

RELIGION

He Is Risen: A Case for Belief

**O**n orthodox Christian doctrine, the resurrection of Jesus is the pinnacle of God's revealing of Himself to mankind through the biblical narrative. Quite simply, the resurrection of Jesus completely changes the conversation because if it is true, and the evidence indicates that it is, then the Bible skeptics of the world need to consider the enormous implications a risen Jesus ushers in.

Over the last year, we have pursued an answer to the question, "Is God dead?" by first investigating whether God even exists. The sustained argument has been presented here, article by article and piece by piece in a cumulative case fashion. A cumulative case argument is defined by Christian apologist R. Douglas Geivett as "the systematic formulation of reasons to believe that God exists, that he has a particular nature, and that he stands in relation to the world in certain definitive ways without relying directly upon sacred texts or any prophetic tradition." In practice, a cumulative case apologetic method is a particular approach to apologetics that calls upon an eclectic combination of elements from most or all of the recognized apologetic methods. By nature, a cumulative case approach is progressive in consolidating and strengthening the general argument by appealing to the most persuasive of those arguments, regardless of school, in a sustained progression. In that way, each argument in the cumulative case is not forced to stand alone but rather carries a small amount of weight in conjunction with



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a series of interconnected arguments. Practically, a cumulative case argument is not so much unlike an attorney arguing a case before a jury and presenting layers of evidence, all pointing to the same conclusion. By utilizing the cumulative case approach throughout these articles, we have put forward a cohesive and compelling argument for the existence of God and the truthfulness of Christianity.

From the Kalam cosmological argument, we determined that there exists an uncaused, personal Creator of the universe, who, in relation to the universe, is beginningless, changeless, immaterial, timeless, spaceless, and enormously powerful. From the teleological argument, we determined that the design, unity, order, and complexity of creation imply that the universe's Creator is a highly intelligent Designer who purposefully designed and brought the universe into being. Then, the argument from mind led to the conclusion that the human beings that God freely chose to create consist of two substances: one material and one immaterial; one body being uniquely human, and one spirit being similar in substance to God, who is Spirit. From the moral argument, we gleaned that the

Purposeful, Spiritual Creator and Designer of the universe, God, is a Moral and Just Being who imparted moral values into the spiritual consciousness of human beings whom He created, with the expectation that they embrace and fulfill His moral standards. From all of this, we then considered a question: "If the Creator of the universe is infinitely Moral and infinitely Just, then wouldn't we expect the Personal, Intelligent, Purposeful, Intentional Designer and Giver of the moral law to desire to communicate with the creatures He had so created?" Everything points to this, does it not? The way human beings are constituted, the advanced attributes that we possess, our intellectual capacity, and our ability to use logic and reason at a very high level for us to have the ability, unlike any of the other animals, to think abstractly. The way we are endowed with an innate sense of morality that is unlike any other living thing. These are special, unique, and purposeful endowments; these are special attributes.

Since we are so unique in the created world, we must have been endowed with these attributes for a distinct reason. There is an overwhelming sense of accountability that sets directly within the heart of man because of these attributes that he possesses. Repeating the question: "If the Creator of the universe is infinitely Moral and infinitely Just, then wouldn't we expect the Personal, Intelligent, Purposeful, Intentional Designer, and Giver of the Moral Law to desire to communicate with the creatures

He had so created?" To this question, we replied that there is a people group whose ancestors long, long ago, through both oral and written histories, foretold that the Creator of the universe and maker of mankind would send a Redeemer in the form of a man, to cleanse people of sin, and to restore their broken relationship with God. Christians claim that the Redeemer is the historical Jesus of Nazareth. Finally, after a thorough investigation of the historical evidence, we are strongly compelled to conclude that the claim that Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead is "certainly a historical fact."

With the fact of the resurrection established by being raised from the dead, it can be said that Jesus was born of flesh, walked among men on earth, was crucified by the Romans, died, was buried, and was raised from the dead by His supernatural Father, God. This is the God of Christianity. And, by His resurrection from the dead, the divine nature of Jesus is affirmed, including His sovereignty and divine authority regarding all matters. Now, this is important; if Jesus has divine authority, as demonstrated by the historical fact of being raised from the dead, then it will be helpful if we can determine what Jesus thought of the biblical text. Because if Jesus trusted the Bible, then maybe we should as well. Join us next week as we take a closer look at what Jesus had to say about the trustworthiness of the Bible. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Where faith begins, fear ends

**"T**he beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety." This quote by George Muller revealed how he was used by God to care for thousands of orphans by faith. It's a beautiful thing to understand that where faith begins, fear ends. The just shall live by faith, and anything not of faith is sin. If we're not careful, we will spend all our energy focusing on fear and the situation that brought it.

Fear and anxiety are first cousins, they always hang out together. Faith and courage are first cousins, and they always hang out together. Instead of focusing on fear, we should build up our faith immune system. Our immune system is designed to detect and defeat pathogens in our body. In the same way, we can develop our faith immune system so that it will detect and defeat the pathogen of fear. As I've heard said, "Feed your faith and starve your doubts."

Spending time daily in the Bible and prayer are excellent ways to defeat fear. Winter blues is a condition where a person will be depressed and fatigued because of the shortened days, which means less sunlight. One effective treatment is to sit in front of an intense light in the morning, causing light to flood in and increasing the feeling of joy. Jesus



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is the light of the world and spending time in His presence daily can alleviate anxiety.

"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." The more time spent in the Word is more time building up your faith immune system. Three times, Jesus defeated the devil's temptations with the Word, "It is written." Fear brings a culture of death whereas faith brings a culture of life. David said, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

David could be fearless because the Lord was with him. I had a dog named Brownie, and if I was courageous, he was courageous, but if I was fearful, he was fearful. The awesome truth is that, we as believers, understand that our God is never fearful. "The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion." "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Feed your faith, and starve your doubts.

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Behold what manner of love  
the Father has bestowed on us,  
that we should be called  
children of God!

I John 3:1  
NKJV



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Isaiah 40: 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.... 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40: 3-5; 28-31  
NKJV