

# Review of: "After-Death Communications and the Resurrection of Jesus: An Engagement with Ken Vincent and Gary Habermas"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Overall, this was well worth the read, it's a well written and fascinating paper that explores the possibility of after-death communications as bereavement visions for the appearances of Jesus's resurrection. Despite my interest in this paper, holding to the traditional explanation of the post-resurrection accounts myself, I did not find the argument convincing, especially in light of the gospel accounts, for example, Thomas placing his fingers in the wounds of the resurrected Christ (John 20:24-29), the Resurrected Jesus stating that he has flesh and bones (Luke 24:36-51), and Jesus eating breakfast on the Galilian beach after his resurrection (John 21:1-17). Are after-death communications a legitimate process of psychological bereavement? I'm sure they are, but applying this to the resurrected Christ creates more questions than it provides answers, in my opinion. There is the notion of transphysicality as proposed by scholars like N.T. Wright that may help point in another direction. This is more helpful. On that note, engagement with Wright's, "The Resurrection of the Son of God" (1996) is a valuable resource, as well as Andrew Loke's, "Investigating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: A New Transdisciplinary Approach" (2020). I would have liked the author to have engaged with those too in addition to Habermas.

The author references Jesus appearance in Revelation 1:10–18. It would be interesting to point out the similarity in Daniel 10:4–6 and draw out implications if any for the discussion. Despite difference of theological-historical opinion, this was still a fascinating read. There were, however, minor technical issues at the start where the referencing is awkward, for example:

*A few years ago, the Journal of Near-Death Studies carried an interchange between the psychologist and researcher in religious experience Ken Vincent (2012a, 2012b) and the evangelical New Testament scholar Gary Habermas (2012) concerning the possible relationship between the after-death communications (ADC) phenomena and the resurrection of Jesus.*

It should be:

... in religious experience (Ken Vincent 2012a, 2012b), and the...

...New Testament scholar, Gary Habermas (2012), concerning...

