

Pistis in the Acts of the Apostles

Shuji OTA

According to Peter the Apostle, Jesus was freed from death and raised up just as David had prophesied in Psalm 16 (Acts 2: 22–36). What this means is not that the actual world has taken on the property of “the dead being resurrected,” but that a place for God’s new creation (*chōra*) has now been made ready with the resurrection of Jesus. Since this place is physically connected with the actual world (Jesus was seen on the earth raised from the dead), it cannot be any possible world in the sense envisaged by modal logicians.

This place has accommodated God’s system for saving human beings (Acts 4: 12), a system now known to the world as *Pistis* (which literally means “faith” or “faithfulness”; Acts 6: 7, Gal 1: 23). *Pistis*, in other words, is the proper name of this system. Connected exclusively with Jesus Christ (Acts 4: 30), God’s power is exercised through his name within this system (Acts 3: 6–8, 16). Having faith in God (active voice) is nothing other than being placed in it by God (passive voice).