

THE VICTORY OF JESUS

Why Do You Look For the Living Among the Dead? He Is Not Here!

Christianity is the only major world religious tradition whose founder was executed by established authority.

Marcus Borg

The Gospel is not that someone was crucified, nor is it simply someone came back to life. The Gospel is the story concerning a specific Person who was executed by the Domination System itself, and the Divine stood in solidarity with Jesus (as well as every oppressed people in every age) and overturned and reversed his execution, and brought him back to Life!

The Resurrection undoes and reverses all that was accomplished by Jesus death.

Acts 2.22-24—You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, given to you according to the definite plan and purpose of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. **But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.**

Acts 2.32-33—**THIS JESUS** God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God . . .

Acts 2.36—Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, **THIS JESUS** whom you crucified.”

Acts 3.12-16—The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, **the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus**, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, **but God raised from the dead.** To this we are witnesses.

Acts 4.10-11— . . . Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, **but whom God raised from the dead.** This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; **it has become the cornerstone.**’

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17

All Texts Quoted from the NIV Unless Otherwise Noted

Repentance—

Metanioa- Rethink Everything “metanoesein kai pistos emoi.” - The Life Of Flavius Josephus, (Thackery 110)

Forgiveness of Sins—

“Forgiveness of sins is another way of saying ‘return from exile.”
(N. T. Wright, Jesus and the Victory of God, vol. 2, Christian Origins and the Question of God (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996), 268.)
Exile was punishment for sins Return from Exile meant Israel’s sins were Forgiven. (See Lam 4:22; Jer 31:31-34; 33:4-11; Ezek 36:24-26, 33;37:21-23; Isa 40:1-2; 43:25-44:3; 52-55; Dan 9:16-19; Ezra 9:6-15; Neh 9:6-37; Isa 52-55; Jer 31-33; Ezek 36-37.) Ezek 36:24-26, 33; 37:21-23; Isa40:1-2; 43:25-44:3; 52-55; Dan 9:16-19; Ezra 9:6-15; Neh 9:6-37; Isa 52-55; Jer 31-33; Ezek 36-37.)

When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice. - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the heart of the universe there is something that justifies Carlyle in saying, "No lie can live forever." There is something in this universe that justifies William Cullen Bryant in saying, "Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again." There is something in this universe that justifies James Russell Lowell in saying, Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne. Yet that scaffold sways the future. Behind the dim unknown stands God, Within the shadow keeping watch above his own. — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Acts 5.30-32—The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as **Founder and Liberator** that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10.36-43—We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; **but God raised him** on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as Liberator of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him . . .

Acts 13.23-38—Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him killed . . . and laid him in a tomb. **But God raised him from the dead**; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people. **And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, BY RAISING JESUS.**

Matthew 27:51—At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

The Resurrection and the Solidarity of the Divine

Pyramids and Circles (Contemporary Application)

Matthew 10.22-31 —You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved . . . The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! **So do not be afraid of them**, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the rooftops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **So don’t be afraid**; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Luke 24:5—“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

“Imperial execution didn’t stop him and a rich man’s tomb couldn’t hold him. He’s still loose in the world.” —Marcus Borg

