

THE RESURRECTION TAUGHT



BALANCING FAITH
AND LIFE



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THE RESURRECTION TAUGHT IN SCRIPTURE

Taught in the Old Testament

- a. In the Word-Job 19:25-27; Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16:9; 17:15
- b. In Figure-Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 11:19
- c. In Prophecy-Isaiah 26:19; Hosea 13:14
- d. In reality-II Kings 4:32-35; 13:21

Notes upfront: (Consideration)

- The resurrection sets apart the religions of the world
- There is no redemption without the resurrection
- The hall mark of grace came with the resurrection
- Grace is your Passover

THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:25-26).

Taught in the New Testament

1. In Word

- a. By Jesus
- b. John 5:28-29
- c. John 6:39-54
- d. Luke 14:13-14
- e. By Paul
- f. Acts 24:15
- g. I Corinthians 15
- h. I Thessalonians 4:14-15
- i. Philippians 3:11
- j. By John-Revelation 20:4-6, 13

2. In Reality

- a. Resurrection of Lazarus-John 11
- b. Resurrection of Old Testament
- c. Saints-Matthew 27:52-53
- d. Resurrection of Jesus-Matthew 28

THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

1. Redemption of the Body

The redemption of the body is included in our complete redemption.

- References: Romans 8:1-23; I Corinthians 6 13-20; John 6 39; Job 19 25-27;

2. The Redeemed and the Resurrected Body

- a. We shall be like Christ Philippians 3:21-"Who will transform and fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform to and be like the body of His glory and majesty" (Amplified New Testament) I John 3:2 When he shall appear, we shall be like him. I Corinthians 15 49 "And we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."
- b. What was the nature and likeness of Christ's resurrection body, which our resurrection body is to resemble?
- c. A real body-Luke 24 39
- d. A recognizable body-Luke 24 31

THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

By studying the scriptural record of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the following facts will be proven to be true:

1. Christ rose literally from the grave. It was the same body that had been placed in the tomb. "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Luke 24:39).

2. Christ arose with a real body, not a ghost or phantom. I was a body composed of flesh and bones. His body could be touched. "Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side and be not faithless, but believing" (John 20:27).

3. His body bore the marks of his passion. ". . .Behold my hands: and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side. . ." (John 20:24-29).

4. Christ ate and drank in the presence of His disciple. "Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead" (Acts 10:41)

THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

4. Christ's body can no more taste death. "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him" (Romans 6:9).

5. Christ was the first-fruits of the resurrection. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept" (I Corinthians 15:20).

□ There are two facts that should be carefully noted from the above study of the nature of the resurrection.

(a) We shall be like Him and receive bodies like unto His when the resurrection takes place. If we would like to know just what the bodies will be like which the saints will receive in the kingdom, then we may study the verse below.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him: for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2)

(b) Jesus is the first one to come forth in the resurrection. Although the graves were opened at His death, the saints did not come forth until after His resurrection. "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many" (Matthew 27:52-53).

THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION, CONT'S

Characteristics of the believer's resurrection body is set forth in I Corinthians 15:

- Incorruptible-(No decay, sickness, pain) Verse 42
- Glorious-Verse 43, Matthew 17 and Revelation 1:13-17
 - a. Powerful-(Not tired or weak) Verse 43
 - b. Spiritual-Verse 44
 - c. Heavenly-Verses 47-49
 - d. Real Body-Verses 50-51 (See Hebrews 2:14; II Corinthians 5: 1-6.)
 - e. Relationship to the Old-(Like the grain of wheat) Verses 36-37
 - f. The resurrection body will have great agility. It will be able to travel with lightning speed and penetrate solid substances.

THE ORDER OF THE RESURRECTION

I Corinthians 15 23-24 "But each in his own rank and turn: Christ, the Messiah, the first fruits, then those who are Christ's at His coming After that comes the end (the completion) " (Amplified New Testament)

- a. The Scriptures teach that everyone will not be resurrected at the same moment There is a definite order that takes place as far as time is concerned in the resurrection.

1. The First Resurrection

This is the resurrection of those who are in the kingdom of God, and who shall reign with Christ during the millennium (Revelation 20:5-6). They shall not appear before the White Throne Judgment. There are three distinct phases or steps to this resurrection.

THE ORDER OF THE RESURRECTION

a. First Fruits-Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15 23), Matthew 27 52-53 "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of the graves after his resurrection.

One should clearly understand that this resurrection of the first fruits took place after his resurrection Jesus arose first and then these Old Testaments saints

b. Harvest: This takes place at the rapture of the Church when Jesus returns I Thessalonians 4 16-17 "And the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds.

THE ORDER OF THE RESURRECTION

c. Gleaning-The Tribulation Saints-Revelation 20 4-"And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" Although the First Resurrection takes place at three different times, yet these three phases all constitute one resurrection

2. The Second Resurrection

This is the general resurrection of all those who are not in the kingdom of God They shall appear before the White Throne Judgment and be judged according to whether or not their names are in the book of life.

Daniel 12:2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt"

Revelation 20 12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God."

THE MESSAGE OF THE EMPTY TOMB

John 20:6-7 "Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulcher, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself."

"And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, "Loose him, and let him go." John 11:44

One of the greatest messages of the empty tomb was told by the grave clothes and the napkin. In the resurrection of Lazarus, he came forth from the tomb bound hand and foot with the grave clothes. It was necessary to loose him from these by unwinding the grave clothes. What was so startling to Peter and John in the resurrection of Jesus Christ was the fact that the grave clothes and napkin were in their place untouched, like they had been when the body was there but now the body was gone. It was not necessary to unwind any grave clothes for Jesus to arise. The stone was not rolled back to make the resurrection possible; it was rolled back to show the world the empty tomb.

The lesson to be learned here is that it will not be necessary for the graves to be opened to allow the saints to rise in the first resurrection, but rather the graves will be opened as a testimony to the world that the resurrection had taken place (Matthew 27:52) .

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THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION TO US

John 14:19 "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also."

Romans 4:25 "Who was delivered for our offences and was raised again for our justification."

- a. The resurrection brings assurance of justification.
- b. The resurrection validates the atonement.
- c. The resurrection brings assurance of our resurrection.
- d. The resurrection of Christ makes coming judgment certain.
- e. The resurrection of Christ makes eternal life certain.

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Luke 24:51 "And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven."
2. Acts 1:9 "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."
 - a. The birth of our Lord was miraculous and it was not surprising that His exit from this earth would also be in a miraculous form. The resurrected body of our Lord was not subject to natural laws, no longer subject to death, and could not abide on this earth if He were to fulfill His ministry.
 - b. Since Elijah and Enoch were translated, it would seem that it would be natural that Jesus should ascend.
3. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for a period of forty days. He gave them the Great Commission and commanded them to remain in Jerusalem until they be baptized with the Holy Spirit. He then lifted up His hands and blessed them. They saw Him ascend slowly from their midst and disappear into clouds. He ascended in a body of flesh and bones, not a body of flesh and blood. In His ascension He passed through the heavens and overcame all evil forces which might try to hinder Him.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SALVATION

Acts 2:24 "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it."

Acts 3:15 "And killed the Prince of life, who God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses."

Acts 17:31 "Whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

Philippians 3:21 "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

The resurrection of Christ is essential to our salvation. Christianity is the only religion that bases its claims of acceptance upon the resurrection of its founder. In the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians the apostle Paul makes Christianity answer for its life and for the literal truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SALVATION

I Corinthians 15:13-19 ". . .then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. . .ye are yet in your sins. . .we are of all men most miserable."

- a. All is vain if Christ's body is not raised from the dead. Remove the resurrection from Paul's Gospel and his message is gone. The early church constantly affirmed the resurrection. The apostles preached it in the face of the fiercest opposition.
- b. The resurrection is spoken of more than 100 times in the New Testament.
- c. If Jesus Christ had remained in the grave, the story of His life and death would have remained buried with him. The New Testament is an effect of Christ's resurrection. The resurrection does not grow out of the story of His life but the beautiful story of Christ's life grew out of the fact of His resurrection. The New Testament is the book of the resurrection.
- d. In other words, the resurrection of Christ's body from the tomb proves the deity of Jesus and the efficaciousness of the atonement to save sinners.

Study the following scriptural references:

Acts 4:10

I Peter 1:21-23

Acts 13:30-34

I Corinthians, chapter 15

PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:6 "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Mark 16:6 "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

- The number of the witnesses to the resurrection was many. The weight of their testimony is quite conclusive. Both friends and enemies testify to the resurrection of Christ: the women, the disciples, the angels, and the Roman guards.
- The soldiers were bribed to tell the story of Him being stolen from the tomb (Matthew 28:11-15). Note verse 13 -"Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept." If they were asleep, how could they know what took place?

PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

We have the testimony of angels that Jesus had risen as was foretold (Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6).

The apostle Paul lists a number of witnesses to the resurrection in the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians:

1. Peter
2. The twelve
3. About five hundred brethren
4. James
5. The Apostles
6. Paul. himself. on the road to Damascus

PERSONAL PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

All the proof that we need of the resurrection is the fact that Jesus Christ saves sinners, heals sick bodies, and abides within the hearts of His saints today. He not only has appeared to Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus road, but to each of His blood-washed children on their respective roads. The reality of the resurrection is proven by the reality of His living presence today. We may sing in the words of Rev. Ackley:

"You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart." --He Lives

- It is possible to experience the power of His resurrection in our lives today. In fact, we must experience this if we are to be members of His church, and in His kingdom. The resurrection of Christ made the power of the atonement effective.
- It took His death, burial and resurrection to provide salvation for us. Likewise it takes death, burial, and resurrection on our part to become recipients of the salvation provided for us.

OUR LORD'S ASCENSION

1. It could be that our Lord's ascension is not given the prominence it deserves by Christian believers. The Resurrection was proof of Christ's messiahship and His ascension was double proof. He could have gone to heaven secretly after forty days of post-resurrection, earthly ministry. Yet He chose to make the Ascension a public event so that it might add to the bastion of proofs of His true identity.
2. The Ascension was the last event of Jesus' earthly mission. With His mission thoroughly completed He returned to heaven to sit on the right hand of God. His ascension proves that He has conquered every enemy and that He reigns over the whole creation.

THE APPEARANCES OF CHRIST AFTER THE RESSURRECTION

1. The women at the tomb see the angels.
2. The women hurry to tell the disciples. Peter and John lived quite close; the other disciples were a greater distance from the tomb.
3. Peter and John run to the tomb.
4. Mary follows returning to the tomb, and lingers there, and sees Jesus.
5. Jesus appears to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
6. Jesus appears to Peter.
7. Jesus appears to the ten apostles with Thomas absent.
8. Jesus appears to the apostles with Thomas present.
9. Jesus appears to the apostles and a multitude on the mount.
10. Jesus appears to the apostles on the shores of Lake Galilee.
11. Jesus appears to James.
12. Jesus appears to the apostles at the ascension.
13. Jesus appears to Paul on the road to Damascus.

JESUS IS NOW OUR HIGH PRIEST

John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Hebrews 4:14 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession."

After His resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ entered a new phase of His ministry:

1. **He is now the mighty Baptizer.** He baptizes believers into His body and indwells them by His Spirit.
2. **He is making all necessary preparations for the coming of His bride, the Church.**
3. **He is our High Priest ever making intercession for His saints.** Just as the devil is constantly accusing the saints, Jesus is ever pleading their cause.