

I have been doing some reading in Astrophysics lately. It seems that as we move along the curve of space and time, entropy is to be expected. Our formerly young and fit bodies are slowly falling apart. For me it is the back and the knees. For you it may be other parts. There are days when my brain is on the list as well. Time is not on our side as our movement along the curve is one-way. It does not end well with it being something of a horse race as to whether our bodies or brains go into such a dissolute state that there is for us no future.

We can try to stave it off. This diet might help. That exercise routine may slow the decline.

Entertainment in various forms can help us not to think about it. Doctors' offices and hospitals are full of people trying to slow down the inevitable. Apart from some miraculous or divine intervention, this is our fate as human beings.

Jesus of Nazareth who by a series of betrayals and miscarriages of justice arrived early at the end of his journey along the space-time curve somewhere around 33 A.D. As the Apostles' Creed puts it, *he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.* Entropy has claimed another victim. This is the focus of Holy Week. Holy Week has particular poignancy for us as we realize that we are moving quickly or slowly toward the same fate. He did not become a star as was thought of Roman Emperors of the time. He did not become a permanent inhabitant of the underworld as was thought by Greek culture of the time. He did not become a spirit or a ghost or a disembodied soul. His path along the space-time curve was ended permanently, abruptly, and irrevocably. He had no future. He had no present. His past existed only in the memory of his disciples and those he healed along the way.

As I read in Astrophysics, the James Webb telescope has discovered galaxies that are too old and well organized to have been part of the so-called Big Bang. Where did they come from? It almost seems as though someone or something has been drawing outside the lines and creating new things in ways that defy the rules science has established for how things ought to be done. How could the reports that Jesus was alive after the end of his trajectory along space-time be true? How could one without a present and without a future engage, bless, and direct the early church? It certainly seems that someone or something has been drawing outside the lines and creating a new thing in a way that defies expectations, experience, and science.

The ancient Jews defined God as whoever brought Israel out of Egypt and made a covenant with them. And rightly so. *I will be your God and you will be my people.* Early Christians defined God as whoever raised Jesus from the dead and established him as Lord. And rightly so. *I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me though he die yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.*

It would not be correct to think that the resurrection of Jesus means that he is put back into space-time. If so, his trajectory would be limited again. Instead we ought to understand that space-time—all of it including your trajectory within it—has been put under his direction and control. He can engage creatures on their trajectory whenever and wherever he chooses. He can bend the curvatures to his desired outcomes. The One who draws outside the lines and creates new things in ways that defy the rules has raised Jesus from the dead and this changes everything. *The Lord is Risen; He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!*

Yours in Christ,
John Shepherd McKenzie