



Issues in Contemporary Theology: Resurrection of Jesus

THEO6305

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Defend the Faith Conference 2022**

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

Students will study the major issues one encounters when presenting and defending the resurrection of Jesus in our contemporary culture, with particular attention given to biblical reliability, the biblical testimony about the resurrection, scientific issues related to rational belief in miracles, the historical evidences for resurrection belief, the criticisms of belief in the resurrection as a historical event, different methods of arguing for the resurrection, and the theological significance of the resurrection.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should:

1. Understand the basics of historic Christian belief in the resurrection of Jesus and be able to recognize and respond effectively to challenges to Christian belief concerning the resurrection of Jesus.
2. By the end of the course students should value:
 - ◆ Intellectual accountability in relation to the issues of ultimate concern to Christian faith.
 - ◆ Convincing presentations of the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus, and its theological and existential implications.
 - ◆ Clear ways of stating the Christian hope to those who either reject or question the truth claims of Christian theology.
3. Be able to present and defend the Christian faith clearly and rationally.

Required Textbooks

Habermas, Gary R. and Michael R. Licona, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004.

Licona, Michael R. *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2010.

Stewart, Robert B. *The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N. T. Wright in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.

Course Requirements

1. Lecture Attendance. Students are required to attend all sessions of the *Defend 2020* Christian Apologetics Conference.

2. Required Reading. Students are required to read all of the two required textbooks. Students are not required to review these two books, nor may they review either of the required books in lieu of one of the books listed for book reviews.

3. Book Reviews. Each student is required to review **2** of the following books. **Students may not duplicate book reviews from any other course for this course.** If a student wishes to substitute another book in place of one of the books on the list below, he or she must get the professor's permission in an email to do so.

Davis, Stephen T. *Risen Indeed: Making Sense of the Resurrection*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Copan, Paul and Ronald Tacelli, eds. *Jesus' Resurrection: Fact or Figment? A Debate between William Lane Craig and Gerd Lüdemann*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2000.

Craig, William Lane. *The Historical Argument for the Resurrection of Jesus During the Deist Controversy*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1985.

———. *Assessing the New Testament Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1989.

Habermas, Gary R. *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.

———. *The Secret of the Talpiot Tomb: Unravelling the Mystery of the Jesus Family Tomb*. Nashville: Holman, 2008.

Habermas, Gary and Mike Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2004.

Hengel, Martin. *Crucifixion in the Ancient World and the Folly of the Message of the Cross*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1997.

Keener, Craig S. *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

Larmer, Robert. *The Legitimacy of Miracles*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2013.

Levering, Matthew. *Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?: Historical and Theological Reflections*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Lewis, C.S. *Miracles*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.

Licona, Michael. *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.

Loke, Andrew. *Investigating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: A New Transdisciplinary Approach*. Routledge New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology, and Biblical Studies. New York: Routledge, 2020.

*Lüdemann, Gerd. *The Resurrection of Christ: A Historical Inquiry*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2004.

*Mack, Burton. *The Christian Myth: Origins, Logic, and Legacy*. New York: Continuum, 2003.

McKnight, Scot. *Jesus and His Death*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2005.

*Price, Robert and Jeffrey Lowder, eds. *The Empty Tomb: Jesus Beyond the Grave*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2005.

Swinburne, Richard. *The Resurrection of God Incarnate*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Wenham, John. *Easter Enigma: Are the Resurrection Accounts in Conflict?* Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Volume 3, Christian Origins and the Question of God. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.

*** This book is written from a skeptical or nontheistic perspective**

Reviews should include: (1) some professional biographical data concerning the author; (2) a summary of the book; (3) an assessment of the author's aim or purpose and of the degree of its fulfillment; and (4) a critical evaluation of the book. All grammar and citations in the reviews should follow Turabian form. Reviews should be 5-7 double-spaced pages (which won't be difficult if students include all of the above criteria). **Book Reviews are due 7 weeks after the final day of the Defend 2020 Apologetics Conference (February 25, 2022).**

4. Session Summaries. Write one-page, single-spaced summaries of 12 different breakout sessions from the Defend 2020 Christian Apologetics Conference, **10 of which must be over a lecture on the resurrection or the possibility of miracles or the reliability of the New Testament.** Students taking more than one Defend 2020 course for NOBTS credit may not use any session summaries that they use for another course. Summaries should be submitted via Blackboard. **Summaries are due 15 weeks after the conclusion of the Defend 2020 Apologetics Conference (April 22, 2022).**

5. Apologetics Research Paper. Each student is required to submit a research paper on a topic related to Christian Apologetics, e.g., science and faith, a non-Christian religion, atheism, argument(s) for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the reliability of Scripture, and/or miracles, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, etc. The paper should be not less than 2,500 words nor more than 4,000 words in length (double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font). Papers must adhere to the Turabian style guide. **Students may NOT submit the same paper for this course and another NOBTS course.** **Research papers are due 13 weeks after the final day of the Defend 2020 Apologetics Conference (April 8, 2022).**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale: 93-100, A; 85-92, B; 77-84, C; 70-76, D; 0-69, F.

The final grade will be determined accordingly:

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|--------------------------|------------|
| Conference Attendance | 10% |
| Required Reading | 10% |
| Book Reviews | 20% |
| Research Paper | 30% |
| <u>Session Summaries</u> | <u>30%</u> |
| Final Grade | 100% |

Extra Credit may be earned for: (1) additional book reviews (students taking more than one course will not receive extra credit for book reviews from another class), additional session summaries, or attendance at approved apologetics events; or (2) attending the EMNR/ISCA conference AND writing the session summaries; or (3) attendance at *ad hoc* apologetics events in the spring semester for which the student has previously received the approval of the professor of record.

Suggested Select Bibliography

- Allison, Dale. *Resurrecting Jesus: The Earliest Christian Tradition and Its Interpreters*. New York: T&T Clark, 2005.
- Atkins, J. D. *The Doubt of the Apostles and the Resurrection Faith of the Early Church: The Post-Resurrection Appearance Stories of the Gospels in Ancient Reception and Modern Debate*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019.
- D’Costa, Gavin, ed. *Resurrection Reconsidered*. Oxford: Oneworld, 1996.
- Bryan, Christopher. *The Resurrection of the Messiah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Davis, Stephen T. *Death and the Afterlife*. Library of Philosophy and Religion. New York: St. Martins, 1989.
- . *Faith, Skepticism, and Evidence: An Essay in Religious Epistemology*. Plainsboro, NJ: Associated University Presses, 1978.
- . *Risen Indeed: Making Sense of the Resurrection*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Davis, Stephen T., Daniel Kendall and Gerald O’Collins, eds. *The Resurrection: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Resurrection of Jesus*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Carnley, Peter. *The Structure of Resurrection Belief*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1987.
- . *Resurrection in Retrospect: A Critical Examination of the Theology of N. T. Wright*. Eugene: Cascade, 2019.
- Charlesworth, James et al. *Resurrection: The Origin and Future of a Biblical Doctrine*. Faith and Scholarship Colloquies. New York: T&T Clark, 2006.
- Chilton, Bruce. *Resurrection Logic*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2019.
- Copan, Paul and Ronald Tacelli, eds. *Jesus’ Resurrection: Fact or Figment? A Debate between William Lane Craig and Gerd Lüdemann*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2000.
- Craig, William Lane. *The Historical Argument for the Resurrection of Jesus During the Deist Controversy*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1985.
- . *Assessing the New Testament Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1989.

- Fuller, Reginald. *The Formation of the Resurrection Narratives*. New York: Macmillan, 1995.
- Gant, Peter. *Seeing Light: A Critical Enquiry into the Origins of Resurrection Faith*. Durham: Sacristy Press, 2019.
- Habermas, Gary R. and Michael R. Licona. *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2004.
- Habermas, Gary R. *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.
- . *The Secret of the Talpiot Tomb: Unravelling the Mystery of the Jesus Family Tomb*. Nashville: Holman, 2008.
- Harvey, A. *Jesus and the Constraints of History*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1982.
- Hengel, Martin. *Crucifixion in the Ancient World and the Folly of the Message of the Cross*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1997.
- Keener, Craig S. *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Komarnitsky, K. *Doubting Jesus' Resurrection: What Happened in the Black Box*. Second edition. Draper: Stone Arrow, 2014.
- Lake, Kirsopp. *The Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*. London: Williams & Norgate, 1907.
- Larmer, Robert. *The Legitimacy of Miracles*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2013.
- Levering, Matthew. *Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?: Historical and Theological Reflections*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Lewis, C.S. *Miracles*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.
- Licona, Michael R. *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.
- Litwa, David. *How The Gospels Became History—Jesus And Mediterranean Myths*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019.
- Loke, Andrew. *Investigating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: A New Transdisciplinary Approach*. Routledge New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology, and Biblical Studies. New York: Routledge, 2020.
- . *The Origins of Divine Christology*. Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- Lüdemann, Gerd. *The Resurrection of Christ: A Historical Inquiry*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2004.
- . *The Resurrection of Jesus: History, Experience, Theology*. Translated by John Bowden. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.
- Mack, Burton. *The Christian Myth: Origins, Logic, and Legacy*. New York: Continuum, 2003.
- Marxsen, Willi. *The Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth*. Translated by Margaret Kohl. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1970.
- McKnight, Scot. *Jesus and His Death*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2005.
- Miller, Richard. *Resurrection and Reception in Early Christianity*. London: Routledge, 2015.

- Novakovic, Lidija. *Resurrection: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: Bloomsbury, 2016.
- Peters, Ted, et al., eds. *Resurrection: Theological and Scientific Assessments*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Price, Robert and Jeffrey Lowder, eds. *The Empty Tomb: Jesus Beyond the Grave*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2005.
- Smith, Daniel. *Revisiting the Empty Tomb: The Early History of Easter*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.
- Stewart, Robert B. *The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N. T. Wright in Dialogue*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
- Swinburne, Richard. *The Concept of Miracle*. London: Macmillan, 1970.
- . *The Resurrection of God Incarnate*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Vermès, G. *The Resurrection: History and Myth*. New York: Doubleday, 2008.
- Vinzent, Markus. *Christ's Resurrection in Early Christianity: And the Making of the New Testament*. Burlington: Ashgate, 2011.
- Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2013.
- Wedderburn, A.J.M. *Beyond Resurrection*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999.
- Wenham, John. *Easter Enigma: Are the Resurrection Accounts in Conflict?* Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Wright, N. T. *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Volume 3, Christian Origins and the Question of God. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.