





2018



READING JOHN

2018

SEQUENCE

- Our questions
- Resurrection in the Bible
- The Gospels
- John's Gospel
- Reading and reactions
- Commentary
- And so...
- Prayer
- Conversation

OUR QUESTIONS – BBC APRIL 9, 2017

- 17% of all people believe the Bible version word-for-word
- 31% of Christians believe word-for-word the Bible version, rising to 57% among "active" Christians (those who go to a religious service at least once a month)
- Exactly half of all people surveyed did not believe in the resurrection at all
- 46% of people say they believe in some form of life after death and 46% do not
- 20% of non-religious people say they believe in some form of life after death
- 9% of non-religious people believe in the Resurrection, 1% of whom say they believe it literally

OUR QUESTIONS – BBC APRIL 9, 2017

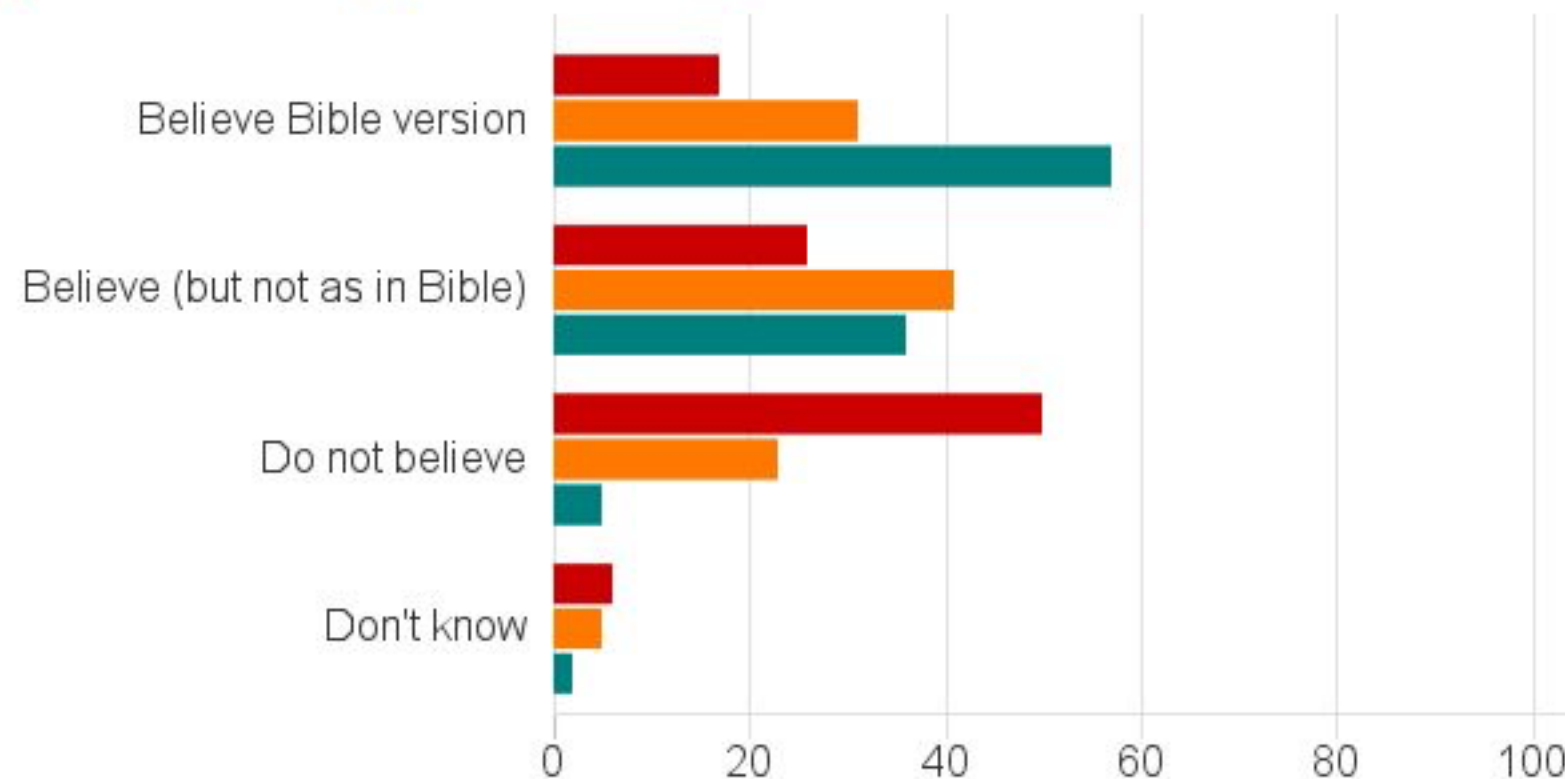


OUR QUESTIONS – BBC APRIL 9, 2017

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ

% of people asked about the Bible story of Christ rising from the dead


■ General public ■ All Christians ■ Active Christians



Source: ComRes survey of 2,010 British adults for BBC local radio

BBC

RESURRECTION

- 
- Mostly, in the OT, no belief in life after death
 - Glimmers in Ezekiel
 - Isaiah 25, Daniel 12, 2 Maccabees

RESURRECTION

Is 25:6 The LORD who commands armies

will hold a banquet for all the nations on this mountain.

At this banquet there will be plenty of meat and aged wine—
tender meat and choicest wine.

7 On this mountain he will swallow up

the shroud that is over all the peoples,

the woven covering that is over all the nations;

8 he will swallow up death permanently.

The sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from every face,
and remove his people's disgrace from all the earth.

Indeed, the LORD has announced it!

RESURRECTION

- Mostly, in the OT, no belief in life after death
- Glimmers in Ezekiel
- Isaiah 25, Daniel 12, 2 Maccabees

RESURRECTION

Dan 12:1 “At that time Michael,
the great prince who watches over your people,
will arise.


There will be a time of distress
unlike any other from the nation’s beginning
up to that time.

But at that time your own people,
all those whose names are found written in the book,
will escape.

2 Many of those who sleep
in the dusty ground will awake—
some to everlasting life,
and others to shame and everlasting abhorrence.

3 But the wise will shine
like the brightness of the heavenly expanse.
And those bringing many to righteousness
will be like the stars forever and ever.

RESURRECTION

- 
- Mostly, in the OT, no belief in life after death
 - Glimmers in Ezekiel
 - Isaiah 25, Daniel 12, 2 Maccabees

RESURRECTION

2 Macc 7:13 After he too had died, they maltreated and tortured the fourth in the same way. 14 When he was near death, he said, “One cannot but choose to die at the hands of mortals and to cherish the hope God gives of being raised again by him. But for you there will be no resurrection to life!”


RESURRECTION

- Mostly, in the OT, no belief in life after death
- Glimmers in Ezekiel
- Isaiah 25, Daniel 12, 2 Maccabees

RESURRECTION

2 Macc 7:20 The mother was especially admirable and worthy of honorable memory. Although she saw her seven sons perish within a single day, she bore it with good courage because of her hope in the Lord. 21 She encouraged each of them in the language of their ancestors. Filled with a noble spirit, she reinforced her woman's reasoning with a man's courage, and said to them, 22 "I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you life and breath, nor I who set in order the elements within each of you. 23 Therefore the Creator of the world, who shaped the beginning of humankind and devised the origin of all things, will in his mercy give life and breath back to you again, since you now forget yourselves for the sake of his laws."

RESURRECTION

- 
- Mostly, in the OT, no belief in life after death
 - Glimmers in Ezekiel
 - Isaiah 25, Daniel 12, 2 Maccabees

RESURRECTION

- At the time of Jesus...Sadducees v. Pharisees
- Different metaphors
- 1 Corinthians 15 is the best account
- Resurrection became the dominant language of early Christianity

RESURRECTION

Mark 12:18 Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) also came to him and asked him, 19 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us: ‘If a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, that man must marry the widow and father children for his brother.’ 20 There were seven brothers. The first one married, and when he died he had no children. 21 The second married her and died without any children, and likewise the third. 22 None of the seven had children. Finally, the woman died too. 23 In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For all seven had married her.” 24 Jesus said to them, “Aren’t you deceived for this reason, because you don’t know the scriptures or the power of God? 25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 26 Now as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? 27 He is not the God of the dead but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

RESURRECTION

- At the time of Jesus...Sadducees v. Pharisees
- Different metaphors
- 1 Corinthians 15 is the best account
- Resurrection became the dominant language of early Christianity

RESURRECTION

1 Cor 15:42 It is the same with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living person”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 Like the one made of dust, so too are those made of dust, and like the one from heaven, so too those who are heavenly. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, let us also bear the image of the man of heaven.

RESURRECTION

- At the time of Jesus...Sadducees v. Pharisees
- Different metaphors
- 1 Corinthians 15 is the best account
- Resurrection became the dominant language of early Christianity



GOSPELS

- **E**mpy **T**omb **P**roclamations (ETP)
- **R**esurrection **A**ppearance **N**arratives (RAN)
- Mark has ETP but no RAN – see 16:8.
- Matthew, Luke and John have both
- The RAN do not repeat across the Gospels, but are unique to each



MARK

ETP

16:1-8

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MARK

MATTHEW

ETP
16:1-8

ETP
28:1-8

—

RAN

Jesus appears
29:9-10

—

Guarding the tomb
28:11-15

—

Final Scene

Mountain in Galilee
28:16-20

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MARK

MATTHEW

LUKE

ETP

16:1-8

ETP

28:1-8

ETP

24:1-11

—

Peter visits the tomb

24:11-12

RAN

Jesus appears

29:9-10

RAN

Emmaus

24:13-35

—

Guarding the tomb

28:11-15

RAN

Jerusalem

24:36-49

—

Final Scene

Mountain in Galilee

28:16-20

Final scene

Bethany

24:50-53

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MARK

MATTHEW

LUKE

JOHN

ETP

16:1-8

ETP

28:1-8

ETP

24:1-11

ETP

10:1-2, 11-18

—

Peter visits the tomb

24:11-12

Peter and the BD

20:3-10

RAN

Jesus appears

29:9-10

RAN

Emmaus

24:13-35

RAN

Jerusalem

20:19-23/24-25

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Guarding the tomb

28:11-15

RAN

Jerusalem

24:36-49

RAN

Jerusalem: Thomas

20:26-29

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Final Scene

Mountain in Galilee

28:16-20

Final scene

Bethany

24:50-53

First Closure

20:30-31

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RAN

Tiberias

21:1-14

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RAN

Peter

21:15-23

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Second Closure

21:24-25

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JOHN'S GOSPEL

- ETP: yes, but very developed and edited
 - * Mary Magdalen, Peter, Beloved Disciple
- RAN: yes, but as always unique to this Gospel
 - * Appearance in the upper room (1)
 - * Appearance to Thomas (2)
 - * Appearance by the sea of Tiberias
 - * Appearance to Peter

JOHN'S GOSPEL

- The new creation
- One to one encounters
- The beloved disciple
- Peter
- The grave cloths / the cloth around his head
- The mission of Mary Magdalen

John 20:1 Now very early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. **2** So she went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out to go to the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down and saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter, who had been following him, arrived and went right into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, **7** and the face cloth, which had been around Jesus' head, not lying with the strips of linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, came in, and he saw and believed. **9** (For they did not yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.) **10** So the disciples went back to their homes.

11 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she bent down and looked into the tomb. **12** And she saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus' body had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. **13** They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Mary replied, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" **14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

John 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Because she thought he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "*Rabboni*" (which means Teacher). **17** Jesus replied, "Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" **18** Mary Magdalene came and informed the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

JOHN 20:1-18

- Sandwich technique, as follows:
- Mary Magdalen (vv. 1-2a)
 - * Peter and the Beloved Disciple (vv. 2b-10)
- Mary Magdalen (vv. 11-18)

COMMENTARY

John 20:1 Now very early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. **2** So she went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

- First day: day of creation
- Dark
- Mary Magdalen alone
- Empty tomb
- Simon Peter
- The other disciple
- We (!)

COMMENTARY

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out to go to the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down and saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter, who had been following him, arrived and went right into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, **7** and the face cloth, which had been around Jesus' head, not lying with the strips of linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, came in, and he saw and believed. **9** (For they did not yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.) **10** So the disciples went back to their homes.

- Outran
- Linen wrappings
- Cloth on Jesus' head
- Saw and believed
- Understanding later
- (Dismissed)

COMMENTARY

John 11:23 Jesus replied, “Your brother will come back to life again.” 24 Martha said, “I know that he will come back to life again in the resurrection at the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life.** The one who believes in me will live even if he dies, 26 and the one who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27 She replied, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who comes into the world.”

John 11:34 Jesus asked, “Where have you laid him?” They replied, “Lord, come and see.” 35 **Jesus wept.** 36 Thus the people who had come to mourn said, “**Look how much he loved him!**” 37 But some of them said, “This is the man who caused the blind man to see! Couldn’t he have done something to keep Lazarus from dying?” 38 Jesus, **intensely moved again,** came to the tomb.

John 11:43 When he had said this, he shouted in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The one who had died came out, **his feet and hands tied up with strips of cloth, and a cloth wrapped around his face.** Jesus said to them, “Unwrap him and let him go.”

COMMENTARY

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out to go to the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down and saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter, who had been following him, arrived and went right into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, **7** and the face cloth, which had been around Jesus' head, not lying with the strips of linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, came in, and he saw and believed. **9** (For they did not yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.) **10** So the disciples went back to their homes.

- Outran
- Linen wrappings
- Cloth on Jesus' head
- Saw and believed
- Understanding later
- (Dismissed)

LINKING JOHN 11 AND 20

Word	John 11	John 20
Mary	11:1-2, 19-20, 28, 31-32, 45; 12:3	20:1, 11, 16, 18
weep	11:31, 33, 35	20:11; 13, 15
loved	11:3, 36	20:2
stone	11:38-39, 41	20:1
face cloth	11:44	20:7
to rise	11:23-24	20:9
feet	11:2, 32, 44; (12:3)	20:12
face	11:44	20:7 (head)
out(side)	11:43	20:11
tomb	11:17, 31, 38	20:1-6, 8, 11
burial	(12:7 Jesus)	(19:40)

COMMENTARY

John 20:11 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she bent down and looked into the tomb. **12** And she saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus' body had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet.

13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Mary replied, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" **14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

- Angels
- White
- Head and feet
- Woman (!)
- Mary repeats herself
- No longer "we" but "I"
- Not knowing...
- NB She turned

COMMENTARY

John 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Because she thought he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "*Rabboni*" (which means Teacher).

- Jesus repeats the angels' words (NB)
- NB **What** are you looking for and **who** are you looking for...
- Gardiner?
- Mary repeats her words
- Heavy irony at this point
- NB personal name and title
- Why in Aramaic?

COMMENTARY

John 20:17 Jesus replied, "Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene came and informed the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

- Do not continue to cling to me "as I was"
- Identity of God and Father
- Mission
- Mary proclaims
- "The Lord is risen indeed and has appeared to..."

MARY MAGDALENE

- Mary Magdalene is a mysterious figure.
- Mary suddenly appears in Jn 19:25 for the first time.
- Her only other appearance is here in the resurrection account.
- She makes a journey from darkness to faith, from not knowing to restored relationship.
- She is a witness to both the cross and the resurrection.

EASTER FAITH

- Relationship is an intrinsic part of coming to faith
- Love: Jesus and Lazarus
- Love: Jesus and the Beloved Disciple
- Love: Jesus and Mary Magdalene
- Wedding feast at Cana: the first of the signs

EASTER FAITH

- **John 3:16** For this is the way God **loved** the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
- **John 11:36** Thus the people who had come to mourn said, "Look how much he **loved** him!"
- **John 13:1** Just before the Passover feast, Jesus knew that his time had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having **loved** his own who were in the world, he now **loved** them to the very end.
- **John 14:21** The person who has my commandments and obeys them is the one who **loves** me. The one who **loves** me will be **loved** by my Father, and I will **love** him and **will reveal myself to him.**"

AND SO...

- **Healing:** The lifting up is alluded to ("not yet ascended")
- **Love:** central and strongly underlined here
- **New creation**
 - * The first day of the week
 - * The gardener
 - * (To be developed in the next scene)
- **Service:** Little hints: Peter not understanding; feet; teacher
- **Liberation:** Death has been conquered >< Lazarus

A PRAYER

God of undying life,
by your mighty hand you raised up Jesus from the grave
and appointed him judge of the living and the dead.

Bestow upon those baptised into his death
the power flowing from his resurrection,
that we may proclaim near and far
the pardon and peace you give us.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
first-born from the dead,
who lives with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
God, for ever and ever. Amen

