

# *The Resurrection of Christ*

AN APOLOGETIC PRIMER FOR STUDENTS



W. MICHAEL CLARK, PH.D., J.D.



## 1 Corinthians 15:1–8

[1] Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, [2] and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

[3] 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 brothers 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. (ESV)



Thomas Cole, *The Garden of Eden*, 1828, oil on canvas, 38 1/2 x 52 3/4 in.  
Amon Carter Museum of American Art (Fort Worth, TX). Public domain.



Gerard Hoet, *God took Enoch*, illustration from *Figures de la Bible* (1728) published by P. de Hondt, Bizzell Bible Collection, University of Oklahoma Libraries. Public domain.

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## Hebrews 11:17–19

[17] By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, [18] of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” [19] He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (ESV)



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Abraham's Sacrifice*, 1655, Etching and drypoint, 6 3/16 x 5 1/4 in. National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.), Rosenwald Collection. Public domain.

## Mark 12:26–27

[26] And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? [27] He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.” (ESV)

## Deuteronomy 32:39

[39] “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.” (ESV)



James Tissot, *Moses Forbids the People to Follow Him*, c. 1896-1902, Gouache on board, 8 3/8 x 10 7/8 in., The Jewish Museum (New York, NY), Gift of the heirs of Jacob Schiff. Public domain.

1 Samuel 2:6

[6] The LORD kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up. (ESV)



Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, *Elijah Revives the Son of the Widow of Zarephath*, 1842, black ink, 8 9/16 x 10 1/4 in., J. Getty Museum (Los Angeles, CA). Public domain.

Job 19:25–27a

- [25] For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
- [26] And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
- [27] whom I shall see for myself,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another. (ESV)

## Psalm 73:18–19, 23-26

[18] Truly you set them in slippery places;  
you make them fall to ruin.

[19] How they are destroyed in a moment,  
swept away utterly by terrors!

[23] Nevertheless, I am continually with you;  
you hold my right hand.

[24] You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will receive me to glory.

[25] Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

[26] My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (ESV)

## Proverbs 14:32

[32] The wicked is overthrown through his evildoing,  
but the righteous finds refuge in his death. (ESV)

## Isaiah 26:16–19

[16] O LORD, in distress they sought you;  
they poured out a whispered prayer  
when your discipline was upon them.

[17] Like a pregnant woman  
who writhes and cries out in her pangs  
when she is near to giving birth,  
so were we because of you, O LORD;

[18] we were pregnant, we writhed,  
but we have given birth to wind.

We have accomplished no deliverance in the earth,  
and the inhabitants of the world have not fallen.

[19] Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.  
You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!  
For your dew is a dew of light,  
and the earth will give birth to the dead. (ESV)

## Hosea 6:1–2

- [1] “Come, let us return to the LORD;  
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;  
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
- [2] After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him. (ESV)



Gustave Doré, *The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones*, illustration from *The Holy Bible with Illustrations by Gustave Doré* (1866), Published by Cassel, Petter, and Galpin. Public Domain.

## Ezekiel 37:10–14

[10] So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

[11] Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ [12] Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. [13] And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. [14] And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.” (ESV)

## Isaiah 25:6–9

[6] On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,  
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

[7] And he will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.

[8] He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

[9] It will be said on that day,  
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.  
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” (ESV)

## Daniel 12:2–3

[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 sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (ESV)



Maurycy Gottlieb, *Christ Teaching at Capernaum*,  
c. 1878 - 1879, oil on canvas, 209 x 271.5 cm.,  
The National Museum of Warsaw (Warsaw, Poland).  
Public domain.

## Luke 4:16–21

[16] And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. [17] And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

[18] “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
[19] to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

[20] And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. [21] And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (ESV)

## Daniel 7:13–14

[13] “I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.

[14] And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed. (ESV)



Duccio di Buoninsegna,  
detail of *The Raising  
of Lazarus*, 1310-1311,  
tempera and gold on  
panel, 17 1/8 x 18 1/4 in.,  
Kimbell Art Museum (Fort  
Worth, TX). Public domain.

## Acts 2:22–24

[22] “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that 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] God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. (ESV)

## Isaiah 35:4–6

[4] Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
    “Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
    will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
    He will come and save you.”

[5] Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
    and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
[6] then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
    and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
    and streams in the desert; (ESV)

## Matthew 12:28–29

[28] But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. [29] Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. (ESV)

## Job 9:6–8

[6] who shakes the earth out of its place,  
and its pillars tremble;

[7] who commands the sun, and it does not rise;  
who seals up the stars;

[8] who alone stretched out the heavens  
and trampled the waves of the sea; (ESV)

## Psalm 77:18–20

[18] The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;  
your lightnings lighted up the world;  
the earth trembled and shook.

[19] Your way was through the sea,  
your path through the great waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen.

[20] You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron. (ESV)

Psalm 89:8–9

[8] O LORD God of hosts,  
who is mighty as you are, O LORD,  
with your faithfulness all around you?

[9] You rule the raging of the sea;  
when its waves rise, you still them. (ESV)

Psalm 107:23–30

- [23] Some went down to the sea in ships,  
doing business on the great waters;
- [24] they saw the deeds of the LORD,  
his wondrous works in the deep.
- [25] For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,  
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
- [26] They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;  
their courage melted away in their evil plight;
- [27] they reeled and staggered like drunken men  
and were at their wits' end.
- [28] Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.
- [29] He made the storm be still,  
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
- [30] Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,  
and he brought them to their desired haven. (ESV)



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Christ Crucified Between the Two Thieves: An Oval Plate*, c. 1641, etching and drypoint on paper, 5.35 x 3.93 in., The Morgan Library & Museum (New York, NY). Public domain.

## Luke 24:44–49a

[44] Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” [45] Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, [46] and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, [47] and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. [48] You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you.” (ESV)

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