

Let Us Join the Messiah in the Resurrection

Messiah Yeshua rising from the dead is a great and wonderful thing. Scripture supports this view by stating: ¹⁴“And if Messiah has not been raised, then our proclaiming is meaningless and your faith also is meaningless (KJV, is in vain)... ¹⁷And if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is futile—you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished. ¹⁹If we have hoped in Messiah in this life alone, we are to be pitied more than all people” (1 Cor. 15:14,17-19). We have the same promise because: ⁵“For if we have become joined together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also will be joined together in His resurrection— ⁶knowing our old man was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be done away with, so we no longer serve sin. ⁷For he who has died is set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Messiah, we believe that we shall also live with Him” (Romans 6:5-8). And now we are alive in Him because: ⁴“But God was rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us. ⁵Even when we were dead in our trespasses, He made us alive together with Messiah. (By grace you have been saved!) ⁶And He raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Messiah Yeshua” (Ephesians 2:4-6). So we can confidently say: “And if the Ruach of the One who raised Yeshua from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised Messiah Yeshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Ruach who dwells in you” (Ro. 8:11).

In 1 Corinthians 15:20, the apostle Paul states: “But the fact is that the Messiah has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have died.” And then again in verse 23: “But each in his own order: the Messiah is the firstfruits; then those who belong to the Messiah, at the time of his coming.” Messiah Yeshua is the firstfruits (*bikkurim*) of the resurrection. Since it is evident that Yeshua rose after the conclusion of the weekly Shabbat of the Pesach week on the week that He died, then it is clear that He rose on the Feast of *Bikkurim* of Leviticus 23:10-11: ¹⁰“Speak to Bnei-Yisrael and tell them: When you have come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you are to bring the omer of the firstfruits of your harvest to the cohen. ¹¹He is to wave the omer before Adonai, to be accepted for you. On the morrow after the Shabbat, the cohen is to wave it.” Firstfruits are not the whole of the harvest but there is *more* fruit coming. The resurrection of the dead continues to this day!

Give Me the Facts

¹“Now after Shabbat, as it began to dawn on the first day of the week, Miriam of Magdala and the other Miriam came to look at the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of Adonai descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴And those keeping watch were shaken for fear of him and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know you are looking for Yeshua who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for He is risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷Go quickly now and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead. And behold, He’s going before you to the Galilee. There you will see Him. See, I have told you!” ⁸They quickly left the tomb, with fear yet with great joy, and ran to bring news to His disciples.” (Matthew 28:1-8)

It is a historical fact that Yeshua rose from the dead. From any perspective, and especially from the record of testimonies of a myriad of eyewitnesses the resurrection of Yeshua is factual and not just a Christian teaching. In Luke 24 we read: ³⁵“Then they began telling about the events on the road and how He became recognized by them in the breaking of the matzah. ³⁶While they were speaking of these things, Yeshua Himself stood in the midst of them and said, “Shalom Aleichem!” ³⁷But they were startled and terrified, thinking they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸Then He said to them, “Why are you so shaken? And why do doubts arise in your heart? ³⁹Look at My hands and My feet—it is I Myself! Touch Me and see! For a spirit doesn’t have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” ⁴⁰And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹But while they were still in disbelief due to joy and wonder, He said to them, “Do you have anything to eat here?” ⁴²They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and He took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴Then He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you—everything written concerning Me in the Torah of Moses and the Prophets (Nevi’im) and the Psalms (Ketuvim) (i.e., the TNK) must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:35-44). All that Yeshua had said while on the earth becomes certified at that moment. This is no longer a teaching it is fact. You don’t argue with facts. Therefore, the foundation of our faith is that He is alive (then and now) and that is Good News. Torah, Prophets and Psalms had been testifying about Messiah and here was the

culmination of the entire TNK. Not only is it a historical fact (knowledge), but also it is the source which provided great power.

The fact that He is alive is the greatest proof that life in *Yeshua* is the correct way to worship God (i.e., to worship in the Right Way). It is the greatest fulfillment of prophecy, and the greatest truth of all time. It is the greatest manifestation of spiritual power (God's Power), and the greatest way to compel man to believe in God: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Messiah Yeshua, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Messiah Yeshua from the dead" (1 Pet 1:3).*

It Should Mean a Lot

What does Him rising from the dead mean to you personally? In other words, how does that change us (me), or our (my) situation? It changes things because He is our personal Savior. It states in Romans 4:25: *"Yeshua, who was delivered over to death because of our offences and raised to life in order to make us righteous"* Therefore, He justified us. He brought back forgiveness to man. We have a second chance!

Further, He went to His Father and it is to our advantage that He went to His Father (See John 14:7). He said that once He went He would send us a Comforter, the Holy Spirit. To have the Holy Spirit live inside of us is only possible after He rose from the dead, not before.

And then *"Yes, I gave it all up in order to know him, that is, to know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings as I am being conformed to his death" (Phil. 3:10).* We have to know Him and know intimately the power of His resurrection. To be resurrected you have to be dead or almost dead or else you cannot experience a resurrection. How many of us have been in near deadly circumstances? That is when we will know the power of His resurrection, because otherwise, unless you are not dead or near death, you do not need it. We see in 2 Cor. 1:8-9: *"...that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead."* Even if you have the smell or the aroma of death, we can trust the God who raises the dead. This power brings you back to life from deadly circumstances you are going through. Remember, in John 11 Lazarus was dead and his sisters said: *"he stank."*

The '*Disciples Message*' is the resurrection – the resurrection that sparked a revolution. We read about it beginning in Acts 2:22 (where Peter quotes Ps. 16) and it starts after the counting of the 50 days, at Shavuot. What is the bottom line? At the end of the sermon, Peter said '*Repent!*' He said, *"You yourselves know this"* (Vs. 22). In other words, to these facts we are all witnesses. The *Hamotzi* blessing, which we Messianic Jews say every Shabbat, is a '*Bread-from-the-earth*' blessing. Thus, it is a resurrection blessing because God raised *Yeshua* up from the earth! From that point on, everyone who comes in contact with *Yeshua* will receive a resurrection experience. No wonder it says in Rev. 1:17 *"¹⁷ When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. But He placed His right hand on me, saying... ♪ I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive forever more, Amen! ♪"*