

# Was Jesus Raised from the Dead?

In a recent dialogue with theologian Craig Blomberg, skeptic Carl Stecher maintained that the resurrection of Jesus is nothing more than a myth perpetuated by people who were experienced hallucinations and/or misinterpreted events reported to them. Stecher writes:

*The case for the resurrection as an historic fact, besides the weakness of the biblical evidence, opens up myriad other problems suitable for other debates, none of which exist in the much simpler and more plausible natural explanations.*

Blomberg responds sagely. Declaring something *not to be* so has no more validity than declaring it *to be* so. He cites Grant Osborne's nine-fold argument for the historicity of the post-resurrection accounts of Jesus's appearance. While there's not room to recount this argument here, Osborne concludes:

*It is clear that the disciples were radically changed by these events, and they and the early church believed Jesus had visibly appeared to them after his death. They also presented this material as realistic historical claims and not as fictive legends. So many details (the women as witnesses, their doubt and fear, the misunderstandings) would never have been told this way if they were simply made up.*

While we should not be ashamed of admitting that belief in the resurrection requires faith, it is also true that those who do not accept the resurrection must act in faith as well. As Blomberg reminds us:

*We have an unbroken tradition of reflection on the meaning of the resurrection from the pre-Pauline confession of faith in 1 Corinthians 15, most likely composed no later than a year or two after Jesus' death, all the way through to the twenty-first century today. And countless lives have been changed for the better because of it over those centuries.*

You can read the dialogue between Stecher and Blomberg in the book they authored together called *Resurrection: Fact or Fiction?* (Durham, NC: Pitchstone Publishing, 2019). See also Grant Osborne, "Jesus' Empty Tomb and His Appearance in Jerusalem" in *Key Events in the Life of the Historical Jesus*, ed. Darrell L. Block and Robert L. Webb (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2009).

## Financial Summary

<b>2023 Budget</b>	\$224,885	<b>Budget to Date</b>	\$60,550
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	\$4,325	<b>Giving to Date</b>	\$66,937

Thank you again to all for your generous stewardship. You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at [bedfordroad.org/giving](http://bedfordroad.org/giving).

Resurrection Sunday

**BEDFORD ROAD  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Welcome

## The Resurrection Greeting

**Χριστός ἀνέστι**

*Christos anesti!*  
(Christ is Risen!)

**Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστι**

*Alēthōs anesti!*  
(He is Risen Indeed!)

Creating environments where people  
encounter Jesus and journey together

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15 Ladies Ministry End of Year Meeting, 9:15am

## 6 Southern NH Rescue Mission

7 Youth Group Interest Meeting, after worship

At 7:00pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, there are group Bible studies that are open for everyone.

Streaming: [youtube.com/@bedfordroadbaptist](https://youtube.com/@bedfordroadbaptist)

Mail: PO Box 443, Merrimack, NH

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Nursery is provided 9:30-11:30am for children ages 0-3.  
On the first Sunday of each month, older children stay with their families.  
On all other weeks, there is an age-appropriate teaching time for children ages 4-10.