

The Resurrection of the Dead

- **Hebrews 6:2**, “... the resurrection of the dead...”
- The word “Resurrection” is a word that is only used in the New Testament
 - o Greek- “A standing up again; raised to life again; rise from the dead”
- God had created mankind to live forever in their physical bodies
 - o Even though sin changed that, it’s only temporary- for saint and sinner
 - o Not just mankind, but creation itself will be liberated from decay- **Ro. 8:19-25**
- Even the OT taught about the resurrection- **Isa. 26:19; Ps. 49:5-15; Lk. 24:44**

Daniel 12:2, “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.” **John 5:28-30**

- Paul, formerly a Pharisee made references to the resurrection- **Acts 23:6-8; 24:15, 21**
- The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of Christianity- **Acts 26:8, 23**
- The OT also specifically foretold of Jesus’ resurrection- **Acts 2:22-36; 13:32-39**

Psalms 16:9-11, “Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave (Hell), nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Jesus Raised from the Dead

Luke 24:7, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”

- Jesus had made numerous references to His own resurrection- during earthly ministry
 - o **Mt. 16:21; 17:9, 23; 20:19; Jn. 2:18-22; 21:14**
- **Please Read: John 11:23-27**
- Jesus resurrected a number of people from the dead- **Mt. 11:5; Mk. 5:41; Lk. 7:11-15**
- The resurrection therefore is a big part of God’s redemptive plan- **1 Cor. 2:6-8**
- According to Scripture, without the resurrection there is no salvation
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-28**
- More than Calvary was the resurrection and seating of Jesus at God’s right hand

Romans 8:34, “Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us”

Please do not misunderstand what I am about to say; stay open minded to the concept I am about to share. I believe the church has had too much emphasis on the cross of Jesus instead of the throne that Jesus sits on. As a consequence, the Church does not understand the power of the resurrection like they should. We have sung “Lord keep me near the cross,” no we don’t want to stay near the cross; some folks only preach a cross religion- that is a religion of death.

1 Peter 3:21-22

And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Don’t misunderstand me, we have to go by the cross, but don’t stop there, go by the empty tomb and the resurrection, but don’t stop there, go by the day of Pentecost, but don’t stop there! We must dive into the reality of the Epistles and who we are in Christ which is where we are today in Christ Jesus- seated with Him at the right hand of the Father. We will never live a successful Christian life until we learn to live in the Epistles, the letters written to the Church. Teach the cross, but major on the Resurrection, Pentecost and the Epistles.

Philippians 3:10-11

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

- It was through the resurrection that Jesus triumphed over death, hell and the devil
- Jesus destroyed the devil who had the power of death- **Heb. 2:14-15; Rev. 1:18**
 - o The resurrection of the dead removes the fear of death- **Php. 1:20-26; Ro. 8:37-39**

1 Cor. 15:56-57

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- There would be no salvation, if Jesus was not resurrected- **Acts 4:5-12**
- We are saved by believing in the resurrection- **Ro. 10:9; Acts 5:30; 10:40**
- The power of Jesus’ resurrection is for us today by the Holy Spirit within and upon us

Romans 8:11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Jesus the 1st Born from the Dead; Spiritual Resurrection – New Birth

When God made Jesus sin with our sin, He died spiritually like we had when we sinned at the age of accountability. At the cross God the Father and God the Holy Spirit forsook God the Son, when Jesus became sin with our sin- **Matthew 27:46**. Jesus tasted death for us on three levels: He first died spiritually, then physically and then went promptly to hell- **Matthew 12:40**. Isaiah 53:9, *“He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death.”*

2 Corinthians 5:21, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Hebrews 2:9, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”

Acts 2:27 AMP

For You will not abandon my soul, leaving it helpless in Hades (the state of departed spirits), nor let Your Holy One know decay or see destruction [of the body after death].

Romans 4:25

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

- Jesus went to hell just like any other sinner would; suffered as our substitute for 3 days
- When the claims of Justice were satisfied, the Father 1st made Jesus Born Again in spirit
- Then He promptly raised Jesus up from hell into His new glorified body- **Lk. 24:39**
- Jesus was the first born again & raised to newness of life by the power of the Holy Spirit
 - o **Col. 1:15, 18; Heb. 1:6; 12:23; Rev. 1:5**

Romans 8:11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Romans 8:29

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

- This is the pattern for which every born again Christian would follow in Jesus’ footsteps
- Jesus, being God and co-equal with God the Father now calls us brothers- **Heb. 2:10-13**
- New birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus- **1 Peter 1:3-4**
- We are now partakers of God’s Holy & Righteous nature- **1 Cor. 1:30-31; 1 Pet. 1:1-4**

The Resurrection of the Righteous and the Wicked

The Resurrection will be universal. All do not have eternal life, but all have eternal existence. All persons will be resurrected, the just and the unjust; all will be raised, but not at the same time. The Bible does not teach reincarnation according to Hebrews 9:27, *“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”*

Acts 24:14-16

However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

- Human beings are eternal beings, the question is where will they spend eternity
- The meaning of life, today is to choose our eternal destination- **Dt. 30:19; 2 Cor. 6:1-2**
- Mt. 27:22, *“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked.*
 - o There are three ways people make a choice about eternity:
 - 1- Just passively forgot about God- **Job. 8:13; Ps. 9:17; 50:22**
 - 2- Ignore the Gospel & evidence of God- **Ro. 1:18-23; Heb. 2:3; Pr. 1:22-33**
 - 3- Reject God outright- **Lk. 10:16; Jn. 3:35-36; Acts 13:46; Ro. 2:8; Tit. 1:14**

Joel 3:14, “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.”

- Some don't believe the resurrection- **Mt. 22:23-32; 27:62-66; 28:12-15; Acts 17:29-33**
- Without the revelation of the “Resurrection” the meaning in life would be pointless
- If evolution is correct; creation is merely a cosmic accident, what's the point of life
- Our existence would be no better than the animals, to live and die and to be no more
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 15:30-34**

Living for Eternity

- Compared to eternity, life is a brief mist- **Jas. 4:14**. Meaning of life- **Jn.3:36; Ac. 17:24-34**
- Once saved, the meaning of life is to obey God- **Isaiah 1:19**- obedience and Faithfulness
- This world is passing away- living as aliens and strangers here- **1 Cor. 7:31; 1 Pet. 2:11**
- Making the most of every opportunity- **Eph. 5:16; 1 Th. 5:17; 2 Tim 4:6-8; 1 Pet. 4:17**
- 2 Cor. 5:11, *“Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.”*
- The fear of the Lord, keeps us from evil- **Ps. 34:11-16; Pr. 16:6; Act 9:31; 1 Jn. 3:2-3**
- Don't be a stumbling block to others- **Ro. 14:13; 1 Cor. 8:9; 10:32; 2 Cor. 6:3**
- We brought nothing into this world, we can only take souls with us- **1 Tim. 6:6-7**

So when & what kind of resurrections do the Scriptures speak of, and to whom does it affect?

- Rapture: when people are still living physically, escape the experience of physical death
 - o In the OT there was Enoch in **Gen. 5:22 & Heb. 11:5** and Elijah in **2 Kings 2:11-12**
 - o The Coming of Jesus for His Church- **1 Cor. 15:50-58; 1 Th. 4:13-18; 2 Tim. 2:18**
 - o The Anti-Christ and False Prophet will debut the Lake of Fire- **Rev. 19:20**
- Resurrection from the dead: when people had died physically and raised up again
 - o OT/NT have numerous examples of physical resurrections- **2 Ki. 4:35; Acts 9:40**
 - o Jesus' Resurrection is in its own class- the first Born from the dead- **John 20**
 - o Resurrection of the OT/NT saints who had died- the rapture of the Church
 - o The resurrection of the two witnesses of **Rev. 11:12** during the Tribulation Period
 - o The "First Res." of the Tribulation saints who had been martyred- **Rev. 20:4-6**
 - o The "Last Resurrection" of the unrighteous dead at the end of Millennium
 - **Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; Revelation 20:5, 11-13**

Rapture of the Church

The word 'Rapture' does not appear in the Bible, but it represents an event when at a certain time in the future something very wonderful, epic and awe inspiring will take place.

In this section we are focusing on the resurrection of our physical bodies when the church is caught up into heaven; when this dispensation ends and Daniel's 70th week begins- **Mt. 24:14**.

- Three common views: **pre-tribulation**, mid-tribulation and post-tribulation
- Tribulation period is for sinners not saints-**Gen.18:23, 25;1Th. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10; 18:20**
- The Coming of the Lord - day and hour is unknown- **1 Th. 4:13-18; Jas. 5:7-8**
- The Church is currently holding back the Anti-Christ- **2 Th. 2:7-8**
- 1 Cor. 6:14, *"By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also."*

New Glorified Bodies

Again, both saint and sinner will be reunited with their physical bodies and enter into eternity with it. This act completely erases Satan's effect of death on the physical body like it never happened- Revelation 20:14, *"Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire."*

John 20:19-20, "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord."

- Jesus is the first one to receive a glorified resurrected body- **1 Cor. 15:20-28**

- Glorified bodies that will be just like Jesus'; will never die- flesh and bone **Lk. 24:37-39**
- **Please Read: 1 Cor. 15:35-58; 2 Cor. 4:13-14**

Note, in **1 Corinthians 15:50**, our current physical bodies cannot enter heaven because they are contaminated with sin. When sin enters God's presence, it always results in judgment.

Philippians 3:20-21, "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

- Just think of it, a glorified body just like Jesus', that can never die or be destroyed
 - o Want to pass through a black hole in outer space- no problem!
 - o Want to swim to the bottom of the ocean, go for it!
 - o Want to fly like a bird in the clouds- have fun!
- Eternal glorified bodies that can never die, unlimited travel- fly, outer space, oceans etc.
- Col. 1:27, "...Christ in you the hope of glory"

Christians in every generation hoped that they would be part of that generation that would never taste of physical death, but be changed in an instant and meet the Lord in the air.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

All people, whether saint or sinner will stand in judgment for a life lived on this earth before God, the big difference between the two judgments is the end result. God's holiness requires that all sin be punished and every soul be held accountable. The first judgment occurred at the Cross where all the sins of the world were laid upon Jesus who took the wrath of God as our substitute for sin- **John 1:29; 12:31-32; 16:7-11**. In Isaiah chapter 53 we see a graphic portrayal of Christ's sufferings for our redemption. In all accounts God's justice & holiness was satisfied by Christ's atoning work in His death, burial, resurrection and seating at God right hand.

Hebrews 4:13, "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

- Since Jesus paid for our sins, why do we still have to be judged?
- As believers we must all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, not to account for sin
- To account for faithfulness and obedience to God's Word and call on our lives on earth
- We are admonished by the Scriptures to repent of disobedience and judge ourselves
 - o 1 Cor. 11:31, "*But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.*"
- Only God's covenant children will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ
- This is not to determine our salvation, but to be rebuked, commended and rewarded

- **Please Read: 2 Corinthians 5:1-12**
- Without exception, all Christians will give an account of themselves to God
 - o **Ro. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 4:5; 11:31; 2 Cor. 7:2; 1 Tim. 1:5**

Building on our Salvation Foundation

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 3:1-15**
 - o The Foundation is the New Birth- we all start with the same foundation
 - o Build on it using Gold, Silver & Costly Stones – Faith, Hope and Love
- **Luke 19:11-27** (10 Minas)- each one received the same measure to start & work with
 - o At the new birth each one received the same measure of faith- **Rom. 12:3**
- **Mt. 25:14-30**- different amount of talents (**1 Cor. 15:10**)- grace for ministry
 - o Unlike the measure of faith, the amount of grace is different for each one of us
 - We're responsible to increase our initial measure of Faith- Mina
 - We're responsible to be faithful with the grace deposit- Talent
 - o **Ro. 12: 4-8; 1 Cor. 12:27-31; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:10-11**

The Prize

1 Tim 4:8, "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

- God encourages/rewards us to run our race in Christ and live by faith- **Heb. 11:6**
 - o God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him
 - o **2 Tim. 4:7-8; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; 1 Jn. 2:28; 2 Jn. 8; Rev. 3:11**
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 2:1-7**
- Straining toward what is ahead; pressing toward the goal- the prize! **Php. 3:13-14**
- **Revelation 2-3**: rewards for faithfulness and endurance – overcomers!
- What Jesus was referring to in "Overcoming" is two-fold:
 - o Keep doing what He commended the Churches of doing
 - o Repent of the disobedience that Jesus had pointed out to the Churches

For Example: Church at Ephesus

- "You have persevered and endured hardships in my Name, have not grown weary"
- "You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate" – wife swapping
- "But you have forsaken your first love, repent and do what you did at first"

Revelation 2:7

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

The Day of the Lord

Have you noticed how the world mocks those whom they call 'Doomsday Prophets' with signs depicting God's impending judgment? Well, what the world has subconsciously dreaded will come upon them and in a manner and intensity that is beyond their wildest nightmares.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- **Please Read: 2 Peter 3:3-18**
- According to 2 Peter 3:8, a day with the Lord is like or as a 1000 years
- The Second Coming of Jesus will usher in His Millennial reign on earth
 - o So the "Day of the Lord" is talking about a One Thousand Year Reign of Jesus
- Rom 9:28, *"For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."*
- Adam's lease of 6 days and on the 7th day Jesus will rule the earth for 1,000 years
 - o Like 7 days in the Genesis account equating to 7,000 years for full circle & closure
- God will make everything new and we will enter into the endless age- **Rev. 21**

The phraseology "The Coming of the Lord", speaks of the catching away "Rapture" of the Church. The "Day of the Lord" speaks of His Second Advent and beginning of Millennium.

Matthew 16:2-3

Jesus replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

For Christians, it's not a matter of 'if' but rather a matter of 'when' the end will come. We don't know when the Tribulation Period begins. One prerequisite is the preaching of the gospel to the whole world; must be finished before Jesus returns- **Mt. 24:14**. According to **Ephesians 5:27**, Jesus is coming back for, *"a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."* Anyone predicting the day of His return is in error, Jesus Himself does not even know.

- The day and hour not know- **Mt. 24:15-51; 1 Th. 5:1-3, 9-11; 2 Th. 2:1-2; Rev. 19:11-21**
- If anyone tries to predict the very hour of the Lord's Coming and Day of the Lord- wrong
- Only God the Father knows that day and hour by His own authority- **Mt. 24:36-40**