

**BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: A MESSAGE FROM SPACE**

In October of 2019, an astronomer was looking over images shot by a telescope perched atop Haleakala in Maui when he detected a shiny object flinging through our solar system at about two thousand miles per hour. It was the size of a city block and followed an odd trajectory. Rather than taking an elliptical path around the sun, it was streaming away from it in a relatively linear path. Experts from the International Astronomical Union named it 1I/2017 U1. More creative types gave it a nickname, “Oumuamua” (pronounced “oh-mooah-mooah”) which means “scout” in Hawaiian.



Oumuamua didn’t seem to know or care about the law of gravity. Some theorized it was a miniature comet with an undetectable tail. Others said it followed a strange course because it had collided with another object. The bottom line: Astronomers were baffled. Unfortunately, it’s already too far away to be studied.

Here’s where things get spicy: a well-respected Harvard astrophysicist named Avi Loeb advanced a provocative theory: Oumuamua is a probe from an alien race. He just published a book called *Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth*. Many of his professional peers aren’t too happy with his farfetched theory.

Dr. Loeb is an Israeli citizen and I can’t help but wonder if he thought of Ps. 19 and what it teaches about the communicative cosmos. The planets, stars and other unusual objects “speak” about our common Creator — the One who shines with extraordinary brightness. That’s the message we need to hear. If you’re up early enough (sunrise on Wednesday is at 7:14 AM), read the verses below and then step outside, look up, and get a jump on a day made for work and worship.

**Psa. 19:1** *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

**Psa. 19:2** *Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.*

**Psa. 19:3** *There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.*

**Psa. 19:4** *Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,*

**Psa. 19:5** *which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.*

**Psa. 19:6** *Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.*



The voices of the heavenly bodies can’t be heard, but ours can. Let’s be in praise all day.

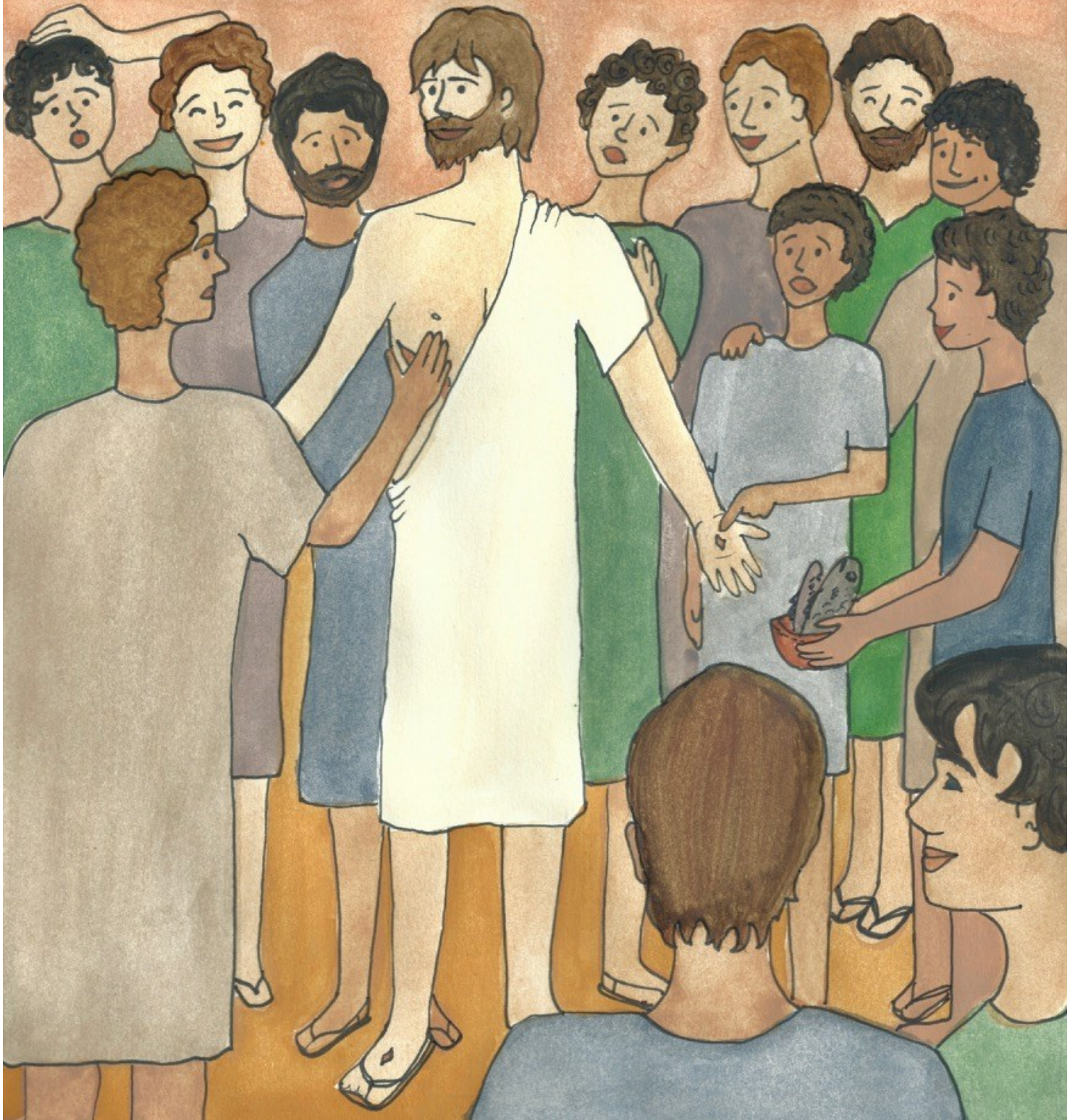
NOTE: When Covid is over, I want to have a nighttime praise gathering on our patio with ringing guitars, fire pits like we had on Christmas Eve and hot chocolate. Do you have a telescope and know how to use it? Please let me know. We’ll look up and join the planets and stars in declaring Almighty God’s greatness. Then the kids can run around while the big people talk.

**BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 AM: AN ARMY OF WITNESSES TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE SAVING KING**

Let’s turn our attention to Gospel Event #7, how Jesus appeared to dozens of people after his resurrection. The Bible teaches that this is an important gospel event in its own right. Look at Kierra’s art piece on the next page. What Scriptural scene is depicted? Can you relate to the figure to the left whose back is to us? Talk to God honestly about your doubts.



## Gospel Event #7: Jesus the Saving King appeared to many witnesses.





## **BETWEEN 12:00—3:00 PM: SCRIPTURAL WITNESSES TO THE RESURRECTION**

The Biblical writers Paul, Luke and John all assert that many credible witnesses had personal knowledge of the risen Jesus. Review these points and passages.

### **Paul mentions the PLURALITY of witnesses.**

Notice how many different witnesses to the resurrection are mentioned in the passage below. Underline them.

**1Cor. 15:5** *and that [Jesus] appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*

**1Cor. 15:6** *Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*

**1Cor. 15:7** *Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.*

**1Cor. 15:8** *Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*



### **Luke stresses the clear VANTAGE POINT of the witnessing disciples.**

Notice how many different bodily senses are engaged. The witnesses are close enough to \_\_\_\_\_ ESE, close enough to \_\_\_\_\_ AREH, and close enough to \_\_\_\_\_ CUTOH the Saving King.

**Luke 24:38** *And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"*

**Luke 24:39** *See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."*

**Luke 24:40** *And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.*

**Luke 24:41** *And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"*

**Luke 24:42** *They gave him a piece of broiled fish,*

**Luke 24:43** *and he took it and ate before them.*



### **John gives the VERDICT of one key witness.**

Notice the Apostle Thomas' confession about the Saving King when he was confronted with the undeniable evidence of the resurrection.

**John 20:27** *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."*

**John 20:28** *Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"*

Notice a "Believing Thomas" in the picture to the left. Please come out and praise our Lord and God this Sunday if you're healthy and have a warm jacket.

**BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the Joel Moment Prayer Gathering. Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.**



**SEAN WILLIAMS** [We'll talk to him about his family's move to Texas, as well as the Christian community they're developing in the Lone Star State. Then he'll urge us to be faithful witnesses and back it up by praying for us from 1,500 miles away. (Zoom has a few benefits.)]

**Rev. 3:21** *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*



**RITA HANNA** [Our sister will read a famous passage about a witness who at first was reluctant to believe.]

**John 20:19** *On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

**John 20:20** *When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.*

**John 20:21** *Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."*

**John 20:22** *And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

**John 20:23** *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."*

**John 20:24** *Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.*

**John 20:25** *So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."*

**John 20:26** *Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."*

**John 20:27** *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."*

**John 20:28** *Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"*

**John 20:29** *Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*





**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.): [John 20:28](#) “My Lord and my God!”**

Let’s start by praising our “Lord and God,” Jesus the Messiah. He’s present but unseen. Let’s ascribe deity to him like Thomas did because ordinary men don’t rise from the dead the way Jesus did. He deserves adoring worship.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (7 min.): [Acts 22:15](#) *for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.***

Britt D., a six-year-old Valley Church kid, recently sang a song she wrote about Jesus — *to her classmates*. That’s courageous! She’s a witness. One guy I know just told me he asked his oven repair guy, “Do you know Jesus?” He just asked this stranger that question out of the blue. He didn’t plan on it at all. He’s a witness. We are too! Let’s pray that we’ll be even more bold to talk about the Saving King with everyone around us.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (7 min.): [C.S. Lewis](#) wrote famously: “*God whispers to us in our pleasures...but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.*”**

Pain’s often the friend nobody wants. Let’s pray by name for hurting people everywhere — for repentance, encouragement, wisdom, finances, health and comfort. If you have a concern, a need or an ache, share it with your Zoom Prayer Group and let others intercede for you.

**BETWEEN 5:00 PM-10:00 PM: [[“Kapcoe Confidential.”](#)]**

Here’s a picture to bring a smile to your face. Five-year-old Simon Kapcoe has been learning the Lord’s Prayer, thanks to the help of his older siblings. Let’s make it our evening prayer. (I can’t wait for the day that Building 3 is filled with kids again.) His mom Cindy is a great teacher — both substantive and fun. I hope your kids get to have her someday. Let’s end the day with the prayer our King taught us always to have on our lips.

**Matt. 6:9** *Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

**Matt. 6:10** *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

**Matt. 6:11** *Give us this day our daily bread,*

**Matt. 6:12** *and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

**Matt. 6:13** *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

