

How the Resurrection of Jesus Demonstrates Correspondence

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Jesus Has Risen

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹²Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles ^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

²⁵He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Part 1.

In Luke 24, the reaction of people to the news of the Resurrection of Jesus shows how that news corresponded to their view of reality. At first, everyone believed there were no explanations for what they saw and heard.

1. We often act in disbelief as they did. Verse 11- they called the resurrection news "nonsense." That's because they saw no correspondence between such an event and the "natural."
2. They only came to believe when all natural explanations were exhausted.
3. They saw the men glowing like lightning.
4. The angels used propositional truth: Why are you looking for a living man here, among the dead? They were saying that the situation didn't correspond to their listeners' ideas of what was natural or normal.
5. Furthermore, the angels pointed their attention to past times that Jesus had made statements that seemed to make no sense or at least didn't correspond to the listeners' view of what was natural. "Remember," the angels said. (Jesus did the same when He tried to get the men on the road to Emmaus to remember what had been prophesied.)

6. Therefore, the all these people had to wrest themselves away from the entrenched correspondence of nature to the extraordinary circumstances – and they had to consider the supernatural.

Part 2

1. The women at the tomb went to the men to tell them. The men viewed their words as nonsense. It didn't correspond to their natural order of experience.
2. The Resurrection teaches us that natural explanations, once exhausted, lead to the supernatural.
3. The Resurrection causes a mental shift from relying on the natural order, to considering the reality of God.
4. This shift must always precede faith.
5. No matter how they first tried to maintain a correspondence between their situations and the previous "way things are" or natural order, they couldn't do it.
6. When the language of natural order is not challenged in a person's thinking, they cannot exercise faith.
7. Faith is a witness that the shift has occurred.
8. Conversely, degenerate faith will always try to suppress revealed truth. Just as the women and apostles at first disbelieved (and that affected their view of His previous words), so this suppression only ends with the shift to the reality of God.

Part 3

1. When Peter ran to the tomb, suddenly he saw that the situation corresponded to the words of the women. He still wondered.
2. Understanding depends on a decision to see the correspondence between the revealed reality of God, and how it affects the natural order.
3. The Resurrection is unsettling: for them, and for us, it undermines our life-long preference for the correspondence between language and the natural order.
4. Sometimes this shift takes a long time: King Solomon tells in the book of Ecclesiastes that he tried to bring all experience under a revealed understanding, but it made him back off, tired of the battle.
5. Others, such as the Ninevites to whom Jonah preached, were able to make that shift immediately and were blessed for it.
6. If we want to be blessed with true understanding, we must make our concept of the natural order, "how things work in the real world," subordinate to, and correspond to, what God says.