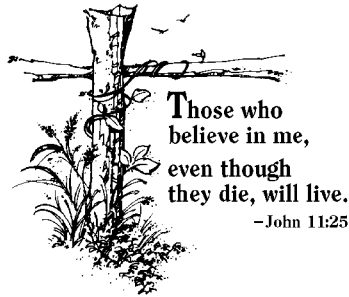


RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

1. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF RESURRECTION?



Resurrection (anastasis) is defined as a rising out of or a standing up. When we speak of resurrection, we are talking about those who have physically died, rising to life in a new and glorified body.

2. IS THE DOCTRINE OF THE RESURRECTION SEEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

- A. It is implied in the passages that speak of deliverance from sheol, the grave.

"But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol; for he will receive me." **(Psalm 49:15)**

- B. Job expressed his belief in the resurrection,

"And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes shall see and not another." **(Job 19:25-27)**

- C. Resurrection is taught in the prophets. For example:

"Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits." **(Isaiah 26:19)**

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt."

(Daniel 12:2)

3. WHAT DID JESUS TEACH CONCERNING RESURRECTION?

- A. Jesus considered the resurrection to be implied when He spoke of God being the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God could only be their God if they were still alive.

"But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken to you by God, saying 'I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead but of the living." **(Matthew 22:31-32)**

- B. Jesus taught clearly about the resurrection. For example,

"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and he gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds, to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment." (John 5:25-29)

"For this is the will of My Father, that every one who beholds the Son, and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:40) See also John 6:44, 54.

C. Jesus declares Himself to be the Resurrection and the Life.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believe in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?' (John 11:25-26)

4. WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD?

All men will be resurrected. The righteous dead will be resurrected to eternal life and the wicked dead will be resurrected to eternal death.

5. HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD?

A. We have eye witnesses.

"To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3)

I Corinthians 15:3-9 records that Jesus appeared to Peter, the twelve, 500 brethren, James, and the Apostles and to Paul.

B. The truth and reality of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is our personal assurance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear." (Acts 2:32,33)

6. WHY IS THE TEACHING OF THE RESURRECTION SO IMPORTANT?

- A. If Christ had not been raised from the dead, our faith would be in vain and there would be no salvation from our sins.

"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain... and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."

(I Corinthians 15:13-14,17)

- B. A belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ produces a joyous and glorious hope in the Christian.

"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." **(Romans 10:9)**

7. WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST REVEAL TO THE WORLD?

- A. The resurrection reveals that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and demonstrates His divine nature and power.

"Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord." **(Romans 1:4)**

- B. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals that death was defeated.

"Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil."

(Hebrews 2:14)

- C. The resurrection reveals that believers are justified.

"He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification." **(Romans 4:25)**

- D. The resurrection reveals that there is a new source of life in our body, soul, and spirit.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

(I Peter 1:3)

- E. The resurrection reveals that we will possess new bodies.

"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the

twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." **(I Corinthians 15:51-52)**

8. WHO IS THE RESURRECTION A WORK OF?

It is the work of the Trinity. All three are active in resurrection:

A. God the Father.

"Indeed, we had the sentence of death ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead." **(II Cor. 1:9)**

B. God the Son.

"Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord." **(I Thess. 4:17)**

C. God the Holy Spirit.

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you." **(Romans 8:11)**

9. WHAT IS THE RESURRECTED BODY LIKE?

A. The resurrected body will bear some relation to the old body which Paul illustrates by the grain of wheat. Just as the grain of wheat dies and the living germ within develops into a beautiful plant similar to the former but not the same, so the resurrection is not the restoration to physical life of a dead body; it is the emergence of a new life order.

"You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else." **(I Corinthians 15:36,37)**

B. The life to come will be just as real as this present one; in fact, more so. Glorified bodies will be real and tangible. We will know each other, converse with one another, and engage freely in heavenly activities. Jesus in His resurrected body was real indeed to His disciples; though glorified, He was the very same Jesus.

"We shall know even as we are known." **John 20:17.**

"And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him." **(Matthew 28:9)**

"Jesus said to her, 'Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father and My God and your God'." (John 20:17)

"Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here your finger, and see my hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing.'" (John 20:27)

- C. The resurrection body will be free from sickness, pain, weakness and death.

"and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death ; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (Rev. 21:4)

- D. We now live in a defiled perishable body which cannot tolerate the presence of God. We will be clothed with a glorious body, fitting to see God face to face.

- E. We will have the power of penetrating solid substances. We will be able to walk through walls etc.

"And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, 'Peace be with you'." (John 20:26)

"And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight." (Luke 24:31.)

