



Author of Life: The Resurrection of the Dead and the Origins of Christianity

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Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.3.3. About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, ~~if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah.~~ When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not cease. ~~On the third day he appeared to them restored to life. For the prophets of God had prophesied these and myriads of other marvelous things about him.~~ And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still up to now, not disappeared.



The Road to Emmaus,
by Daniel Bonnell

Romans 1:1-4: Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead (τοῦ ὀρισθέντος υἱοῦ θεοῦ ἐν δυνάμει κατὰ πνεῦμα ἁγιωσύνης ἐξ ἀναστάσεως νεκρῶν), Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 2:22-24: “Israelites, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 But God raised him up (ὄν ὁ θεὸς ἀνέστησεν), having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

2:36: Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ (ὅτι καὶ κύριον αὐτὸν καὶ χριστὸν ἐποίησεν ὁ θεός), this Jesus whom you crucified.”



Resurrection is NOT:

- Reanimation
- Resuscitation
- Assumption

Resurrection is:

Corporate and eschatological new life given by God

Disagreement on the nature of the Resurrected Body

Dan 12:1-3: At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.



St. Etheldreda's, London

Disagreement on the nature of the Resurrected Body



Dura Europos Synagogue

Reconstructing Early Christian Resurrection Belief

1 Cor. 15
(50s CE)

Mark	Matt	Luke	John
Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea	Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea	Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea	Jesus buried by Joseph of Arimathea
Women discover the empty tomb (3)	Women discover the empty tomb (2)	Women discover the empty tomb (unspecified, but at least 5 [24:10])	Women discover the empty tomb (1)
One angel inside	One angel outside	Two angels inside	Two angels inside
		Appearance to two travelers	Appearance to Mary Magdalene
		Appearance to the 11 in Jerusalem	2 appearances to “the disciples” in Jerusalem, one week apart
	Appearance to the 11 in Galilee		One appearance in Galilee while fishing
		Ascension in Jerusalem	

Gospels
(70ff CE)

Reconstructing Early Christian Resurrection Belief



1 Cor. 15
(50s CE)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospels
(70ff CE)

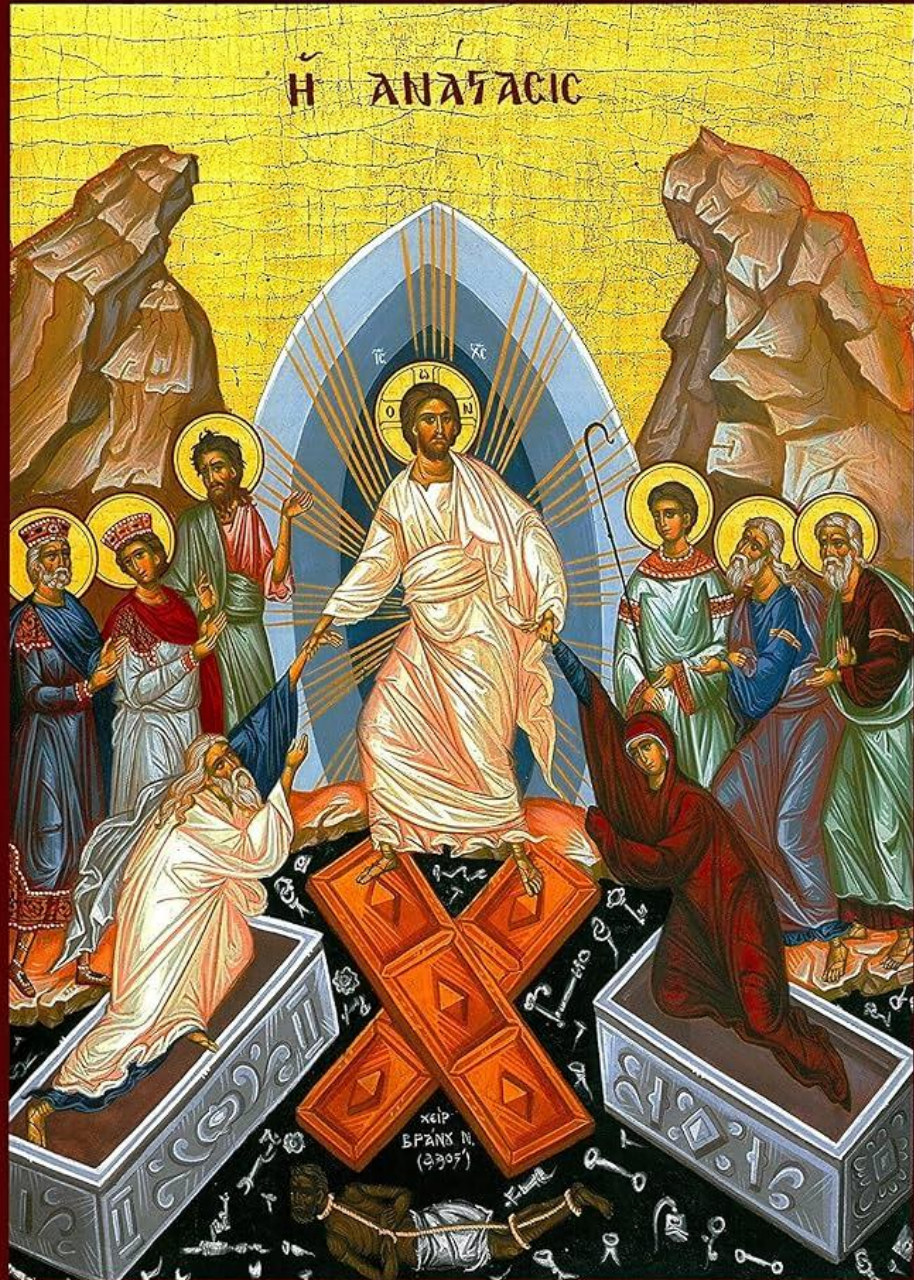
Reconstructing Early Christian Resurrection Belief

Some claims:

- 1- Joseph of Arimathea
- 2- Empty tomb
- 3- Paul's silence
- 4- Centrality of the Visions
- 5- Visions and Tomb



*Empty tomb,
Hanna
Cheriyen
Varghese,
Malaysia*



Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.



Luke 24:45: “Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”

John 2:22: “after he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed in the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.”

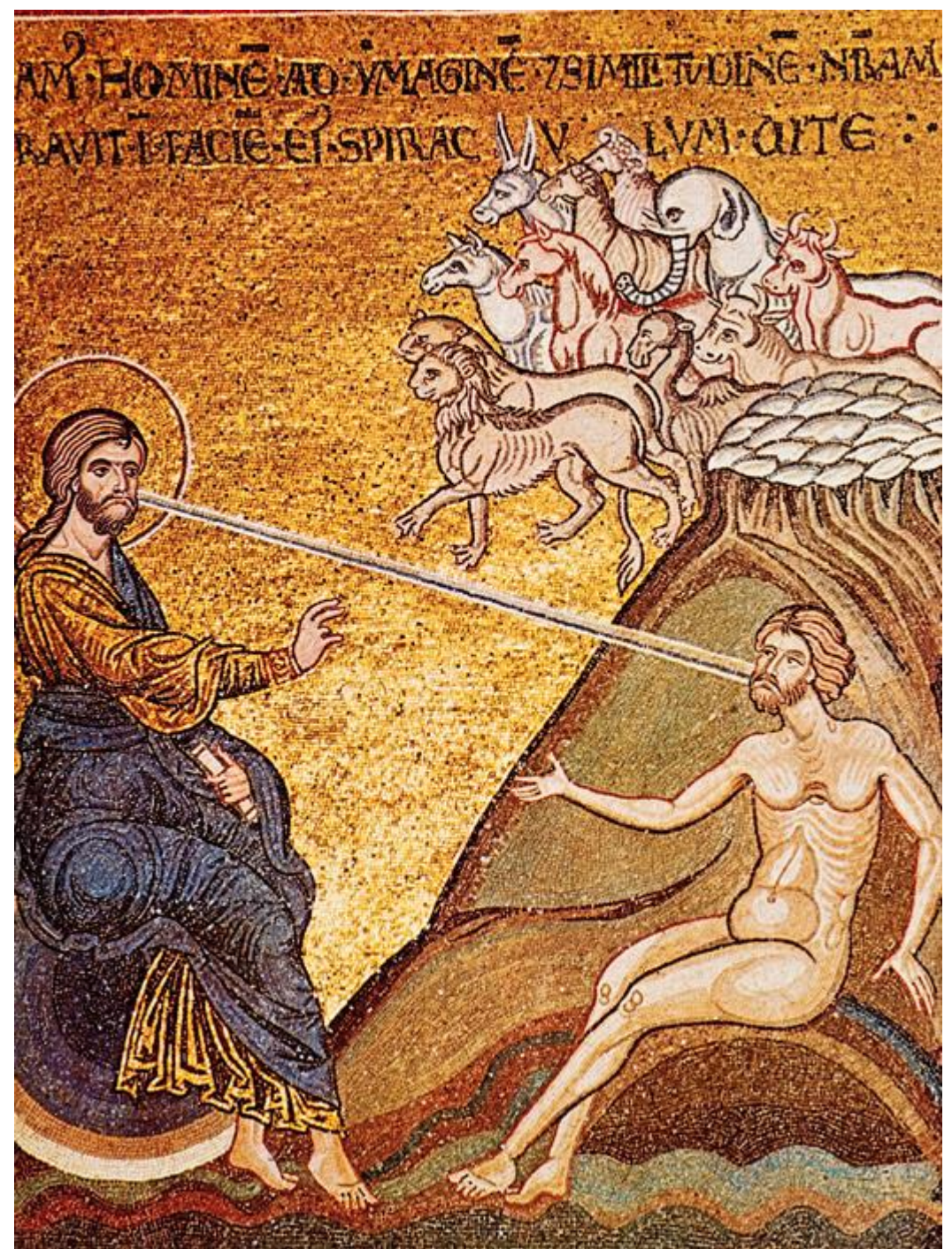
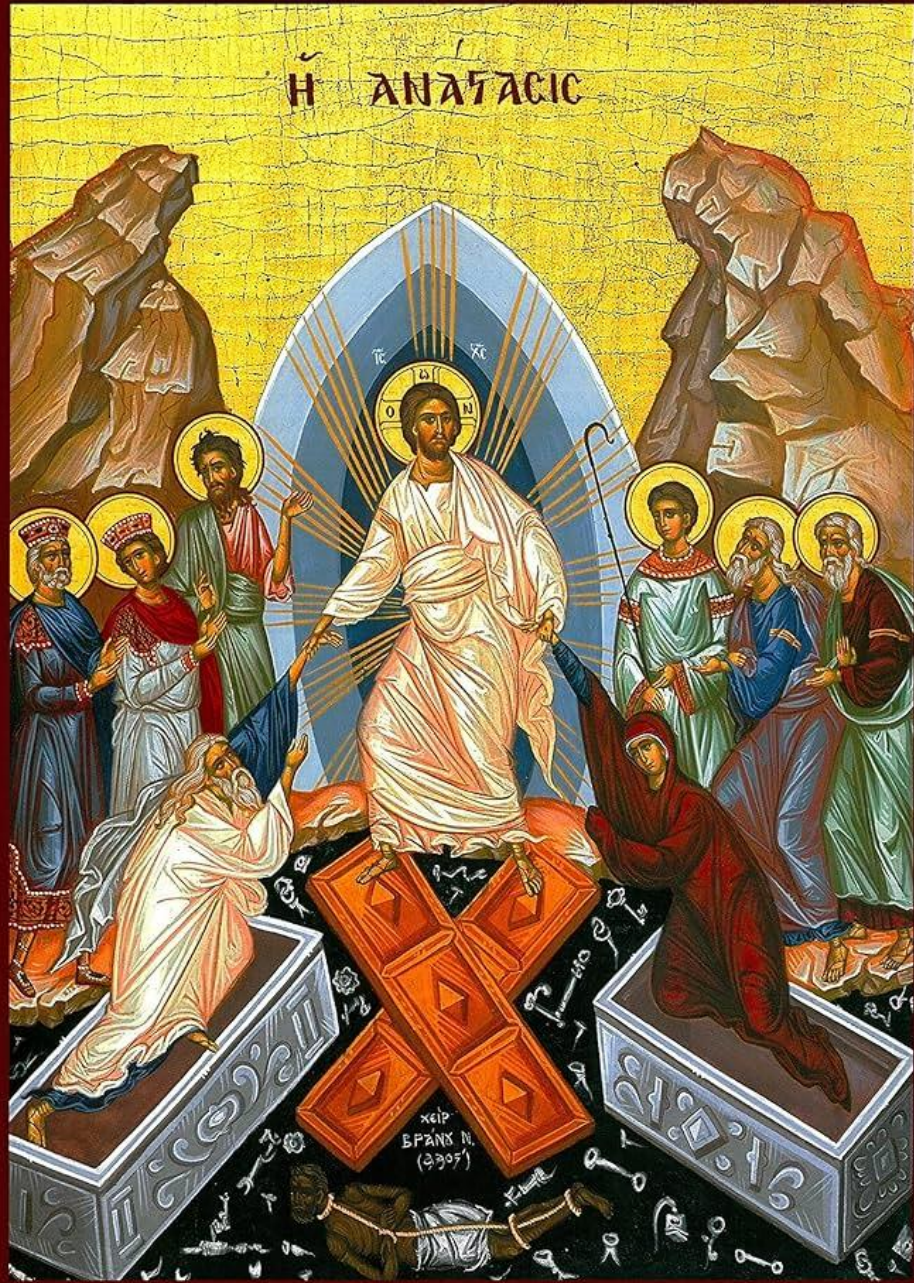
2 Sam 7:12-13: When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

John 2:19: “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Mark 15:29: “Ah, you who would destroy the temple and build another in three days, come down from the cross!”

Mark 12:10: “Have you not read this scripture: ‘The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner...?’”

1 Peter 2:4-5: “come to him, that *living* stone, rejected by people but chosen and precious in God’s sight...and *like living* stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house.”





Road to Emmaus,
Michael Torevell

Luke 24:31: “And their eyes were opened (autōn de diēnoichthēsan hoi ophthalmoi), and they recognized (kai epegnōsan) him.”

Gen 3:7 “then the eyes of both were opened (kai diēnoichthēsan hoi ophthalmoi), and they recognized (kai egnōsan) that they were naked.”



Schaffer St. at Broadway, Brooklyn, 2008

Romans 1:1-4: [Jesus was] descended from David according to the flesh 4 and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness (κατὰ πνεῦμα ἁγιωσύνης) by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

Romans 6:3: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

Romans 8:18ff: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revelation of the sons of God 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

2 Cor. 4:7-11: “But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus (ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ) may also be made visible in our bodies. 11 For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.”



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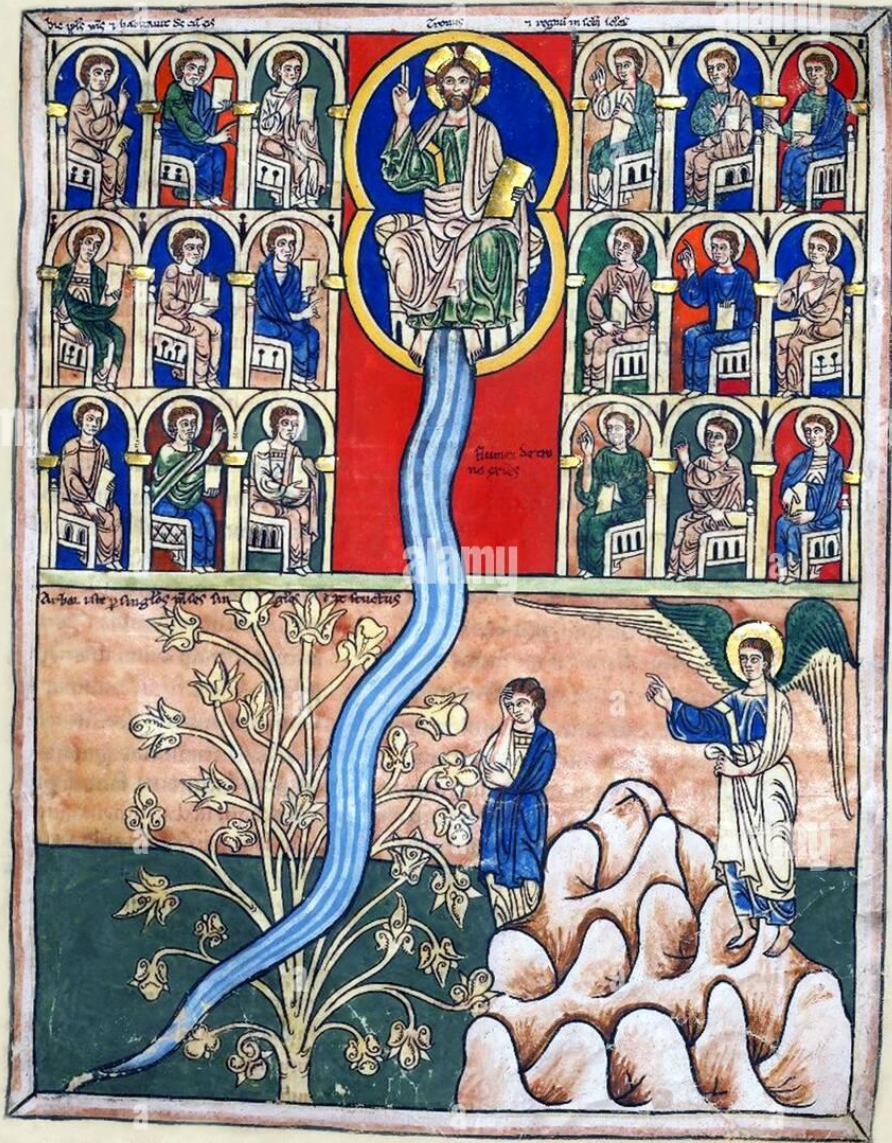
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Big Ideas:

+ Discipleship looks different depending on what you do with the resurrection.

+ Our view of God is different depending on what you do with the resurrection.

Christ Enthroned Over the River of Life, 12th century 'The Commentary on the Apocalypse' by Beatus of Liébana



“Gnosis” = knowledge

spiritual realm

material realm



P. Oxy 1



Nag Hammadi codices



These are the secret sayings which the living Jesus spoke and which Didymos Judas Thomas wrote down.

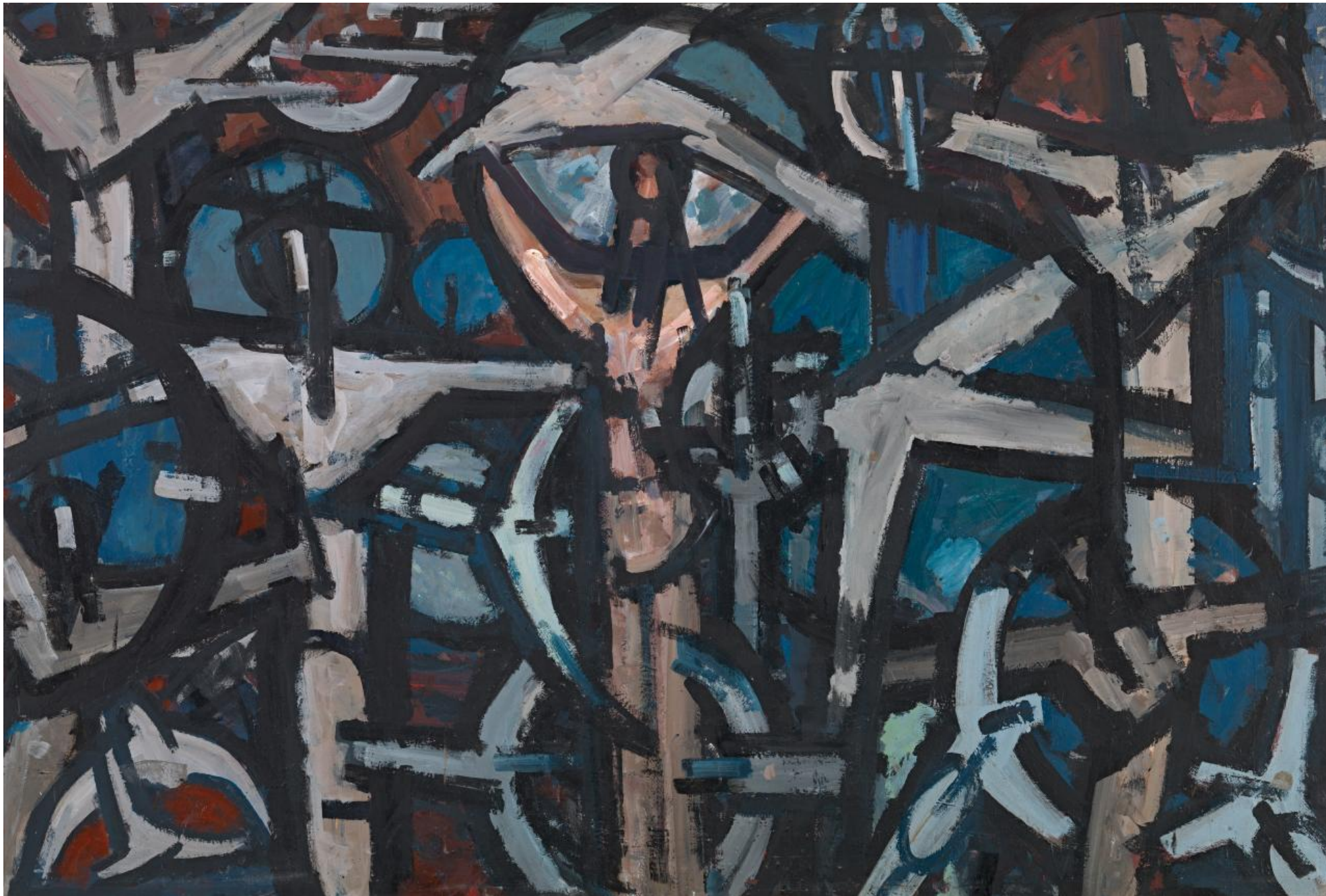
And he said, "Whoever finds the interpretation of these sayings will not experience death."

Saying 2: Jesus said, "Those who seek should not stop seeking until they find. When they find, they will be disturbed. When they are disturbed, they will marvel, and will reign over all.

Saying 21: Mary said to Jesus, "What are your disciples like?" He said, "They are like little children living in a field that is not theirs. When the owners of the field come, they will say, 'Give us back our field.' They take off their clothes in front of them in order to give it back to them, and they return their field to them."

Saying 11: "This heaven will pass away, as will the one above it. But the dead will not live, and the living will not die."

Saying 51: His disciples said to him, "When will the rest for the dead come, and when is the new world coming?" And he said to them: "That which you seek has come, but you do not know it."



Roger Kemp, The
Ascension,
National Gallery
of Victoria,
Melbourne

1 Cor. 15:14-19: if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.... 17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

2 Cor. 4:7-11: “But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus (ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ) may also be made visible in our bodies. 11 For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.”



Icons of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, Kelly Latimore

