

that more than 500 people saw the resurrected Jesus on one occasion, most of whom were still living at the time he wrote. What is crucial here is the logic of Paul's fact-claim about the resurrection. It is the nature of his claim that is important to the point here: there is a tacit invitation to the Corinthians (though not, of course, a very practicable invitation) to cross-examine those who could yet corroborate his own eyewitness testimony. In a manner of speaking, Paul is sticking his neck out in order to lay great stress on the kind of claim he is making. He has absolutely no interest in a "geschichtlich" resurrection (or a "geschichtlich" Second Coming, for that matter); post-resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ were space and time public events—realities quite independent of anyone's mind or personal belief system. So in the sharpest of contrast to Linus's kind of fact-claim, Paul slams the door on any mystification or mere spiritualization of the resurrection event. "Ask any of the remaining 500," says Paul, "and they will confirm my account many times over!"

*Here is an up-to-date way of putting it: if honest reporters from The New York Times had been present that first Easter morning, they would have reported that a dead man had come to life again with the same factual confidence they might exhibit in reporting a Los Angeles earthquake. The resurrection of Christ, like his promised return to earth, **must** be considered an **empirical event** or one fails to understand the Gospel. Ascertaining its factuality, moreover, does not require some exotic and courageous 'X-File' derring-do. Still less is the resurrection a piece of tabloid fodder. If the claim is true that Jesus rose from the dead, it is true not because the resurrection is believed in, **but because it happened!**]*

VII

"For we know in part . . ."

Epistemic Activity 'Under Heaven'

It was 3:30 a.m. and the fire was comfortably down to a heap of glowing embers. Following a long silence, Schroeder put on a requiem—a symbolic gesture to indicate that The Great Pumpkin was finished business,