

Romans 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Analysis

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

The verb *horisthentos* (ὁρισθέντος, 'declared/appointed/marked out') indicates powerful demonstration, not that Jesus became the Son of God at the resurrection but that He was publicly vindicated as such. *Huiou theou en dunamei* (υἱοῦ θεοῦ ἐν δυνάμει, 'Son of God with power') contrasts with verse 3's 'according to the flesh'—here is His divine nature displayed in resurrection power. The phrase *kata pneuma hagiōsynēs* (κατὰ πνεῦμα ἁγιωσύνης, 'according to the Spirit of holiness') is complex—likely referring to the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus (Romans 8:11) or to Christ's own divine nature characterized by holiness.

Ex anastaseōs nekrōn (ἐξ ἀναστάσεως νεκρῶν, 'by resurrection from the dead') is the linchpin of Christian faith. Paul later writes, 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile' (1 Corinthians 15:17). The resurrection validated Jesus's claims, defeated death, and guaranteed our justification (Romans 4:25). It was witnessed by over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6) and transformed cowardly disciples into bold apostles. This is not resuscitation (like Lazarus) but glorification—the firstfruits of new creation (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

Historical Context

Resurrection was not a common expectation in Greco-Roman religion. Greeks mocked the idea (Acts 17:32), preferring the immortality of the soul. Jews debated bodily resurrection (Pharisees affirmed it; Sadducees denied it). Paul's proclamation of a historical, witnessed, bodily resurrection of Jesus was revolutionary and scandalous. The Roman Empire would shortly face Christian martyrs who went joyfully to death because they believed in resurrection unto eternal life through Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the resurrection (ἀνάστασις) as objective historical event differ from subjective spiritual experiences, and why does this matter?
2. What specific fears or hopeless situations in your life does the 'power' (δύναμις) demonstrated in Christ's resurrection address?
3. How should belief in bodily resurrection shape your view of your physical body, sexuality, vocation, and material world?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ	ὁρισθέντος	υἱοῦ	θεοῦ	ἐν	δυνάμει	κατὰ
G3588	And declared	to be the Son	of God	with	power	according
	G3724	G5207	G2316	G1722	G1411	G2596
πνεῦμα	ἀγιωσύνης	ἐξ	ἀναστάσεως	νεκρῶν	Ἰησοῦ	
to the spirit	of holiness	by	the resurrection	from the dead		G2424
G4151	G42	G1537	G386	G3498		
Χριστοῦ	τοῦ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν			
G5547	G3588	G2962	G2257			

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:14 (Spirit): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

2 Corinthians 13:4 (References God): For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

1 Peter 1:11 (Spirit): Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

2 Peter 1:21 (Holy): For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Romans 1:3 (Parallel theme): Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

Acts 3:15 (Resurrection): And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Acts 2:32 (Resurrection): This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Acts 2:24 (Resurrection): Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Revelation 19:10 (Spirit): And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org