

2. Resurrection Prophesied: OT Expectations

Living the risen life as an act of imagination

Keswick 2024 – Tuesday

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'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? (Luke 24:25-26)

1. The Problems of Death

We're broken by it

*Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress;
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,
my soul and body with grief (Ps 31:9)*

The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: 'O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!' (2 Sa 18:33)

We're powerless before it

*As no one has power over the wind to contain it,
so no one has power over the time of their death. Eccl 8:8*

*Although I am blameless, I have no concern for myself; I despise my own life.
It is all the same; that is why I say, 'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.'
When a scourge brings sudden death, he mocks the despair of the innocent.
When a land falls into the hands of the wicked, he blindfolds its judges.
If it is not he, then who is it? Job 9:21-4*

We're meaningless because of it

Remember him – before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. 'Meaningless! Meaningless!' says the Teacher. 'Everything is meaningless!' (Eccl 12:6-8)

- ◆ Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) *Time Must Have a Stop* (1944)

2. Dreaming The Impossible

An impossible vision (Ezek 37)

A miraculous rescue

- Elijah in Zarephath (1Ki17)

'Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?' Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, 'Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!' (1Ki 17:18)

The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah ... gave him to his mother and said, 'Look, your son is alive!' (1Ki17:22-3)

- Elisha in Shunem (2Ki4)

3. Prophecy the Impossible

- **The King Will Live! (Isaiah 53)**

*...he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.
After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:10-11)*

- **The King Escapes Sheol (Psalm 16)**

Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. (Acts 2:31-2)







● **The People Will Live (Job 19)**

*I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see him with my own eyes – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! (Job 19:25–7)*

● **The People Escape Sheol (Psalm 49)**

*No one can redeem the life of another. or give to God a ransom for them –
the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough –
so that they should live on for ever and not see decay.
...
But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead; he will surely take me to himself.
(Psalm 49:7-9, 15)*

Further Reading (all recommended, arranged by weight!)

Did it all really happen?				
	Rebecca McLaughlin	Is Easter Unbelievable?	Good Book 2023	<i>Up to date, brief and very readable.</i>
	John Dickson	Is Jesus History?	Good Book 2019	<i>Accessible overview of the historicity of Jesus by a scholar of the classical world</i>
	Michael Licona	The Resurrection of Jesus	Apollos 2010	<i>A doorstep (643 pages!) but brilliant for going in deep</i>
What does it all mean?				
	Mark Meynell	Life after Life	IVP 2024	<i>What can I say?! Not too bad...</i>
	Tom Wright	Surprised by Hope	SPCK 2011	<i>Thought-provoking, very readable and life-changing</i>
	John Stott	The Incomparable Christ	IVP 2001	<i>A rich feast looking at all kinds of different aspects of who Jesus is and the revolution he brings</i>