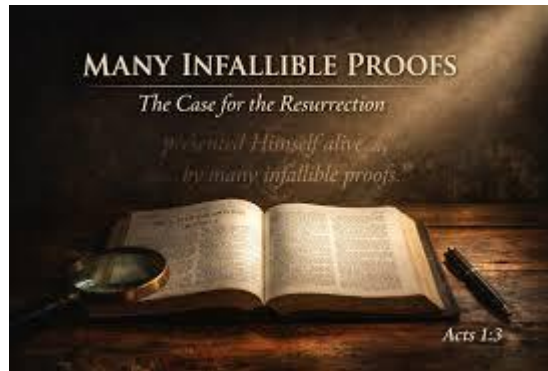




M.I.P.



*“1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by **m**any **i**nfallible **p**roofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”*

In 2014, Walter Williams, a 78-year-old man in Mississippi, began moving his legs and kicking inside his body bag as he was about to be embalmed. Williams was in hospice care before he was declared dead the first time, and after he was found to still be alive, he really did die two weeks later.

In 2023, The New York Times reported a 66-year-old Iowa woman was declared dead at an Alzheimer's care center, only to later be discovered alive and struggling to breathe once her body bag was unzipped. She was admitted into the facility two years earlier, diagnosed with early-onset dementia, anxiety, and depression. As her health declined, she was moved to hospice care. She was declared dead when care center staff found her unresponsive. According to a report from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) on the matter, the nurse who found the woman unresponsive failed to detect a pulse or see any movement from her abdomen. Her mouth was open and her eyes were fixed, the report said. After she was transported to the funeral home, "staff unzipped the bag and observed Resident #1's chest moving and she gasped for air. The funeral home then called 911 and hospice," the DIA wrote. Once discovered alive, she was then returned to hospice care at the Alzheimer's facility. She sadly died two days later. The center was reportedly fined \$10,000 for the mistake.

The first recorded resurrection happens in **1 Kings 17:17-24** when the prophet Elijah raises the son of a widow in Zarephath. The boy had gotten sick and died. Elijah takes the boy's body to the upper room where he stayed, puts him on the bed, and prays to God. Through the prophet's prayer, God revives the child, and Elijah returns him to his mother. This event gave evidence to God's power and Elijah's call. "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth" (**1 Kings 17:24**).

Elijah's successor, Elisha, performs a very similar miracle in **2 Kings 4:18-37**. A Shunammite woman's son dies suddenly. The woman seeks Elisha's help. Elisha prays to God and lies on the boy. After doing this a few times, the boy sneezes seven times and opens his eyes. The son's resurrection not only gives the mother joy and **faith** but also affirms Elisha's ministry. God further revealed his compassionate love.

Finally, a strange resurrection occurs in **2 Kings 13:20-21**. After Elisha's death, a group of men place a corpse in Elisha's grave. Raiders had arrived, and they threw the dead man in and ran. When the dead man's body touches Elisha's bones, he comes back to life and stands on his feet. The Old Testament records this to support the great spiritual anointing Elisha had, even in his bones.

Who Was Resurrected in the New Testament?

God raised several people from the dead in the New Testament, both before and after Jesus' central work.

In one instance, Jesus raises the son of a widow in Nain (**Luke 7:11-17**), somewhat reminiscent of Elijah and Elisha. As a funeral procession passes by, Jesus becomes

moved by compassion. He touches the coffin and commands the young man to rise. The dead man sits up and starts to talk, stunning the crowd, who glorifies God.

In [Mark 5:21-43](#), Jesus brings Jairus' daughter back to life. Jairus is a synagogue leader, a local position of religious power, and he asks Jesus to heal his sick daughter. By the time they arrive, they get news the daughter is dead. However, Jesus enters the house, saying she only sleeps. People mock Christ, and he puts most of them out of the room and house before taking the girl by the hand. He says, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" Immediately, the girl gets up and walks, filling the people with awe.

In the Gospels, [John 11:1-44](#) gives the most detail and drama of the story of Lazarus, Jesus' close friend. The brother of Mary and Martha, Lazarus becomes ill and dies before Jesus arrives in Bethany. When Jesus arrives, Lazarus has been dead for four days. Jesus expresses great grief, showing how much he loved him, and then Jesus tells the grieving crowd to move the stone from the grave. Christ prays to his Father then commands the dead man, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus walks out of the tomb, still wrapped in burial clothes. Jesus tells the crowd to remove the wrappings.

After Jesus' resurrection, Peter raises Tabitha from the dead in [Acts 9:36-42](#). A much beloved disciple in Joppa, Tabitha (also known as Dorcas) died. The disciples there ask for Peter to help her. He prays and commands her to rise. She opens her eyes and sits up. Later, in [Acts 20:7-12](#), Paul is preaching a sermon when a young man, Eutychus goes to sleep and falls from a third-story window, dying. Paul goes down to the street, hugs him, and declares him alive. Eutychus gets up, alive again. The church returns to the upstairs room, and Paul continues teaching.

Other than Jesus, each resurrection holds one similarity: God used a person to resurrect the dead. Yet no one came to Jesus' tomb and raised him, not one of his disciples or anyone else. God himself raised Jesus, completing the work all alone. This sets Jesus' resurrection apart, and even more importantly, it fulfills his statement, "I am the resurrection and the life."

Every resurrection points to Christ's saving work on the cross. He paid the penalty for sin, and his resurrection proved his sacrifice sufficient for the task. Paul teaches that if Christ hadn't been raised, faith is futile and we are still in our sins ([1 Corinthians 15:17](#)). Jesus' resurrection secures our salvation by grace through faith, and not of ourselves but in him. This enables us to live in power over sin and death now through the Spirit and in the future as we are raised after death to new bodies as Jesus had. "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... we too may live a new life" ([Romans 6:4](#)).

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be

saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Jesus’ resurrection now includes our own, in which the power of sin and all consequences were defeated. Death itself is conquered and left powerless. “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting” ([1 Corinthians 15:55](#))?



Calling of the disciples

[Matthew 4:18–22](#), [Mark 1:16-20](#) and [Luke 5:1–11](#); [John 1:35–51](#)

All the disciples forsook him and fled. [Matthew 26:56](#)



□ PRESENTATION & PROOF

τεκμήριον tekmeríaon, **tek-may'-ree-on**; neuter of a presumed derivative of τεκμαρ tekmar (a goal or fixed limit); a token (as defining a fact), i.e. **criteria of certainty:— infallible proof.**

STRONGS G5039: τεκμήριον, τεκμηριου, τό (from τεκμαίρω to show or prove by sure signs; from τέκμαρ a sign), from Aeschylus and Herodotus down, **that from which something is surely and plainly known; an indubitable evidence, a proof.**

The impact of many infallible proofs

- **Matthew 28:6-8; 16-20**

at the mountain

1 Corinthians 15:5-6

- **Luke 24 vs 9 and on**

on the road

- **John 20:18-30**

in the room

- **John 21**

on the shore

PRAISE

Luke 24:50

Heidelberg Catechism- 1563

45.Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

A.**First**, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he could make us share in the righteousness which he had obtained for us by his death.

Second, by his power we too are raised up to a new life.

Third, Christ's resurrection is to us a sure pledge of our glorious resurrection.

57.Q. What comfort does *the resurrection of the body* offer you?

A. Not only shall my soul after this life immediately be taken up to Christ, my Head, but also this my flesh, raised by the power of Christ, shall be reunited with my soul and made like Christ's glorious body.

58. Q. What comfort do you receive from the article about *the life everlasting*?

- A. Since I now already feel in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, I shall after this life possess perfect blessedness, such as no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived
a blessedness in which to praise God forever.

In *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, Puritan Thomas Brooks insightfully writes, "Though Satan can never rob a believer of his crown, yet such is his malice and envy that he will leave no stone unturned, no means unattempted, to rob them of their comfort and peace—to make their life a burden and a hell unto them, to cause them to spend their days in sorrow and mourning, in sighing and complaining, in doubting and questioning." Elsewhere, Brooks summarizes a believer's present condition as such: "Their eyes are so fixed upon their disease, that they cannot see the remedy, though it be near..." Although the particulars may differ, believers often seek out counseling when "their eyes are so fixed upon their disease" that "they cannot see the remedy." It could be a prolonged trial that they are weary of, a besetting sin that is now dominating their life, or a pressing crisis for which they need direction.

Regardless of the temptation in a trial, Satan desires to rob us of our peace and comfort by attempting to make us doubt God, His character, and His Word, which often leaves us forfeiting the sword of the Spirit and robbing ourselves of our Savior's precious remedies (Ephesians 6:17).

Marriage- realtionships- joy-abundance

The first question of the Heidelberg Catechism asks, "What is your only comfort in life and in death?" To which believers ought regularly to answer and rehearse to themselves:

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, both in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Colossians 3- **If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**

□ PREACHING

Verse 8

Matthew 28:19-20

- ✓ Assurance **Acts 4:33**
- ✓ Hope **1 Peter 1:3**
- ✓ Power **Philippians 3:10**
- ✓ Confidence **Ephesians 3:12**
- ✓ Victory **1 Corinthians 15:57**

How does M.I.P impact your life?



That's My King