

The Resurrection and the Leader of the Free World

Matthew 28:1–10 (black Bible page 835; Children’s Bible page 1207)

Philippians 2:5–11 (black Bible page 980; Children’s Bible page 1461)

“Wait, why would I believe this man Jesus actually rose from the dead 2000 years ago?” Good question! This sermon will consider the *meaning* of the Resurrection of Jesus, but you might want to investigate the *historical event* itself – and whether it truly happened:

- 5 minute video: “Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?” by Impact 360 Institute. A good introduction to the agreed-upon facts about the Resurrection (including from non-religious historians), with an exploration of the alternative explanations. Worth watching more than once! <https://goo.gl/c54qLq>
- 50 minute video: “New Evidences the Gospels were Based on Eyewitness Accounts,” by Dr. Peter Williams. Amazingly, there is compelling *new* evidence that the Bible’s Gospels exhibit eyewitness quality. And it all started with a German scholar counting the frequency of ancient Jewish names... <https://goo.gl/h6VPSR>
- 50 minute video: “The Resurrection Evidence that Changed a Generation of Scholars,” by Professor Gary Habermas, who is the world’s leading expert on Resurrection scholarship. Do you think perhaps Jesus’ Resurrection was a legend developed in the decades after his death? Learn why historians know this isn’t the case. <https://goo.gl/qLmNDm>

Question: What does the Resurrection of Jesus *mean*?

- Answer #1: **Jesus is vindicated.** He wasn’t worthy of death, but innocent and righteous. So God the Father raised him! See Acts 2:24, 3:15, 5:30. But more importantly...
- Answer #2: **Jesus is exalted.** He’s not just innocent, he’s exalted by God in a way that no other human ever will be. He is the new **Leader**, and given the title “Lord”! See our key text today, Philippians 2:5–11.

Tests of an aspiring leader:

1. **Trustworthiness *without* power.** Did this person handle well being under authority, as a subordinate?
2. **Trustworthiness *with* power.** Did this person prove to be responsible when given authority, privilege, and power?
 - Consider this hidden gem, the “Mom’s Song” in Proverbs 31:1–9, as she pleads for her son the king to use his power for his people, and not for himself.
3. **Conviction.** Does this person demonstrate conviction of a personal call and gifting, as well as feel the burden of executing daily duties?

=> Did Jesus pass these tests? Consider Philippians 2:5–11 again, and what it says about *why* Jesus was exalted as The Leader (especially Test #1).

Jesus has **two** claims to the title Leader/Lord:

- (1) He is the eternal Son of God and fully divine, and therefore has always deserved this title (John 1:1, 14; Col 1:15–17).
- (2) **He became the perfect human** – as a willing servant of God the Father, as well as the long awaited son of David, that is, the messianic king.

The Resurrected Jesus: Leader of the **Free** World

- Why would anyone *reject* Jesus, the great and humble Leader? Jesus explains this in John 3:19–20. **They are not free** – not free to come into the light, fearing exposure, and being seen and known.
- By contrast: “If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.” John 8:36