

## People in the Bible Who Woke Up From the Dead



### SABBATH—OCTOBER 22

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Jude 1:9; Luke 9:28–36; 1 Kings 17:8–24; 2 Kings 4:18–37; Luke 7:11–17; Mark 5:21–24, 35–43; John 11:1–44.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the One Who raises [wakes people up from] the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies’ ” (John 11:25, 26, NLV).



**Moses is the first person in the Bible who woke up from the dead.**

**SO FAR**, we studied about people in the Old Testament who believed in the resurrection (Job 19:25–27; Hebrews 11:17–19; Psalm 49:15; Psalm 71:20). The resurrection is the promise that Jesus will wake up people from the dead at His Second Coming. These Old Testament people trusted in God's promises about the resurrection (Daniel 12:1, 2, 13).

The Bible also tells us about people who woke up from the dead before Jesus died on the cross. Moses is the first person in the Bible who woke up from the dead (Jude 1:9; Luke 9:28–36). During the time that Israel was a kingdom, the son of the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8–24) and the Shunammite's son (2 Kings 4:18–37) woke up from the dead. Jesus woke up the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11–17). Jesus also resurrected or woke up Jairus's daughter (Luke 8:40–56) and Lazarus (John 11). All these people, except Moses, later died again. All these stories teach us that our spirits don't continue to live after our bodies die (Job 3:11–13; Psalm 115:17; Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10).

This week, we will look at resurrections in the Bible that happened before Jesus died on the cross.

**MOSES WAKES UP FROM THE DEAD (Jude 1:9)**

**Read Jude 1:9 and Luke 9:28–36. What proof do these verses give us that Moses had a body when he woke up from the dead?**

Jude tells us, “Michael the chief angel had a quarrel with the devil about who should have the body of Moses” (Jude 1:9, WE). Michael, of course, is Jesus Himself. Do you see that Jesus and Satan are fighting over Moses’ body? They do not argue over who should get Moses’ spirit. Their quarrel about “the body of Moses” is proof that Moses has a body when he wakes up from the dead.

Deuteronomy 34:5–7 tells us that Moses died when he was 120 years old. The Lord buried Moses in a secret place in a valley in the land of Moab. But Moses did not stay in the grave for long. “Jesus Himself came down from heaven with His angels. These were the angels that helped Jesus bury Moses after he died. Jesus woke up Moses from the dead. . . . For the first time, Jesus was about to give life to someone who died. Jesus is the Prince of Life. When Jesus and His shining angels approached the grave, Satan felt afraid. Satan was scared that he was going to lose his control over sinners. . . . Jesus didn’t argue with Satan. . . . Jesus showed that His Father in heaven was in full control when He said to Satan, ‘ “May the Lord judge you!” ’ Jude 1:9, [NirV]. . . . Jesus showed that He can wake the dead. Satan lost his control over sinners. Jesus showed that His saved ones will live again.”—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 478, 479, adapted.

The Bible gives us more proof that Jesus woke up Moses from the dead. Luke tells us about the time that Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray (read Luke 9:28–36). While Jesus prayed, Peter, James, and John saw Jesus’ glory. Jesus’ face changed and His clothes became shining white. “Then two men were there, talking with him. They were Moses and Elijah. They also looked bright and glorious [shining]. They were talking with Jesus about his death that would happen in Jerusalem” (Luke 9:30, 31, ERV). Moses’ being there with Jesus is proof that Jesus will win the war over sin and death. We see that Moses and Elijah, and not their “spirits,” appear to Jesus on the mountain. (Remember also that Elijah never died. God took Elijah to heaven. So, Elijah’s being there with Jesus also shows us that we will have bodies when God takes us to heaven.)



**Jesus’ face changed and His clothes became shining white.**

## TWO MORE OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES (1 Kings 17:8–24)

**Read about the resurrections in 1 Kings 17:8–24 and 2 Kings 4:18–37. As we saw already in lesson 4, resurrection is a time when God wakes up people from the dead. What is the same about the two stories in these verses? What is different?**

In Hebrews 11, we read that “because some women had faith . . . they received [got] their dead back to life” (Hebrews 11:35, NLV). 1 Kings 17:8–24 and 2 Kings 4:18–37 show us stories about women whose sons died. Both women had faith in God. So, God woke up their sons from the dead and gave them back to their mothers.

The first story happened during the time when almost everyone in Israel stopped worshiping God (read 1 Kings 17:8–24). Ahab and his wife Jezebel controlled Israel at the time. God punished Israel by not letting any rain fall on the land for a long time. During this time, God commanded Elijah to go to Zarephath. Zarephath was a town outside of Israel. There, Elijah met a widow. She had enough food for one final meal for herself and her son. Then they would have no food left. But God gave them a miracle. He gave the widow much flour and oil. The flour and oil did not run out until the rain came. But after the miracle, something sad happened. The widow’s son got sick and died. The widow asked Elijah to help her. Elijah cried out to the Lord. “The LORD answered Elijah’s prayer. He [the LORD] gave the boy’s life back to him. So the boy lived” (1 Kings 17:22, NIV).

The second story happened in Shunem (read 2 Kings 4:18–37). Shunem was a small village south of Mount Gilboa. There, Elisha met a married woman who had no children. Elisha told her that she was going to have a son. She did. The child grew and was healthy. But then the boy got sick and died. The Shunammite woman went to Mount Carmel. The woman asked Elisha to come see her son. Elisha went with her and prayed to the Lord for the child. God answered Elisha’s prayer. The child woke up from the dead.

These women had different religions. But they both had the same saving faith. The widow of Zarephath fed Elijah at a time when there was not any safe place for him in Israel. The Shunammite woman and her husband built a special room in their house for Elisha. These mothers asked the men of God to help them when their children died. Then the mothers were glad when their sons woke up from the dead.



**God woke up their sons from the dead and gave them back to their mothers.**

### THE SON OF THE WIDOW OF NAIN (Luke 7:11–17)

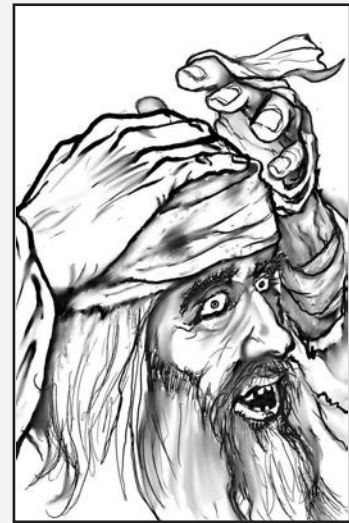
The Bible says that Jesus “ ‘went everywhere doing good for people. He healed those [people] who were ruled [controlled] by the devil, showing that God was with him’ ” (Acts 10:38, ERV). The Bible is filled with stories about Jesus and how He helped many people who were hurting and in need. Later, many Jews accepted Jesus as their Savior because of all the good things Jesus did.

“Jesus visited many villages. He healed all the people who were sick there. Jesus’ healing work was proof that God chose Him as our Savior. Jesus did everything with love and mercy in His heart. Jesus cared for people. Jesus wanted to serve people and take care of their needs. So, He became the same as the people that He came to save. People that nobody cared about and the poor were not afraid to come to Jesus. Little children loved to be near Jesus, too.”—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, pages 11, 12, adapted.

**Read about the resurrection in Luke 7:11–17. As we know, the resurrection is the time when a person wakes up from the dead. Compare the resurrection in Luke 7:11–17 to the resurrections we studied yesterday. How is the resurrection in Luke different?**

Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons from people. When Jesus and His followers approached the city of Nain, they saw a crowd on their way to a funeral. Some of the people in the crowd carried a dead body in a coffin. The coffin was open. The only son of a widow lay inside the coffin. The widow cried very hard. Jesus felt very sorry for the sad mother. Jesus said to the woman, “ ‘Don’t cry’ ” (Luke 7:13, ERV). Then Jesus “walked to the open coffin and touched it. The men who were carrying the coffin stopped. Jesus spoke to the dead son: ‘Young man, I tell you, get up!’ ” (Luke 7:14, ERV). The whole story changed because Jesus was there. Many people who saw the miracle happen knew that Someone special was among them. So, the people said that Jesus was a “ ‘great [powerful] Man’ ” (Luke 7:16, NLV). The people believed that God sent Jesus to show that He cared for His people very much.

Both the widow of Zarephath and the Shunammite woman asked for help from God’s servants. But the widow of Nain got help without asking for it. God cares for us even when we don’t feel we are worthy enough to ask Him for help.



**“Jesus’ healing work was proof that God chose Him as our Savior.”**

## JAIURUS'S DAUGHTER (Mark 5:21–24, 35–43)

**Read the story about Jairus's daughter in Mark 5:21–24, 35–43. What do we learn about death from Jesus' words, " 'This child isn't dead. She is only sleeping' " (Mark 5:39, ERV)?**

Jairus's 12-year-old daughter was very sick at home. So, Jairus went to Jesus and asked Him to heal his daughter. Jairus wanted Jesus to come to his house and touch her. But before Jairus and Jesus got to the house, some men brought Jairus the sad news. " 'Your daughter is dead. There is no need to bother the Teacher' " (Mark 5:35, ERV). Jesus heard this sad news. He said to Jairus, " 'Don't be afraid; just believe' " (Mark 3:36, ERV). Jairus must trust that Jesus could save his little girl after she was already dead.

Jairus and Jesus arrived at Jairus's home. Many people filled the house. Then "Jesus entered the house and said to the people, 'Why are you crying and making so much noise? This child is not dead. She is only asleep' " (Mark 5:39, ICB). The people made fun of Jesus. Why? (1) They knew that the little girl was dead. And (2) they didn't understand the meaning of Jesus' words. "Jesus' favorite word picture for 'death' was 'sleep' [read Matthew 9:24; Luke 8:52; also read John 11:11–15]. Death is a very deep sleep. Only God can wake us from this sleep. God is the powerful Life-Giver. Only He can give life to the dead and make them live again. (Read Revelation 1:18; also read John 3:16; Romans 6:23)."—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 5, page 609, adapted.

Jesus woke up Jairus's daughter from the dead. Then the little girl's parents and Jesus' followers "were very much surprised and wondered about it" (Mark 5:42, NLV). We can see why, right? For now, death is the end of life. Worse, death is final. We can't reverse it. So, when Jesus' followers and the little girl's parents see her wake up from the dead, they witness a miracle with their own eyes. For sure, this miracle changed their lives.

**Review Jesus' words to Jairus: " 'Don't be afraid; just believe' " (Mark 5:36, ERV). How can we learn to believe when we are afraid? Why is the time that we are afraid the most important time to keep believing?**



**Jesus woke up  
Jairus's daughter  
from the dead.**

## LAZARUS (John 11:1–44)

**Read John 11:1–44. How will the sickness and death of Lazarus “ ‘bring honor to God’ ” and honor to “ ‘the Son of God’ ” also (John 11:4, NLV)?**

As we saw, Jesus liked to use the word “sleep” to talk about “death.” When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He said, “ ‘Our friend Lazarus is now sleeping, but I am going there to wake him’ ” (John 11:11, ERV). Some of Jesus’ followers thought that Jesus meant Lazarus was asleep in bed (John 11:11–13). But Jesus explained: “ ‘Lazarus is dead’ ” (John 11:14, NIV). When Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus already was dead four days. His dead body was rotting (John 11:17, 39). When a dead body starts to stink, people know the person is dead.

Then Jesus says to Martha, “ ‘Your brother will rise [wake up from the dead] and be alive again’ ” (John 11:23, ERV). Martha tells Jesus that she believes in the final resurrection. The final resurrection is the time when God will wake up His people from the dead at the Second Coming. But Jesus announces to Martha, “ ‘I am the One Who raises [wakes up people from] the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies. Anyone who lives and has put his trust in Me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ” (John 11:23–26, NLV). Jesus added, “ ‘Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory [His life-giving power]?’ ” (John 11:40, NIV). Martha believed. She saw God’s glory in Jesus when He resurrected or woke Lazarus up from the dead.

The Bible says that God made all life (Genesis 1:20–30; Psalm 33:6). By His command, God can make life new again. That’s what happened with Lazarus. After a short prayer, Jesus commanded, “ ‘Lazarus, come out!’ ” (John 11:43, NIV). When the crowd saw Lazarus walk out of the grave, they saw that Jesus could make people live. Jesus had the same power as God. With this same power, Jesus made our earth. With this same power, Jesus will wake up the dead at His Second Coming. When Jesus woke up Lazarus, Jesus gave proof that He controls death. Do we need more proof that God is powerful?

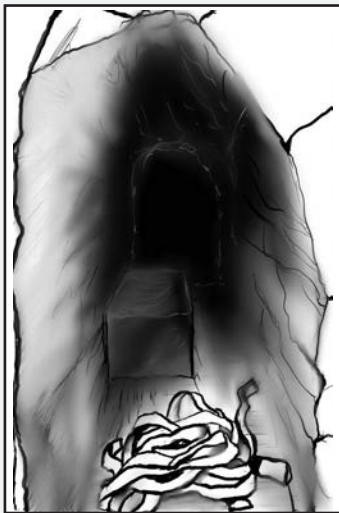
**Read Jesus’ words in John 11:25, 26. What is Jesus teaching us about His believers? Why do Jesus’ words give us so much hope?**



**When the crowd saw Lazarus walk out of the grave, they saw that Jesus could make people live.**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Read Ellen G. White, “The Death of Moses,” pages 469–480, in *Patriarchs and Prophets*; “The Voice of Stern Rebuke,” pages 129–142; “A Prophet of Peace,” pages 235–243, in *Prophets and Kings*; “The Centurion,” pages 318, 319; “The Touch of Faith,” pages 342, 343; “‘Lazarus, Come Forth,’” pages 524–536, in *The Desire of Ages*.

“In Jesus is life. This life is not made or borrowed from something else. ‘Whoever has the Son has life. But the person who does not have the Son of God does not have life.’ 1 John 5:12, [ICB]. Jesus is God. As God, Jesus can give us everlasting life. Jesus said, ‘He who believes in me will have life even if he dies. And he who lives and believes in me will never die. Martha, do you believe this?’ In these verses [John 11:25, 26, ICB], Jesus looks to the future when He will wake up the dead at the Second Coming. Then God’s people will be changed and given new bodies. God will take the living to heaven. They will not die. But for now, Jesus is about to wake up Lazarus from the dead. This miracle is a promise that shows that Jesus will wake up all the saved ones from the grave. By His word and His works, Jesus announced that He is the One who gives life to the dead. Soon Jesus will die on the cross. But before He dies, Jesus showed that He had control over the grave. He showed that He can give everlasting life.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 530, adapted.



“Soon Jesus will die on the cross. But before He dies, Jesus showed that He had control over the grave.”

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① We die the same as living things: chickens, beavers, oysters, and so on. We know that we will die (read Ecclesiastes 9:5). But animals don’t know that they will die. Why is the promise of the resurrection, or the promise that God will wake us up from the dead, so important to us?
- ② Many Christians and other people think that they will live in heaven after they die. Why is this idea wrong? Is there any need for a resurrection if everyone goes to heaven after they die? Explain.

## A MESSENGER FOR JESUS

**M**y name is Benjie Leach. In the mid-1970s, I served as the pastor for Forest Lake Adventist High School in Orlando, Florida. One of my jobs was to get to know each student. That was a big task in a school with 450 students.

At the beginning of the school year, a student came up to me and said, "Have you met Paul?" I answered that I had not.

"You need to meet him," the student said. "Just ask Paul where he's from."

So, I invited Paul to my office. Paul was a shy 16-year-old youth. "So Paul," I said, "where are you from?"

"I'm from a little town in Georgia named Plains," he answered.

My mouth dropped open in surprise. "What?" I said. "That's where Jimmy Carter, the president of the United States, lives!"

"That's right," Paul said.

Then Paul told me an interesting story. Early that summer, he needed a job to help pay his school bill at Forest Lake High School. So, Paul got a job at the peanut warehouse, which was the biggest business in Plains. Paul was excited about his new job. He explained to his boss that he needed to worship God on Sabbath. His boss agreed. When Friday came, Paul said goodbye to his boss and promised to come back on Monday.

"No," his boss said. "You come to work on Saturday."

"I can't work," Paul said. "I'm a Seventh-day Adventist."

"Come tomorrow, or you won't have a job," his boss said.

Paul thought for a bit. "Can I talk to the owner?"

"But that's the United States president!" his boss said.

"Is he in town?" Paul asked.

"Yes, but I don't think he'll want to see you!"

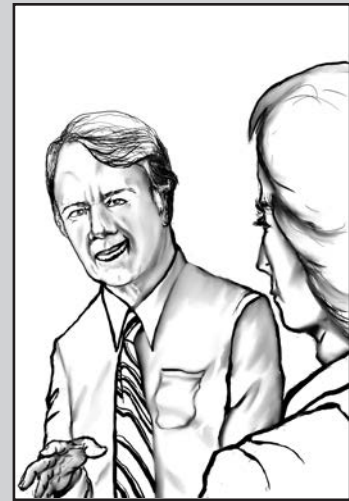
Paul went to the Carter home. He waited for the president's guards to give him permission to visit the president. Soon Paul sat down with Jimmy Carter. Paul explained his problem and told the president that he was a Sabbath keeper. The president listened carefully. Then he said, "I respect any young person who stands up for his beliefs. You may have your Sabbaths off."

That's the story about how a shy, quiet 16-year-old teenager became a messenger from Jesus to the U.S. president.

You and I also are Jesus' messengers: "So we are messengers for Christ. God is using us to call people. So we are standing here for Christ and begging people, 'Come back to God!' " (2 Corinthians 5:20, WE). Let's be loyal messengers for Jesus.

This story shows Growth Task Number 1 of the "I Will Go" Plan for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Growth Task Number 1 for the church is: "The church will serve God and support His work worldwide. The church will make supporting God's work its way of life." Read more at: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

INSIDE  
*Story*  
by BENJIE LEACH



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