

**St Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
**Lunchtime service, Tues 15 August 2017**

**Why the resurrection of Jesus Christ matters (Part 1)-  
Who's in charge anyway?**

Assoc Prof Neil Foster

**Bible passages to be read:**

**Acts 2:22-36**

**22** “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. **23** This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. **24** But God **raised him from the dead**, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. **25** David said about him:

“‘I saw the Lord always before me.  
Because he is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken.

**26**

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest in hope,

**27**

because you will **not abandon me to the realm of the dead,**  
**you will not let your holy one see decay.**

**28**

You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

**29** “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. **30** But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **31** Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the **resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.** **32** God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. **33** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. **34** For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord:  
“Sit at my right hand

**35**

until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet.’”

**36** “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**”

**Romans 1:1-4**

**1** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—  
**2** the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures **3** regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, **4** and who **through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead:**  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Matthew 28:16-20

**16** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

### Outline

- Exploring the implications of the resurrection<sup>1</sup>
- Many implication for us humans
  - Past
  - Present
  - Future
- But we are considering today the **cosmic** implications for the Universe!
- Peter uses two passages in the Psalms to show that the resurrection of Jesus means that he is clearly shown to be the promised Messiah. Who was this Messiah?
  - This word means “anointed”; in Greek it is translated “Christos”. It is not Jesus’ family name, it is his title.
  - Back in 2 Samuel 7:13 God had promised King David that from his family would come someone of whom God said: “I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”
  - The Creator of the Universe was going to set up an eternal King who was a descendant of David. The title given to this coming King in the Old Testament was “Messiah”; but he had another title. This coming King was also called “the Son of God”. In Psalm 2:6-7 we read that God says:

6 “I have installed my king  
on Zion, my holy mountain.”

7 I will proclaim the Lord’s decree:

He said to me, “You are my **son**;  
today I have become your father.

- So the King of Israel is also called “Son of God”. And this is who the resurrection of Jesus proves him to be!
- In Acts 2 Peter quotes two other Psalms- Ps 16, which affirmed that God would not let his “holy one” see corruption by staying dead. “Holy One” was another term for Messiah. The coming Messiah would be seen to be who he was, by being raised to life after death!
- And Peter also quotes Ps 110, which refers to this second “Lord”, the Messiah, being raised to rule the Universe at the side of God himself. That is what the resurrection of Jesus means- that he is now seen to be the promised Messiah, the eternal King of the Universe.
- What does it mean that the risen Jesus is King of the Universe?
  - Acts 4:12: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”
  - Repent, trust in Jesus, announce his message to others!
  - Reject the other idols that call for our allegiance!

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<sup>1</sup> For a paper on the different topic of the **evidence** for the resurrection, see Neil J Foster, "Jesus: Dead or Alive? Evaluating the evidence for the Resurrection (2013)" available at: [http://works.bepress.com/neil\\_foster/68/](http://works.bepress.com/neil_foster/68/)