

Chapter 8

Doctrines of the Resurrection of the Dead

The Doctrine of the Resurrection of the Dead is one of the most fundamental of all Apostolic Doctrines. Paul, in defending the fact of the resurrection of Christ explains it on these terms. *“But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen. And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found found false witnesses of God — And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished”*. (1 Cor.15:13-18) *“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God, according to the spirit of holiness, BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD”*. (Rom. 1:3-4) It is abundantly apparent by these scriptures that deliverance from sin and the hope for eternal life is totally dependent on the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But thank God, Jesus did come forth from the grave as appointed and our hope is valid and in tact.

Before his death, Jesus promised *“---Because I live, you shall live also”*. (John 14:19) The Doctrine of the resurrection did not begin with the New Testament, but was a hope found in the Old Testament and made a reality by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Job, who possibly lived in Abraham’s time or possibly before, asks a rhetorical question and answers it in his next breath; *“If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait until my change comes”*. (Job 14:14) And again he exclaims, *“For I know that my redeemer [margin- vindicator] liveth, and he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet IN MY FLESH I SHALL SEE GOD: whom I shall see for myself—”*. (Job 19:25-27)

Abraham believed God and even though the promises were not fulfilled in his life time, by faith he was assured they would be in the future. *“These all died in faith, not*

having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. — but now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a City” (Heb.11:13:16) Abraham knew that the promise of God hinged on the ‘seed’ that would come from his loins, Isaac. When God tried Abraham and told him to offer his son Isaac on the altar, Abraham did not flinch but set to work to carry out the command of his God. The fact that Isaac would die was not disturbing to Abraham, for he knew, *“Accounting that God was able to raise him up, EVEN FROM THE DEAD; from whence also he received him in a figure”*. (Heb,11:19 / Gen. 22:1-14) He proceeds to offer up his son. It was not Isaac who provided hope for life after death, but the true seed, Jesus Christ. (Gal. 3:16)

David, in Psalms 16:8-10, expresses his hope in the resurrection by linking his hope of the resurrection with that of the Messiah. *“I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoiceth: MY FLESH SHALL ALSO REST IN HOPE. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; [the grave] neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption”*. Daniel is assured by Michael, the arch angel, *“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and ever-lasting contempt”* and *“But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, [sleep in the grave] and stand [be raised to life again] in thy lot at the end of the days”*. (Dan.12:2, 13) All of the prophets, in one way or another, confirm the hope of being raised to life again and support the reality of a resurrection. The fact of a final and eternal judgment is also proof that the soul that dies will be raised from the grave, to be judged of deeds done in the body in this life

Life after death could not be hoped for until the cause of death had been conquered. Sin brought its terrible sentence 'the soul that sins, it shall surely die' would remain in force until the sting of death could be removed. It was Jesus who died and fought the forces of hell and came out of the grave victorious, holding in His hand the keys to death, hell and the grave. *"I am he that liveth, and was dead, and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell [grave] and of death"*. (Rev 1:18) With the resurrection of Jesus, death no longer had the power to hold forever. *"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead DIETH NO MORE, DEATH HATH NO MORE DOMINION OVER HIM"*. (Rom 6:8-9) Since Christ liveth forevermore, and we shall live with him, then those who have the Spirit of Christ in them also will be raised to die no more. Once again, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the key to man's hope of being resurrected.

It is certainly a false hope on the part of anyone to believe that death ends it all and this life is all one can expect. Suicide victims will be greatly surprised in the day of judgment to realize their solution to their problems only made them eternally worse. Still others believe that once in the torment of hell fire, they will eventually be annihilated, totally burned up and cease to exist. If hell is that short, then heaven must have an end also. It is a relief indeed to know by the scriptures that neither of these beliefs are true.

There is a difference between being raised from the dead and being resurrected from the dead. There are several accounts in the scripture where individuals were raised from the dead. For example, Elijah raised to life again a woman's son who had died, 1 Kings 17:17-23; Elisha raised the Shunammite's son back to life, 2 Kings 4:32-37; Jesus raised the daughter of Jarius, Luke 8:49-56; the widows son, Luke 7:11-15; and last, Lazarus, John 11:43-44; and Peter raised Dorcas Acts 9:40; Paul raised the young man who fell out the window and died, Acts 20:9-10. Since they are not with us today, it is obvious they must have died and returned to the grave to await their resurrection.

Jesus, who raised Lazarus from his tomb of four days, comforts Mary and Martha, Lazarus's sisters, with these words. *"Thy brother shall live again"*. To prove the people of Jesus' day believed in a resurrection, Martha answered, *"I know he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day"*. Jesus says in effect, 'Yes Martha, I know that, but to prove the resurrection power is mine, I will bring him forth from the grave now'. Then adds these precious words; "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?". (John 11:23-26) Not only does Jesus declare that He has the power to raise from the dead, **HE IS LIFE, ETERNAL LIFE** and will give that life to those who will believe in him according to the scriptures. Note the following scriptures 1 John 5:11-12 / John 17:2-3 / John 5:21-29. Each of these scriptures declare that to have Jesus Christ is to have Eternal Life.

There was a religious sect call the Sadducees who did not believe in a resurrection or in angels, in fact nothing supernatural. These Sadducees put a parable to Jesus concerning a marriage relationship in the 'hereafter'. Their perspective of the resurrection was in error and Jesus answers them this way. *"But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have you not read that which was spoken unto 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"*. (Matt. 22:23-32)

It might be said here there is a spiritual resurrection for those who are saved. Paul compares baptism as, *"Know ye not, that that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life"*. (Rom.6:3-4) When the cause of death has been removed from the soul by the blood of Christ and it stands justified before God, the death sentence has been removed and that soul now lives. It has been delivered from death and quickened by the Spirit of God to live for Him. *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now*

live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me". (Gal. 2:20) This life in Christ is, in one sense, a spiritually resurrected life, a new life that is now free from the deadness of sin, and made alive before God. *"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord"*. (Rom. 6:11) The body will return to dust, but the soul that is filled with the Spirit of Life, lives on and the 'Second Death', eternal judgment, can not touch it anymore. Notice, the body is not to be saved and neither will this body be resurrected. It is the soul which will be resurrected and given a new body from God out of heaven. (2 Cor. 5:1-3)

Resurrection: It is being raised from the dead; to cause to stand up (from the dead), to live again to die no more. Note Rom.6:9, Jesus arose and dieth no more, death has no more dominion over him. 1 Cor. 15:20, Christ, the first fruits of them that slept. The resurrection of the Dead has two distinct parts separated by one thousand years. The 'First Resurrection' (Rev.20:5-6), has seven sections or seven distinct times of occurrences beginning with the resurrection of Jesus, then the rapture of the church, and the last section at the middle part of the tribulation. Those in this First resurrection are called "Blessed and Holy". The second or last resurrection occurs at the White Throne Judgment when the rest of the dead, both good and bad, will be resurrected to stand before God's throne to be judged out of the "Books". Those in the "Book of Life" will be granted eternal life, all others are consigned to the "Lake of Fire" which is eternal damnation. Between the first and second resurrections there is a thousand years of peace where Christ will sit on the throne of David and reigns as king over all the earth (Zec. 14:9). This Kingdom Age is referred to as the Millennial Kingdom. Following this Kingdom age, Satan is loosed from his prison for a short time to gather the gentiles into his camp one more time. The final punishment of God is exercised against the earth with fire out of heaven to devour those deceived by the Devil. (2 Pet. 3:10-13 / Rev. 19:7-11) The next scene is the 'white throne judgment' preceded by the second resurrection where all the dead are raised to be judged according to the deeds done in the body. Those of the first resurrection will not be part of this final judgment.

The Church has part in the First Resurrection which will occur just prior to the beginning of the Tribulation Period consisting of seven years. The Rapture (Catching away of the Church) refers to those alive at the **APPEARING** of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our comfort and hope is found in 1 Thes. 4:13-8 *“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself will 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”*. The **APPEARING** of Jesus is not to be confused with His **SECOND COMING**. The **APPEARING** is just prior to the Tribulation, while His **SECOND COMING** is at the end of the tribulation and is the beginning of the Millennium. The Rapture of the Church will be at His appearing (Heb.9:28) where He appears the second time without sin unto salvation. As Jesus departed from the Mount of Olives, his second return will be at the same point. (Acts 1:11-12 / Rev. 1:7)

His appearing will be quick, *“in a 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”*. (1 Cor. 15:52). In Bible times there were only two terms that described quickness. The twinkling of the eye and the flash of lightening from the east to the west. Today, science has divided the second into milliseconds (millionth of a second), nanoseconds (billionth of a second) and even shorter measurements of time. Jesus’s coming is referred to as *‘coming as a thief in the night’*, and *‘you know not the day or the hour your Lord cometh’*. These two phrases describe the suddenness and unexpectedness of the rapture. (1 Thes. 5:2)

The following is a partial list of scriptures establishing the Resurrection Doctrine.

- Job.14:14-15 I will wait until my change comes.
- Job.19:25-27 After the skin worms eat my flesh, in my flesh will I see God.
- Heb.11:17-19 Abraham’s faith in receiving Isaac from the dead.
- Isa. 26:19 The earth shall cast out her dead.

- Psa.17:15 I will be satisfied when I awake in his likeness.
- Psa.16:9-10 My soul not left in Hell (Grave).
- Acts 2:24-31 Not leave my soul in Hell or thy Holy One see corruption.
- Psa.49:15 God to redeem the soul from the power of the grave.
- Isa.25:8 He will swallow up death in victory.
- Hos.13:14 Ransomed from the power of the grave (death).
- I Sam.2:6 The Lord will kill and make alive, brings up from the grave.
- Dan.12:2-3 Many sleep in dust will rise up.
- Dan.12:13 Daniel to stand in his lot at the end of days.
- Ezek. 37:--- Can these dry bones live?
- Isa.26:20-21 The resurrection and rapture of the church. (Hide thyself a little moment).
- (Note: vs 19, Israel's hope to rise from the dead)
- Rev.20:5-6 Blessed and Holy are those in the first resurrection.
- Acts 4:2 Resurrection from the dead preached through Jesus.
- John 11:24-26 Jesus, the resurrection and the life.
- Rom.1:4 Jesus declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead.
- I Cor.15:4 He rose according to the scriptures.
- Acts 1:3 Jesus resurrection confirmed by many infallable proofs.
- I Cor.15:12-21 The resurrection the corner stone of our salvation.
- Acts 23:6 Paul's hope of the resurrection.
- Acts 24:15 There is a resurrection of the just and unjust.
- John 5:24-29 The resurrection unto life and unto death (judgement).
- I Tim.1:10 The hope of the resurrection brought to us through the Gospel.
- I Pet.1:3 An inheritance assured by the resurrection of Jesus.
- Heb.11:35 Through faith they look to receive a better resurrection.
- Heb.11:13-16 These all died in faith having seen a better place afar off.
- Acts 26:6-8 Why is it thought incredible for God to raise the dead?
- Rom.8:11 The Spirit of God to quicken our mortal bodies.
- Rom.8:20-25 The resurrection our hope.
- I Cor.15:42-54 Our change in the resurrection.
- II Cor.5:1-4 Put on our new house not made with hands.
- I Thes.5:10 Whether we wake or sleep, live with Him.
- Rom.8:8-9 He died and rose to Lord of dead and living.
- Luke 14:14 Shall be recompensed at the resurrection of Just.
- Mark 12:24-26 In the resurrection we will be like the Angels, we will not marry. God is a God of the living and not the dead.
- Matt.22:30-32 The resurrection sure, God is God of the living and not the dead.
- John 14:19 Because I live you shall live also.

- Rev.20:4-6 The First Resurrection.
- Rev.20:12 The second Resurrection
- Matt.25:31-46 Resurrection unto life and death (John 5:28-29).
- Heb.11:17-19 Abraham believed in the resurrection.
- Matt.19:28 In the regeneration.
- Luke 20:35-37 Jesus assures the fact of the resurrection.

As can be seen by this list of scriptures, the Old Testament spoke of the resurrection as a hope, but the New Testament, because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, established its validity. Without the resurrection we have nothing to stand on. It is the hope of the resurrection that enables us to endure the hardships of life to gain a better life in the end, eternal life with Christ. (Rom.4:25 / Rom.5:10 / Rom.8:34 / 1 Pet.3:21)

The Righteous or Blessed, those who have part in the first resurrection, implies a good moral conduct. Only God is the judge of righteousness. The Holy are those anointed with the Holy Ghost and consecrated before God. Jesus gives some evidence that the Old Testament Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the Prophets, will be in the Kingdom of God. *“There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the Prophets, in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God”.* (Luke 13:28-29)

- Matt.24:7 As lightening flashes from east to west so is the coming of Christ.
- I Thes.5:1-4 Coming as a thief in the night.
- Rev.16:15 He will come as a thief, keep thy garments prepared.
- Matt.24:42-44 Watch, you know not the hour of His coming (Luke 12:39-40).
- Heb.9:28 He APPEARS the second time without sin unto salvation.
- II Tim.4:1,8 Judged at His APPEARING.
- Titus 2:13 Looking for the glorious APPEARING of Jesus Christ.
- Col.3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall APPEAR..

Note: The “Companions of the Bride”, Psa.45:11,14 and the Brides Attendants Rev.7:14. These are those who are part of the resurrection that takes place during the first half of the tribulation. The Palmbearers along with those who were beheaded because they refused to take the mark of the beast or identify with his name.

At His Appearing, only the raptured/resurrected Church will see Him. At His Second Coming, Every Eye shall behold Him, (Rev.1:7).

There are two branches of the Second Resurrection:

- A. The Resurrection of the JUST (righteous) unto life.
- B. The resurrection of the WICKED (ungodly) unto everlasting damnation. This is the second death.

- Matt.25:31-46 The sheep and goats (righteous and wicked) are judged.
- John 5:28-29 The resurrection unto life and unto damnation.
- Luke 14:14 The resurrection of the Just (righteous).
- Acts 24:15 The resurrection of the Just and the Unjust.
- Rev.20:11-15 All the dead, both small and great will be judged.
- Psa.9:7-8,17 The wicked will be turned into hell.

A close study of the resurrection will reveal seven orders or stages of the first resurrection. The church will not be the only ones resurrected. They will be followed by those martyrs during the time before and during the tribulation. These are those who held a testimony for Jesus, but did not have the Holy Ghost. *“Fox’s Book of Martyrs”* edited by Wm. Byron Forbush, is recommended reading to understand the suffering and horrible deaths many individuals during the Middle Ages suffered because of the Name of Jesus. These accounts should make believers today feel ashamed when facing many of the petty and trivial trials of the present time. Most complaints of this day do not compare with the terrible things those, who have preceded us, have suffered at the hand of wicked and cruel men.

The Seven Sections of the "First Resurrection" are:

1. Jesus Christ, the first fruits, (1 Cor.15:20,23 / Phil.3:20-21)
2. The Old Testament Saints following the resurrection of Jesus. (Matt.27:52-53 / 1 Cor.15:23).
3. The Resurrection and Rapture of the Church. (1 Thes.4:13-17 / Rev.4:1 / 1 Cor.15:51-52).

The tribulation begins at this point and the remaining four sections occur during the first three and a half years of the tribulation.

4. The Palmbearers (Rev.7:9-11 / Rev.6:9-11).
5. The 144,000 sealed of Israel
6. The two witnesses, Moses and Elijah at the close of the three and a half years ministry to Israel (Zac.4:11-14 / Rev.11:3-12 / Mal.4:4-6).
7. Those beheaded for the witness of Jesus Christ. (Rev.20:4)

EVERYONE IN HIS OWN ORDER (1 Cor.15:20-23 / Dan.12:13)

What shall we be like in the resurrection?

Little is said in the Bible concerning how we shall appear in the resurrection. A few of the scriptures that provide a little understanding are listed below.

- 1 John 3:1-3 It does not yet appear what we shall be, but we shall be like Him.
- Phil.3:20-21 We shall be fashioned like unto His glorious body.
- Luke 20:33-37 There will be no marriages in Heaven.
- Rev.20:6 We will never die again but have eternal life.
- Cor.15: 49 We will bear the image of the heavenly.
- Cor.15:35-44 Our change, what we will be like.
- Cor.5:1-4 We have a New House from heaven.

Thus the Doctrine of the Resurrection is concluded and it is time to take that final step on the ascending staircase, the Doctrine of Eternal Judgment.