromise gesture allow Israel to build a Temple on the Temple Mount?
- Would this occur because of a modern-day Cyrus and the war against Iran?

Is Trump Our Cyrus? The Old Testament Case for Yes and No

DANIEL BLOCK

Christians' eagerness to understand God's will in real time can cause them to overlook fundamental biblical and divine principles.



CHRISTIANITY TODAY
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Cyrus: MatiasEnElMundo / Getty Trump: AFP / Getty

Cyrus Prophecy

Cyrus prophesy “who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, “Let it be rebuilt,” and of the temple, “Let its foundations be laid.”

Isaiah 44:28

Cyrus Fulfillment

Cyrus fulfillment “In the first year of King Cyrus, the king issued a decree concerning the temple of God in Jerusalem: Let the temple be rebuilt as a place to present sacrifices, and let its foundations be laid. It is to be ninety feet high and ninety feet wide,”

Ezra 6:3

“I want to tell you that the Jewish people have a long memory, so we remember the proclamation of the great king, Cyrus the Great, the Persian king 2,500 years ago. He proclaimed that the Jewish exiles in Babylon could come back and rebuild our Temple in Jerusalem. We remember a hundred years ago, Lord Balfour, who issued the Balfour Proclamation that recognized the rights of the Jewish people in our ancestral homeland.”

“We remember 70 years ago, President Harry S. Truman was the first leader to recognize the Jewish state. And we remember how a few weeks ago, President Donald J. Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Mr. President, this will be remembered by our people through the ages.”

Benjamin Netanyahu

Trump earns fresh comparisons to Cyrus the Great as last living hostages return home

Knesset speaker hails the US president 'as a giant of Jewish history'; he was first compared to the ancient Persian ruler in 2018 for moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem

By [ANDREW LAPIN](#)

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US President Donald Trump addresses Israeli lawmakers at the Knesset, as Speaker Amir Ohana applauds, October 13, 2025, in Jerusalem. (Jalaa Marey/Pool Photo via AP)

Cyrus and Netanyahu



Eschatology

- The Muslim eschatology is a photographic negative of biblical eschatology.
- Muslim eschatology, especially the Twelvers of Shia Islam, believe the 12th Imam (Madhi) will return to lead a Holy War that will institute a worldwide caliphate.
- Biblical eschatology: Jesus will return to end a war (Armageddon) and institute His millennial reign on earth.

The 12th Imam - The Mahdi



Muslim Eschatology

**Many Muslims Believe That Donald Trump
Is The Islamic Version Of The Antichrist (The Dajjal)
And Will Be Defeated When 'The Mahdi' Arrives**



Resources

