

Too Good to Be True

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I. Responses to resurrection

A. Confusion and doubt

Joh 20:2 ... They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

Luk 24:4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed (*entirely at a loss*) ...

Luk 24:12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself...

B. Quaking — Ecstasy — Phobia — (All these things happened in one verse)

Mar 16:8 ... they ... fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled (*Gk-tromos: tremor; quaking*) and were amazed (*Gk-ekstasis: ecstasy*): neither said they any thing to any *man*; for they were afraid (*Gk-phobeo: extreme or irrational fear*).

C. Fear mixed with joy

Mat 28:8 ... they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy...

D. Worship mixed with doubt

Mat 28:17 ... they worshipped him: but some doubted (*to waver in opinion*).

E. Too unbelievable to be believable

Luk 24:11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

F. It's easier to believe you've seen a ghost than to believe you've seen resurrection

Luk 24:37 ... they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

G. He proved to them His identity — But the reality was still a matter of much doubt

Luk 24:38 ... Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

Luk 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have ...

Luk 24:41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered ...

II. They believed not for joy and wondered

—They believed not for (*because of*) joy —How can joy cause unbelief?

—Not only is the thing itself impossible —But feeling such joy is likewise impossible

—So that the extent of the sensation of joy caused it to seem even more unbelievable

—So that the magnitude of their joy further magnified their unbelief

—In other words and simple said: “This is too good to be true”

III. Too good to be true

A. ‘I must be dreaming; this is too good to be true’ — The church felt the same way

Act 12:1 ... Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church.

Act 12:2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Act 12:3 And ... he proceeded further to take Peter also.

Act 12:4 he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Act 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Act 12:6 ... the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

Act 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him* ... saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

Act 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Act 12:9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist (*imagined*) not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

Act 12:10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate ... which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

Act 12:11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod ...

Act 12:12 And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house ... where many were gathered together praying.

Act 12:13 And as Peter knocked at the door ... a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

Act 12:14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

Act 12:15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

Act 12:16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened *the door*, and saw him, they were astonished.

B. When Jacob heard Joseph was alive, it was too good to be true (He passed out)

Gen 45:25 And they (*the eleven sons of Jacob*) went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father,

Gen 45:26 And told him, saying, Joseph *is* yet alive, and he *is* governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

C. When God delivered the captives, it was too good to be true — It must be a dream

Psa 126:1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

Psa 126:2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

Psa 126:3 The LORD hath done great things for us; *whereof* we are glad.

IV. O God, do it again — Deliver us from captivity — It will seem too good to be true

Psa 126:4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

Psa 126:5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Psa 126:6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

A. ‘They that sow in tears shall reap in joy’

1Co 15:42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

1Co 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

B. ‘He that goeth forth and weepeth’

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death ...

C. ‘Bearing precious seed’

Isa 40:11 ...he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom...

Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows ...

Isa 49:15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

Isa 49:16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands...

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

D. ‘Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing’

1. Shall doubtless come back from the grave with rejoicing

Mat 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen...

Mat 28:8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy ...

Mat 28:9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

2. Shall doubtless come back from heaven with rejoicing

Act 1:11 ... this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Luk 24:52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

E. 'Bringing his sheaves with him'

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

V. What's your response to resurrection?

Act 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter* ...

Act 17:34 Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed ...

Joh 20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

Joh 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Joh 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

Act 13:48 ...as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Act 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Act 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it ...

Act 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses ...

Act 2:36 ... God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you ...

Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship ...