



Leslie Newbigin

“It is obvious that the story of the empty tomb cannot be fitted into our contemporary worldview, or indeed into any worldview except one of which it is the starting point.”

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“One does not defend this new perspective by trying to demonstrate its compatibility with the old. One challenges the old with the demand and the offer of a death and a new birth.”

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

“Death is swallowed up in victory.
O death, where is your victory? O death,
where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The resurrection is the lens through which the Christian is meant to see all of life and mission.

We don't make sense of the resurrection through our experience. We make sense of our experience through the resurrection. This changes not only how we experience life but how we engage in the mission of God. We expect God to work in the most hopeless of situations.

What is the lens
(the plausibility
structure)
through which you
see life?

Luke 24:36-37

1. A Defeatist Plausibility
Structure: Dead People Do Not
Rise.



Luke 24:36

“As they were talking about
these things, Jesus himself
stood among them, and said to
them, ‘Peace to you!’ But they
were startled and frightened
and thought they saw a spirit.”

Shane Lems

“The world and its way of thinking says: ‘What is dead stays dead!’ The church and its way of thinking says: “He is not here, he is risen, just like he said; the sting of death is gone! I see all things through the empty tomb.”

The Scriptures teach that the resurrection of Jesus promises not only physical resurrection but spiritual resurrection. Christ raises physically and spiritually dead people to life.

Ephesians 2:1-7

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the spirit that is at work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”


Ephesians 2:1-7

“But God being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Who are the impossible ones who are beyond being saved to you? What people who are dead spiritually have you lost hope that God could raise spiritually from the dead?

Luke 24:38-43

2. A Defensive Plausibility Structure: Some Things are Just Too Good to Be True.



Luke 24:38-43

"And he said to them, 'Why are you troubled and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, ' he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them."

Elon Musk

A Plausibility structure of hopelessness.

"Either we spread Earth to other planets, or we risk going extinct. An extinction event is inevitable and we're increasingly doing ourselves in."

1 John 1:1-4

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things, so that our joy may be made complete."


Leslie Newbigin

“That the crucified Jesus was raised from death to be the firstfruit of creation is—in the proper sense—dogma. It is something given, offered for acceptance in faith, providing the starting point for a new way of understanding which, instead of being finally defined by the impassable boundary of death (our personal deaths and the final death of the cosmos), moves from death outward to an open world of infinite possibilities beckoning us into ever fresh regions of joy.”

Is the main lens for your life the hope of physical resurrection and do you live in a dark world with joyful expectation and hope?

Luke 24:38-43

3. A Gospel Plausibility Structure: Jesus Rose From the Dead and He will Raise Others From All the Nations and His Kingdom Will Be Everlasting.



Jeremy Lelek

“By now it should be very dear that your life is a narrative that is beautifully woven within the grand and glorious meta-narrative of redemption. This narrative explains the existential reality of mankind like no other, and it offers humanity a glimpse of those things that are to come. You see, the trauma-stricken world in which we now live is only temporal, and it sets the stage for one of the most amazing experiences a believer in Jesus Christ will ever encounter.”

The Powerful Posture of Expectant Hope:

Worshipping Jesus.
Waiting for power of the Holy Spirit.
Hopeful Rejoicing and blessing God.

Jeremy Lelek

“Death and pain are not ends to be feared, and life as we know it is not the ultimate prize to be coveted. The all-surpassing joy for the believer is that both those who have died in the faith and those who live in the faith are moving along the same time line that culminates in the return of Jesus Christ! It is in this event that the radiance of his faithfulness will brightly shine! It is in this promise of Christ’s return that many believers throughout history have not only risked pain, danger, and death for his sake, but have sprinted unwaveringly into its consuming flames.”
