Incredible?

"Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead" (Acts 26:8)

- If I could raise the dead, that would be incredible.
- If you could raise the dead, that you be incredible.
- If medical science could raise the dead, that would be incredible.
- But why is it incredible that God can raise the dead?

God is all powerful, all knowing, and everywhere at the same time. Why should it be thought a thing incredible that God can raise the dead? If God can speak the universe into reality and hold all of those atoms together by the power of His might, why should it be thought incredible that God can raise the dead?

The universe in which we life is infinitely large. We have absolutely no idea how vast it is, or how many stars there really are. In fact, we don't even know how many galaxies there are. Our earthly minds are utterly incapable of comprehending how long is eternity or how far is infinity. Why should we worry about the resurrection?

The tiny planet on which we live is spinning on its axis at a thousand miles per hour. At the same time we are whirling through space in solar orbit at 16,000 miles per hour. We, however, are not aware of any motion at all. If God can care for and control such things as this, why should we sit up nights wondering if He can also raise the dead?

Some have suggested that the creative power of God is as much beyond the reach of the microscope as it is the telescope. There may be as many mysteries in the atom as there are in the universe at large. In every scientific discipline mortal man will ultimately arrive at an impassable barrier. If we cannot understand how God can turn a caterpillar into a butterfly, or an acorn into an oak tree, why should we be slack jawed and incredulous that God can raise the dead?

Paul wrote: "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" To this question he responds: "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body." (1 Cor 15:35-38)

It seems that God from the beginning of creation has given us a mechanism to help us to understand the resurrection. The first reference in the Bible to the creation of life involved seeds. Every living thing had seeds and reproduced after its own kind. Jesus said that a seed that did not die would abide alone. If it dies, however, it can bring forth much fruit (John 12:24.) When a seed is placed in the ground it seems to die. It seems that the corrosive elements of earth will utterly destroy the seed. Quite the contrary. The death of the seed does not destroy life, it releases it.

This is a beautiful illustration of the resurrection. "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." (1 Cor 15:42-44)

A little child can plant a garden. The power of life is within the seed and not the hand of the one who plants it. If it is not incredible that God can cause life to come out of a dead seed, why should it be thought a thing impossible that God could raise the dead?

An evil and adulterous generation sought for a sign. No sign was given but the sign of Jonah the prophet. As Jonah came from three days in a great fish, Jesus would come forth from three days in the heart of the earth.

It is not by accident that Jesus is referred to as a "Seed." He was the "Seed of woman," the "Seed of Abraham," the "Seed of David," etc. This living "Seed" has now become the firstfruits of them that sleep and the guarantee of our own resurrection. It is not incredible that God can raise the dead!