

EASTER

Pastor Daniel Hahn
April 11 – 12, 2020

In the decades before and after Jesus's life and death there were dozens of messianic movements in Israel. In almost every case, the messianic leader was killed, in many cases by execution, and after the leader's death each of these movements invariably collapsed. Everybody went home, and that was it. Of all those dozens of movements, only one did not collapse after the death of the leader. Not only did it not collapse, it exploded: In the course of about three hundred years it had spread through the entire Roman empire.
— Timothy Keller, *Kings Cross*

The Jews all believed the Messiah was supposed to fight God's victorious battle against the wicked pagans; to rebuild or cleanse the Temple; and to bring God's justice to the world. Jesus, it appeared, had done none of these things. He had suffered the typical injustice of the world; He had mounted a strange and apparently ineffectual demonstration in the Temple; and He died at the hands of the pagans rather than defeating them gloriously in battle. ... No Jew would have possibly imagined that Jesus was the Lord's anointed. — N.T. Wright, *British New Testament scholar, former Anglican Bishop of Durham*

That ... which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched, this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. — 1 John 1:1

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living.
— 1 Corinthians 15:3 – 6

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. — John 11: 25 – 26

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you. — Romans 8:11

By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also. — 1 Corinthians 6:14

In His great mercy, [God] has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
— 1 Peter 1:3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you personally this week?
- What was Easter like for you growing up?
- Can you recall a defining moment when you realized the personal implications of the resurrection of our Savior?
- What was one thing you recall from the message at our Easter streaming service?
- What were some of the reasons given for why any following of Christ would have quickly died out after his crucifixion?
- What massive effect did the resurrection have on the followers of Jesus?
- What motivated them to give their very lives for the idea that Christ had risen from the dead?
- If someone asked you, "What difference does the resurrection make, anyhow?," how would you answer?
- How does the reality of the resurrection of Jesus affect you personally and practically going forward into all sorts of unknowns?