
THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE MESSIAH AND SON OF GOD AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Mark Kiiza*¹, Henry Omara², Ssegonja Claudious³

¹School of Arts and social sciences Kampala University –Uganda.

²Department of Environmental Management Selinus University Rome – Italy.

³St. Mاتيya Mulumba Nakawuka Parish in Archdiocese of Kampala – Uganda.

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***Corresponding Author: Mark Kiiza**

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School of Arts and social sciences Kampala University –Uganda.

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the revelation of Jesus Christ as Messiah and Son of God after the resurrection and its theological significance within contemporary Christology. The study argues that the resurrection constitutes the decisive revelatory event through which the identity, mission, and divine sonship of Jesus are fully disclosed. While pre-resurrection messianic expectations largely reflected political and nationalistic hopes, the resurrection redefines messiahship in terms of suffering, redemption, exaltation, and universal salvation. Consequently, the risen Christ emerges not only as the vindicated Messiah but also as the incarnate Son of God whose authority transcends death and inaugurates a new relationship between God and humanity. The study employs a qualitative theological methodology grounded in historical-critical and exegetical analysis of selected New Testament texts, including Romans and the Gospel resurrection narratives. In addition, the article engages patristic and contemporary theological interpretations to examine how resurrection theology has shaped Christian understanding of divine revelation, Christological identity, and salvific hope. Through textual and theological analysis, the research demonstrates that the resurrection serves as both confirmation of Jesus' messianic mission and revelation of his eternal sonship. The article concludes that resurrection theology remains central to Christian faith and theological reflection in the contemporary world. It recommends renewed Christological engagement within theological education, ecclesial teaching, and contextual Christian praxis in order to deepen understanding of the risen Christ in increasingly pluralistic and secular contexts. Furthermore, the study proposes that contemporary Christian scholarship should integrate biblical exegesis, historical theology, and contextual

interpretation in articulating the continuing significance of the resurrection for faith, mission, and human transformation in the world. {Citation}

KEYWORDS: Resurrection, theology, Christology, messiah, Jesus Christ, historical sociology, revelation.

INTRODUCTION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ remains the foundational proclamation of the Christian faith and the central event through which his identity. Jesus Christ as Messiah and Son of God is ultimately revealed (Press, 2023). Within the framework of Christology, the resurrection is not merely understood as the restoration of life after death, but as the decisive revelatory act of God through which the mission, authority, divinity, and salvific significance of Jesus become fully manifest. The early Christian community interpreted the resurrection as divine vindication of Jesus' earthly ministry, confirming both his messianic vocation and his unique filial relationship with God (Vall, 2022a). Consequently, the resurrection transformed the disciples' understanding of Jesus from a prophetic teacher within Judaism into the exalted Christ whose lordship extends universally across history, humanity, and creation.

The question of Jesus' identity has occupied theological discourse from the apostolic age to the present era. Early Christian preaching centered on the conviction that the crucified Jesus had been raised and exalted by God, thereby revealing him as both Lord and Christ (Levering, 2025). This conviction is evident in apostolic proclamations recorded in the New Testament, particularly in Acts 2:36, Romans 1:3–4, and Philippians 2:6–11, where resurrection and exaltation become inseparably connected to divine sonship and messianic fulfillment. In this theological context, the resurrection functions not only as (Vall, 2022b). an event of faith but also as a hermeneutical key through which the teachings, actions, suffering, and mission of Jesus acquire universal and eternal meaning.

Beyond its theological significance, the ministry of Jesus demonstrates a remarkable synthesis between divine revelation and intellectual engagement. The preaching of Jesus was characterized by wisdom, rational discourse, ethical profundity, and transformative spiritual insight. His use of parables, dialogical teaching, symbolic actions, and interpretive engagement with the Hebrew Scriptures reveals an intellectually compelling mode of proclamation that addressed both spiritual and social realities. Jesus engaged religious leaders, challenged legalistic interpretations of the law, and articulated a vision of the Kingdom of God grounded in justice, compassion, reconciliation, and truth (Potana, 2026).

Thus, the intellectual dimension of Jesus' preaching cannot be separated from his divine identity; rather, it constitutes an expression of divine wisdom embodied in human history.

This study lies in its integrative exploration of the resurrection revelation of Jesus Christ alongside the intellectual and divine dimensions of his preaching ministry. While many Christological studies examine either the resurrection narratives or the ethical teachings of Jesus independently (Asongu, 2026). The relatively limited attention has been given to the synergistic relationship between resurrection theology, divine sonship, and the intellectual character of Jesus' proclamation. This article therefore seeks to bridge that scholarly gap by examining how the resurrection retrospectively illuminates the depth, authority, and universality of Jesus' teachings(Siadi, 2025). The study argues that the resurrection not only confirms Jesus as Messiah and Son of God but also validates the intellectual and theological coherence of his message concerning God, humanity, salvation, and the Kingdom.

Furthermore, this research contributes to contemporary theological discourse by situating resurrection Christology within broader discussions concerning revelation, reason, and contextual faith engagement(OSA, 2026). In an era increasingly shaped by secularism, religious pluralism, scientific rationality, and postmodern critiques of religious authority, the relationship between divine revelation and intellectual inquiry remains a critical theological concern. The figure of the risen Christ offers an important framework through which faith and reason may be understood not as opposing realities but as complementary dimensions of truth-seeking(Dass, 2025). Jesus' preaching demonstrates that divine revelation engages human intellect, moral consciousness, and existential longing in ways that remain relevant within contemporary theological and philosophical reflection.

This article therefore proposes that the resurrection serves as the culminating revelation through which the divinity, messianic mission, and intellectual authority of Jesus Christ are fully disclosed(Croskery & Reynolds, 2025). The risen Christ emerges not merely as an object of doctrinal confession but also as the embodiment of divine wisdom capable of transforming human understanding, ethical life, and spiritual existence. Consequently, the study calls for renewed theological engagement with the resurrection as a living source of Christian identity, intellectual inquiry, and transformative faith within contemporary society.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a singular methodology that enabled the collection of qualitative data based on theological research design situated within the interdisciplinary field of contemporary Christology(Derrenbacker et al., 2022). The singular methodological

framework integrates historical-critical exegesis, biblical theology, and constructive Christological analysis in order to examine the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the climactic revelatory event in Christian doctrine and proclamation.

The historical-critical method is employed to analyse selected New Testament texts, including Romans 1:3–4, Acts 2:22–36, Philippians 2:6–11, and the resurrection narratives within the canonical Gospels. These texts are examined in their linguistic, literary, socio-historical, and theological contexts to reconstruct early Christian understandings of resurrection, messianic identity, divine sonship, and exaltation (Levering, 2025). Particular attention is given to how these texts articulate the transition from the crucified Jesus to the risen and exalted Christ within earliest Christian confession.

In addition, the study utilises biblical-theological analysis to trace thematic and narrative continuities across the canonical tradition. This approach enables a synthesis of resurrection theology with the broader biblical motifs of covenant fulfillment, kingdom proclamation, and salvific history (Andrews, 2025). It further highlights the theological coherence between the pre-resurrection ministry of Jesus especially his proclamation of the Kingdom of God and the post-resurrection confession of his identity as Messiah and Son of God.

The research also incorporates contemporary Christological reflection, engaging both patristic interpretations and selected modern theological perspectives. This diachronic engagement provides a critical lens through which the evolving ecclesial understanding of resurrection, revelation, and divine sonship is assessed (Fuller, 2022), (Divine, 2025). The inclusion of historical and modern theological voices allows for a sustained dialogue between classical doctrinal formulations and contemporary interpretive concerns.

Finally, the study employs constructive theological combination as its interpretive endpoint. Through this integrative procedure, the findings of exegesis and theological analysis are brought into dialogue in order to articulate a coherent account of the risen Christ as both divine revealer and authoritative teacher (Heil, 2023).

This methodological ethics supports the central study that the resurrection functions not only as a historical claim of faith but also as the definitive revelation of Jesus' messianic identity (Lewis, 2026). The study considered all the social ethical considerations and divine sonship, thereby unifying Christ's intellectual teaching ministry with his exalted post-resurrection status.

RESULTS

Based on the qualitative theological framework employed integrating historical-critical exegesis, biblical theology, and contemporary Christological analysis. The study yields the following key findings regarding the revelation of Jesus Christ as Messiah and Son of God in the resurrection event within Christology(Macchia, 2023).

The analysis of key New Testament texts (Romans 1:3–4; Acts 2:22–36; Philippians 2:6–11; and the Gospel resurrection narratives) demonstrates that the resurrection functions as the decisive interpretive key for understanding Jesus’ identity(Circe, 2026). It is not merely a return to life but a revelatory act in which Jesus is publicly vindicated by God. The findings indicate that early Christian proclamation consistently interprets the resurrection as the moment in which Jesus is “declared” or “appointed” as Son of God. Jesus Christ’s power, confirming his messianic identity in a definitive theological sense(Macchia, 2023)(Goggin, 2025).

Reconfiguration of Messianic Expectations

The study finds that the resurrection significantly redefines Second Temple Jewish messianic expectations. Rather than affirming a purely political or national liberator, the risen Christ is revealed as a suffering, exalted, and universal Messiah(Potana, 2026). This reconfiguration shifts messiahship from political restoration to redemptive transformation, grounding salvation in divine action rather than human political structures.

Unity of Divine Sonship and Human Identity

A central finding is that the resurrection reveals the inseparable unity of divine sonship and true humanity in Jesus(Crowe, 2023). The post-resurrection appearances depict a continuity of personal identity (Jesus remains recognisable, embodied, and relational) while simultaneously manifesting a transformed and glorified existence. This indicates that the resurrection does not negate humanity but fulfills and elevates it within divine life.

The Intellectual and Theological Authority of Jesus’ Teaching

The study establishes that the intellectual depth of Jesus’ preaching expressed through parables, ethical reasoning, scriptural interpretation, and kingdom theology is retrospectively validated by the resurrection(Lidbeck, 2020). The findings suggest that the resurrection provides theological grounding for interpreting Jesus’ teachings as more than moral instruction; they are expressions of divine wisdom that acquire eschatological authority through the risen Christ.

The findings further show that the resurrection functions as a hermeneutical framework through which the entire ministry of Jesus is reinterpreted (Sandnes & Henriksen, 2020). Events such as his miracles, teachings, suffering, and crucifixion are understood retrospectively in light of resurrection faith, producing a coherent narrative of revelation culminating in exaltation.

Integration of Historical Faith and Constructive Theology

The study also finds that both patristic and contemporary theological traditions consistently interpret the resurrection as the climax of divine self-revelation. While early Church interpretations emphasize doctrinal formulation, modern Christological approaches highlight existential, ethical, and epistemological dimensions. Together, these traditions reinforce a unified understanding of resurrection as both historical claim and ongoing theological reality.

Unity of Divine and Human Nature in Christ

The findings affirm that the resurrection reveals a coherent unity of divinity and humanity in Jesus Christ. Rather than dissolving his humanity, the risen Christ is understood as the perfected and glorified form of human existence in union with God. This supports classical Christological claims while also opening interpretive space for dynamic and relational understandings of divine-human interaction.

The study finds that Jesus' teachings exhibit a profound cognitive and theological depth that integrates divine revelation with rational and ethical reasoning. His doctrine of the Kingdom of God demonstrates coherence between spiritual truth, moral reasoning, and existential meaning. The resurrection functions as the epistemic confirmation of this teaching, validating its divine origin and truth claims.

Wisdom and Intellectual Authority in Jesus' Preaching

A key finding is that Jesus' preaching is characterised by exceptional wisdom expressed through parables, dialogical engagement, and interpretive use of Scripture. His teachings reflect intellectual depth that engages both ordinary and scholarly audiences. The resurrection elevates this wisdom from prophetic instruction to enduring divine authority.

Affective Domain: Transformation of Attitudes and Values

The study identifies a strong affective dimension in Jesus' ministry, particularly in his emphasis on love, compassion, forgiveness, humility, and reconciliation. These attitudes are not only moral ideals but are presented as transformative dispositions for human life. The

resurrection reinforces these values as foundational to Christian ethical existence and spiritual formation.

Behavioural Tendencies: Ethical Praxis of the Kingdom

Findings indicate that Jesus' teachings produce identifiable behavioural orientations, including service, nonviolence, justice, mercy, and sacrificial love. These behavioural patterns reflect the lived expression of Kingdom ethics. The resurrection validates these tendencies as normative for Christian discipleship and community formation.

Psychomotor Domain: Embodied Expression of Faith

The study further identifies a psychomotor dimension in Jesus' ministry, expressed through embodied actions such as healing, touching the marginalized, table fellowship, and symbolic acts. These actions demonstrate that divine revelation is not abstract but physically enacted. Post-resurrection theology interprets these embodied acts as continuous models for Christian practice(Chang, 2023).

The findings confirm that the resurrection is the decisive event through which Jesus is revealed as both Messiah and Son of God. This revelation redefines messiahship in terms of suffering, exaltation, and universal salvation rather than political liberation. Divine sonship is understood as relational, eternal, and fully revealed in resurrection glory.

Open Christology as Interpretive Framework

The study identifies "open Christology" as a constructive interpretive framework that resists overly closed or static doctrinal formulations. It allows Christological understanding to remain dynamic, dialogical, and responsive to historical, cultural, and intellectual developments. Within this framework, the risen Christ is continually encountered in faith, history, and lived experience, enabling ongoing theological reflection(Lewis, 2026).Overall, the study demonstrates that the resurrection reveals Jesus Christ as the definitive convergence of divine and human reality, cognitive and spiritual truth, intellectual wisdom, ethical transformation, and embodied practice. His preaching engages cognitive, affective, behavioural, and psychomotor domains in a unified theological vision. Within an open Christological framework, these dimensions collectively affirm Jesus Christ as Messiah and Son of God whose resurrection continues to shape belief, ethics, and theological understanding.

CONCLUSION

This study has examined the revelation of Jesus Christ as Messiah and Son of God after the resurrection within the framework of Christology, drawing on historical-critical exegesis, biblical theology, and contemporary Christological reflection. The central argument established throughout the research is that the resurrection functions as the decisive revelatory event through which the identity, authority, and mission of Jesus are fully disclosed and the coherence of his earthly ministry is ultimately affirmed.

The findings demonstrate that the resurrection does not merely signify the continuation of life after death, but rather the transformation and exaltation of Jesus into a new mode of existence that reveals the fullness of divine sonship and perfected humanity. In this light, Jesus Christ is shown to embody a unique unity of divine and human nature, in which the glory of God and the reality of human existence are inseparably joined. This revelation provides the theological foundation for understanding Christ not only as Messiah in the traditional sense, but as the universal and exalted Son of God whose salvific significance extends to all creation.

Furthermore, the study has shown that the preaching ministry of Jesus is marked by profound intellectual and spiritual depth, integrating cognitive clarity, moral insight, and divine wisdom. His teachings on the Kingdom of God, interpreted through the lens of resurrection faith, are confirmed as authoritative and transformative. The affective, behavioural, and embodied dimensions of his ministry further demonstrate that his message is not merely conceptual but existential, shaping human attitudes, actions, and lived experience.

The introduction of “open Christology” as an interpretive framework has enabled a constructive approach that avoids rigid doctrinal closure while maintaining fidelity to core Christian confession. Within this perspective, the risen Christ is understood as continually active in history, inviting ongoing theological reflection and engagement across cultural and intellectual contexts. This approach affirms that Christological understanding is not static but dynamically unfolding within the life of the Church and the broader human search for truth.

In conclusion, the resurrection of Jesus Christ stands as the climactic revelation in Christian theology, uniting divine identity, human transformation, and intellectual wisdom in a single salvific event. It confirms Jesus as Messiah and Son of God, validates the integrity of his teaching, and establishes a coherent framework for understanding faith, reason, and ethical life. The study therefore recommends continued interdisciplinary engagement in Christology that integrates biblical scholarship, systematic theology, and contextual reflection in order to deepen contemporary understanding of the risen Christ and his enduring significance for faith and society.

Implication of the study

This study on the revelation of Jesus Christ as Messiah and Son of God after the resurrection within Christology yields several important theological, ecclesial, educational, and socio-ethical implications.

1. Theological Implications

The study strengthens the theological understanding that the resurrection is the definitive locus of divine self-revelation. It affirms that Christology cannot be separated from resurrection faith, as the identity of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God is fully disclosed through this event. This calls for renewed theological emphasis on resurrection as the interpretive centre of Christian doctrine, integrating both classical and contemporary Christological perspectives.

2. Ecclesial Implications

For the Church, the findings imply a renewed focus on the risen Christ as the foundation of worship, proclamation, and discipleship. The Church is challenged to present Jesus not only as a historical figure but as the living and exalted Lord who continues to transform lives. The integration of cognitive, affective, behavioural, and embodied dimensions of faith also suggests a more holistic model of Christian formation within ecclesial practice.

3. Educational and Theological Formation Implications

In theological education, the study recommends an interdisciplinary approach that integrates biblical studies, systematic theology, and practical theology. The intellectual depth of Jesus' teaching ministry highlights the need for academic programs that engage both faith and reason. "Open Christology" further implies that theological education should remain dialogical, critical, and responsive to contemporary intellectual and cultural developments.

4. Ethical and Socio-Cultural Implications

The findings suggest that Jesus' teachings and resurrection-centered message have direct ethical implications for human behaviour and social transformation. Values such as love, justice, forgiveness, compassion, and reconciliation are not only doctrinal ideals but practical imperatives for society. The study therefore implies that Christological reflection should inform ethical decision-making, social justice engagement, and community transformation.

5. Epistemological Implications (Faith and Reason)

The study demonstrates that the resurrection supports a constructive relationship between faith and rational inquiry. Jesus' preaching shows intellectual coherence, while the resurrection provides theological validation of his message. This implies that Christian faith is not anti-intellectual but engages critically with reason, experience, and cultural understanding.

6. Implications of Open Christology

The adoption of an "open Christology" framework implies that Christological interpretation should remain dynamic rather than closed or static. This allows for ongoing theological reflection in response to new historical, cultural, scientific, and philosophical developments. It encourages interfaith dialogue, contextual theology, and continuous re-engagement with the meaning of Christ in diverse settings.

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