

Rock Climbing & The Resurrection

One climber describes El Capitan (pictured) as “the most majestic rock wall in the world”. It is an imposing 3,000 foot wall of granite in the Yosemite National Park in the USA. It usually takes elite climbers armed with ropes and an assortment of highly specialised equipment several days to climb it. Completing the climb is a major accomplishment for anyone.



There is a small group of people in the rock-climbing world who “free solo” – climb, as the name suggests, alone and without a rope. It’s just them with their rock-climbing boots and a chalk bag. No-one thought El Cap could be free-soloed because it is so long and technical.

But on 3 June 2017 Alex Honnold did it. He climbed El Cap in 3 hours 56 minutes. It was the culmination of 10 years dreaming and 18 months of intense preparation. (The Oscar winning documentary “Free Solo” tells the story of his preparation and climb.) But now that he has done the climb will someone else repeat it?

The 4-Minute Mile

I ask that because back in 1954 no-one thought a man could run a mile in less than 4 minutes. On 6 May 1954 Roger Bannister, a medical student from Oxford University, did it, running the mile in 3 minutes 59.4 seconds. Since then over 1,400 people have done the same. That which was thought impossible was done and subsequently copied.

Easter

Heaven / life-after-death is wishful thinking! Death is the end! When you die, you die – that’s it! No-one comes back from the dead – that can’t happen!

That’s what people thought, and still do think. But the Bible, and a bunch of ancient history books, record that 2,000 years ago Jesus Christ was killed – executed by the Romans at the request of the Jewish authorities. Furthermore, those same documents record that he was then raised from the dead on the 3rd day. Jesus did what was then deemed impossible – he came back from the dead.

The apostle Paul wrote about the significance of the resurrection in this way:

“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep...” 1 Corinthians 15:20

This verse tells us that the Christian hope for the future / heaven / eternal life is rooted in the reality of the resurrection. Because Jesus died and rose again, Christians believe that when they die they will rise again to eternal life in heaven. Faith is rooted in historical fact.

I wonder what hope you have for the future? How sure are you that it will become a reality? As you ponder the foundation for your hope, remember that the Christian hope is not wishful thinking or a dream. If you wish to consider it further why not study the life of Jesus for yourself in the Bible?

April 2019