

# The RESURRECTION

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The Christian hope earnestly expects the vile *bodies* of men now in their graves, sleeping the sleep of death, to be awakened from the dead and made to live. For God has said: “Thy *dead* men shall *live*, together with my *dead body* shall they arise.” Again, “The hour is coming when *all* that are in the *graves* shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation,” John 5:28. By these words of our blessed Savior, we learn three things, viz:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. The dead will be raised to life.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. The time in which they are raised from their graves.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Who* will be raised.

Hearing God, who cannot lie, in his Word say, all in their graves shall hear his voice and *come forth*, we believe him, and fondly expect it will be so. “Some have erred, saying the resurrection is passed.” Erred as to the time. The *time* of resurrection from the graves is not in the past, but future; the hour is *coming*. There is such an hour, or set time, and it will be here with certainty. The persons who being dead shall live, are *they* that have done good, and *they* that have done evil. “The just and the unjust.” The righteous, and the poor ungodly of all mankind will be included in the resurrection.

To further prove abundantly by God’s own word in the blessed Bible, that resurrection of the bodies of the dead is truth, read 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.”

Also, Acts 24:14, “And have *hope* toward God which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.” This was Paul’s hope explained. The enemies of his faith also “allowed,” or admitted the truth of his hope in that one particular. (Compare Acts 23:6).

Paul again asserts and affirms this hope before King Agrippa. Acts 26:6-8. And he asked him the forcible question, viz; “Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should *raise* the dead?” God is almighty. “Nothing” good in his sight “is impossible with him.”

Considering who and what God is, what is incredible or in any way inconsistent with the nature of things ? God is sufficient as a *cause*, to produce that *effect*. God made all dust out of nothing, and formed man out of that dust. By reason of man's sin he dies, and now returns to the dust from whence he is taken. The same God that made man have one existence, can make him to have a second living existence. And surely God, who has made both angels and men, is able to reproduce the bodies of all dead men, some to one state (of life), and some to another state (of damnation).

When God tells us by his Bible that his purpose is: there shall be a resurrection *both* of the just and unjust; then who dares or has any right to *deny* it, or to even *disbelieve* that word? And so "make God a *liar*," I John 5:10.

Annihilation of all men, old and young, us and our children, is a thought so dreadfully withering to our minds, that to sensible, thoughtful men and women, it is unbearable. Then how dreadful, aye, how *miserable* life would be, if no hope carried us beyond the grave! To have no sure prospect of meeting, seeing and associating with any of our fathers, mothers, children, and loved kindred whom we have buried in the grave, and with them buried our present happiness of their company.

O! how intolerable it would be to endure by any of us! Yet, more sad would it be that no soul of man would ever see and rejoice in the heavenly glory of its Maker above! None to live among angels and learn the bliss of God and godliness? Who is able to rejoice in *non-resurrection*? If there *is* no resurrection, then Jesus is yet dead. Death holds forever Jesus and all now sleeping in the earth and sea, so that we have no living Savior and High Priest to remove our sins and save us, if resurrection is not true. "But now *is* Christ risen from the dead, and become the *first fruits* of them that slept," I Corinthians 15:20. So there *is* some resurrection done now. Jesus body is already raised. And John saw with this Lamb, Jesus, (Revelation 14:1-4) standing on the Mount Zion, with a hundred, forty and four thousand redeemed from the earth. "These were redeemed from among men, being the *first fruits* unto God and to the Lamb."

Now, dear reader, consider these *first fruits*. God has received them up in heaven to himself from the earth. "First fruits of them that slept," of all the dead. Read your Bible and answer this question; Did God ever *receive* an offering of *first fruits* from the vineyard, orchard, or wheat field in the hands of a high priest in Moses' tabernacle or Solomon's temple, and not *preserve*, *mature*, and *save* the CROP from which that offering was taken? No. The first fruits *received*, then the crop was *safe*, and harvested in due time in good maturity. In that was seen the principle of the

resurrection. The law of first fruits (Exodus 22:29; and Proverbs 3:9-10), is the law of the resurrection.

So God having *received* the body of Jesus and those of a hundred, forty and four thousand of his church as *first fruits* of all the dead; this secures and makes safe the “harvest that truly is great of gathering in the entire crop remaining in the field” (the world). And just so sure as his crucified body was raised from the new sepulcher, with nail prints in its hands and a spear-wound in its side, and so exhibited to Thomas and the rest of his disciples, and afterward it was received up from Mount Olivet to heaven, even so sure will the *bodies* of all saints be raised like his.

Jesus is the pattern like unto which all saved must be fashioned. Yes, even our poor bodies. For it is written, Philippians 3:20-21, “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our *vile body* that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,” etc. Mark, our vile body is the thing he shall change. Change the vile or sinful body to a *glorious* body. Into a body all filled and clothed with *glory*. Not glory of earth, nor of stars and planets, but the glory of our ever blessed Jesus in heaven. Also Romans 8:11.

O what a change to be made in a vile human body! God can make it easily, I suppose. I have thought it would be no difficult work to the omnipotent, eternal, ever blessed God to make this change in our bodies, for he will do it so quickly. To him it is the work of a moment. The entire change can be made by him in the twinkling of an eye. Strange it is that what is done by him so very quickly and hence so easily, should be so very difficult to men to even believe.

Why is only the believing so difficult to men of brains, common sense and scholarship? Let Jesus’s words answer, Matthew 22:29, “Ye do *err*, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.” Ignorance of God’s power, and of the Bible, is why men live in error about this change.

Then in I Corinthians 15:51,52, read how it is done, “Behold, I show 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 trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

To further disperse the clouds, fog and smoke of ignorance from our minds, and aid in ridding us of error on this subject, read I Thessalonians 4:13-18, “But I would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.” Remove the ignorance on this subject and it lessens sorrow about the dead. The light of truth as relates to when, and how, the

dead will be made alive, increases hope in the soul. Hope saves from grief and sweetens even our tears. This rests on Jesus being raised. “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.” Believe God did raise Jesus from the dead, and it will be difficult to believe those in him will not also be raised.

Christ is raised for us. Its effect must also be seen in us. “The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; 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, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

All this is said to those *in* Christ, new creatures in spirit and born again. The new birth is a change, a miraculous resurrection of the soul. The body must be born again when it comes from the grave, even as Christ is “the *first* born from the dead.” Both the change of soul and body is a miracle of God’s power, and display of his reigning grace.

The natural soul and body must be made spiritual, to live and dwell in a spiritual world. Earth is a natural world; heaven is a supernatural or spiritual world; the glory of one is not the glory of the other; hence, those who live on earth must be changed in their state or condition, to another state, to live in and enjoy heaven. Fish could not survive in the open air, nor birds in the water, unless God who made change their state by recreation. So is illustrated (I Corinthians 15:39) that mysterious change God makes in men to fit them for his heavenly kingdom.

By his creative power, they “are created anew.” By the “renewing” power of his Spirit they are made “*new* creatures” for a new world, a new home. To effect this great work in us none but God our Savior is able. “Jesus is the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in him, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” He then is the fullness and power, the life and essence of the resurrection. Examples were given on earth showing forth this power in the resurrection of Lazarus of Bethany, the widow’s son, the ruler’s daughter, and, in fact, in all the miracles he wrought. He that changed water to best wine, is able to change an earthly body into a heavenly body. For we read, “As we have born the image of the earthy, (the first Adam) we shall also bear the image of the heavenly,” (of Christ). I Corinthians 15:49.

Again, in I Corinthians 15:53-54, “For this incorruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” So when this is done, then what will be? “*Death* swallowed up in victory.” The last and all enemies destroyed. Yes, even death destroyed. “There shall be no more

death,” Revelation 21:4. If there shall be no more death, and death is ever destroyed, then I ask, can there be any remaining dead: How death can be destroyed and the dead not released and raised, we cannot see.

By the fullness, power and grace in Christ, those who *dwell* in, and die *in* the Lord, shall also “in Christ be made alive.” For *in* him they possess eternal life. Not so of those *out* of Christ. Out of Christ, the wrath of God abideth on them. The law worketh wrath; it takes its due course on those out of Christ, out of the “hiding place, the “covert” of saints, and they have no shelter from wrath, no cloak or covering for their sins. Then how blessed is that soul whose “life is *hid* with Christ in God.” So that “when he who *is* our life shall appear, then shall we also *appear* with him in glory.” Here is seen “good hope and everlasting consolation given us through grace.”

Perhaps you often try to imagine in your minds the glory of the scene when Christ and the saints all appear in glory together. Survey his transfiguration on the mount. He is suddenly covered by a bright cloud, his countenance is as the sun, his garments shining exceeding white as no fuller could white them, then heavenly visitors with him. Let this scene aid our weak minds in looking for the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior in this world, with his people, at his second coming, for he will come again in like manner as he ascended up from Mount Olivet in a bright cloud of glory.

Remember his promise, “I will not leave you comfortless, I will come unto you.” “Behold I come quickly.” Unexpectedly to most men on earth, he will come as a thief in the night. Many, unprepared for his coming, shall wail because of his sudden presence, to judge and reward all men. Paul certifies, “As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment; so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many. But unto them that look for him will he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

When he came before, he bore our sins in his body. When he comes again he will come without sin and make us like him; to make us sinless, immortal and all-glorious and heavenly, fit for a new home in heaven with God. Now, our sure and steadfast hope in Christ causes us to expect all this, will soon come to pass. We look for and greatly desire the glorious coming of Jesus, our adorable and blessed Savior, when we shall meet all redeemed souls of every age— patriarchs and prophets, apostles and saints, adults and infants, of all time; black and white, rich and poor, the sane and the idiot, are all to be *changed, resurrected*. God’s grace will be honored and glorified in its sovereign power, and impartial goodness in saving and resurrecting a mighty host which no man can number, out of every nation, kindred,

tongue and people under heaven, to stand with him on Mount Zion. “And so shall they ever be with the Lord.”

The use to be made of this subject, as we learn from the words of Paul, is to “comfort one another with these words.” You will often be in trouble. These truths will comfort you. Comfort the bereaved and desolate. Let them be used on all occasions, these words are soothing and consoling. Another use is to prompt us to active obedience to God.

In I Corinthians 15, last verse, it is said, “Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved, be ye steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” This encouraging doctrine should be used to enforce a steadfast obedience at all times. Good works are not lost if resurrection is truth.

**RESURRECTION: T.S. Dalton** The Bible is very plain in setting forth the idea that the same body that was slain, was put in Joseph’s new tomb; the same body arose from the tomb; and the same body appeared to the disciples, and it was a flesh and bone body, for Jesus said to them, “handle me, for a Spirit hath not flesh and bones as you see me have” Oh! says one, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.” That’s so, but he doesn’t say that flesh and bones cannot enter Heaven, neither did he mean any such thing, but is simply showing the inability of man as corrupt, fallen creatures, to conform themselves to the image of Christ; for he says, “neither doth corruption inherit incorruption,” which shows that change from corruption to incorruption, from the image of the earthly Adam to the image of the heavenly Adam, was alone the work of God. But to deny that flesh and bones enter Heaven is to make Jesus Christ a deceiver and an imposter, for the Gallileans did gaze upon that body which Jesus said had flesh and bones, as it ascended up and was received out of their sight.” (*T.S. Dalton Zion’s Advocate July 1893*)

**RESURRECTION Proof Texts:** Job 19:23-27, “Oh that my words were now written; Oh that they were printed in a book. That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever. For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”

Psalms 17:15, “As for me I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness.”

Isaiah 26:19, “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

Daniel 12:1-2, “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to everlasting contempt.”

Hosea 13:14, “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be destruction; repentance shall be hid from my eyes.”

John 5:28-29, “Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

John 6:54, “Who eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Acts 24:13,15, “Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me. But this I confess unto you, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets; and have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead both of the just and the unjust.”

Romans 8:10-11, “And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his spirit that dwelleth in you.”

I Corinthians 15:51-55, “Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. So when this corruptible shall have put on corruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory.”

**RESURRECTION: Harold Hunt:** Philippians 3:20-21, “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 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.”

God is coming back for these bodies, and he is going to rejoin them to our departed spirit. I don't know how he is going to do it, but then, he is not depending on me to help, so it is not important for me to know how he will do it.

Job 14:11-12, “As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up. So man lieth down and riseth not, till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.”

How long is man going to be in the grave? Job says it will be “till the heavens be no more.” As long as the sun shines in the heavens, as long as the moon rules over the night, as long as the stars twinkle in the sky, these old bodies will stay in the grave. But there is a day coming, when the Lord will step out on the clouds of glory, and declare that time will be no more. The elements will melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up (II Peter 3:10), and God is going to speak to these bodies, and raise them out of the ground.

Men will forget, but God remembers, and on the resurrection morning he will find you. I get the idea that day may not be very far off, but people have believed that for a long time. I am consoled in the fact that God knows when that time will be, and he will be on time.

I believe that one reason a lot of people want to believe the time is near is because they are afraid that if it is a long time the Lord might forget who they were, and where they are buried. But God knows who you are, and he will know where to find you.

I knew a good brother who had diabetes, and had to have his leg amputated. I went to the hospital to stay with the family on the day of his surgery. There was a man from the funeral home there; he had come to pick up the leg. He took the leg back to the funeral home and preserved it in formaldehyde.

I did not ask the old brother why he wanted his leg preserved in formaldehyde; I knew what he was up to. When he died, he wanted the leg buried with him. He was trying to make it easy on the Lord. On the resurrection morning he did not want the Lord looking all over Union County trying to find that leg.

Job 14:13, “O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me in secret until thy wrath be past, that thou woudest appoint me a set time and remember me.”

We do not always think of the grave as a hiding place. But what more secure place is there for the Lord to hide his chosen ones from all the trouble raging around them. In the grave God hides their sleeping dust, preserves it, and watches over it, until that grand day when he will call for them. He will raise those sleeping bodies from the grave, reunite them with their departed spirit; and spirit, soul, and body, he will carry them home to be with him in all eternity.

Job 14:14-15, “If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait until MY CHANGE come. Thou shalt call and I will answer thee; thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.”

There is a change that is going to take place in the resurrection; these old bodies are going to be changed. I remember when I was a boy, we used to sing a song that said, “We will have a new body.” We will have a new body in that this body is going to be made new—THIS SAME BODY.

I Corinthians 15:42, “So also is the resurrection of the dead; it is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor; 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.”

There are some changes that are going to take place on that day. There are some things we are going to leave in the grave. All that is vile, all that is corrupt, all that is sinful, we will leave in the grave.

The longer I live the more real that day becomes to me. I am not in a hurry to leave this old world. I wouldn't mind to live to be about 90 years old, and preach at least once every day until then. I am enjoying living. I am having the time of my life. I have never enjoyed life more. I have never enjoyed the church more. I have never enjoyed preaching more than I have the last several years. I have never enjoyed my Bible more than I have the last few years. I enjoy visiting among the churches, and experiencing your fellowship, and preaching to you.

It is a delight to any God-called minister to have an opportunity to preach the gospel, and he appreciates any invitation to visit and preach to the Lord's people. Jeremiah

said this desire to preach is a *fire shut up in the bones*. The only way the preacher can get any relief from that burning desire is to preach.

But in spite of all that, I get more than a little anxious to see that eternal city. I like to close my eyes sometimes, and envision what it must be like. In spite of all the sin and wickedness there is in the world, this old world is still a beautiful place to live. Sometimes I like to just look around and admire the beauty of God's creation. Especially in the spring, when the azaleas are in bloom, and the mountain laurel, and the rhododendron, and the dogwoods, and all the others, and the grass is its greenest green, and everything around us has that fresh smell of new life, we cannot help but be amazed at the beauty of God's creation.

And then I like to think that as beautiful as this world is, how beautiful Eden must have been before sin ever entered the picture. But, not even Eden in that day could compare with what that eternal city must be like. I don't know if there will be azaleas, and pretty little pink bushes, and pretty little white bushes in heaven, but I kind of think there will be. After all, heaven is a real place, and we will be walking around in real bodies. I don't know any reason to think there will not be all those scenes over there that dazzle our minds down here.

But any way you look at it, I believe that heaven with all its splendor will outshine anything we have seen down here.

Sylvester Hassell: Enoch and Noah, and perhaps other prophets, preached righteousness, and predicted the coming terrible judgment of God upon the ungodly race, but in vain. Enoch walked with God, and, about a thousand years after the creation of Adam, was translated to heaven without dying; just as, about two thousand years afterwards, during the rampant idolatry of the kingdom of Israel, the prophet Elijah was similarly favored—these two witnesses, before the coming of Christ, thus being divinely enabled to demonstrate to an unbelieving world, the doctrine of the resurrection of the body and its existence with the soul in glory. In the same manner, the bodies of the saints who are living on earth at the second or last personal coming of Christ, shall be changed, in a moment, without dying, from a mortal to an immortal state, and be caught up with their spirits to dwell forever with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:15-17).” (*Hassell*)