

## Resurrection – Part 2

There was a weekly investigative reporting on a local TV channel in which a man with some disease thought there was no hope for a cure. He quoted from Dante's inscription for entrance into Hell, "Abandon all hope ye who enter here." I'm quoting from memory here, so it may not be exact. The point is, he is correct. Those that go to the Lake of Fire will have no hope. It is gone. But those who are alive today can have not just a hope for salvation but an assurance that they are saved and will be in everlasting joy with Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

**Acts 16:30 and after he brought them out, he (the Corinthian jailer) said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**

**Acts 16:31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."**

Jesus Christ went to the cross and was judged for all the sins of the world. After he died and was buried, God the Father resurrected Him in glory. That resurrection was the proof of Jesus' work on the cross and God the Father's acceptance of that work. It also opened the path for all believers to follow Jesus in resurrection to heaven. If you are not a believer today, Believe on Jesus for your salvation. Do not delay.

Start today's lesson with a revised translation of the first four verses of Romans.

**Romans 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as (to be) an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,**

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**Romans 1:2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, (i.e. in the Old Testament)**

**Romans 1:3 concerning His Son, who was ~~born of~~ (became) a descendant (seed) of David according to the flesh,**

**Romans 1:4 who was declared **appointed** the Son of God with power by **because** of the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,**

Resurrection from the dead is a basic doctrine:

**Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,**

**Hebrews 6:2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.**

**I. Definition.**

Let us start with defining the concept of resurrection.

Let us start with Job:

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**Job 14:14 “If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait Until my change (a synonym of change is “transformation.”) comes.**

Herman Mattox defined resurrection as, “Resurrection where a person returns from the dead in a body of incorruption and never dies again.”

The basic concept is returning from the dead. There are two concepts that embody a return from the dead: resuscitation and resurrection. We have all heard of emergency room resuscitations. The heart stops. The physician applies a shock to the heart. It starts again. Resuscitation. But that person will eventually die and not be resuscitated. Death is the “fate” of all except those taken up in the rapture.

Let us look at some vocabulary associated with resurrection or being raised from the dead.

There are three main verbs we will look at:

1. *anastasis*. It is made up of *ana* (up or again) plus *stasis* (stand). Stasis can also mean existence.

2. *anhistemi*. It is made up of *ana* (up or again) plus *histemi* (stand up)

These two nouns and associated verbs are very close in meaning and are considered synonyms in the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament. They are different words and I am sure there are nuanced difference in meaning, but I, for now, will stick with the basic meanings.

3. *egeiro*. This means to get up, raise up. It can also mean to wake from sleep. Remember from last week that sleep is often used in the Bible as a euphemism for death.

**2 Kings 2:10 Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.**

This phrase “slept with his fathers” is used repeatedly of kings in the Old Testament to indicate they died.

Resuscitation:

In some cases, the nouns/verbs use of resurrection are also applied to a “mere” resuscitation.

**Matthew 11:4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see:**

**Matthew 11:5 the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up (egeiro), and the poor have the gospel preached to them.**

The dead are raised. Jesus is talking about resuscitation here.

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**I. Prophecy of Resurrection**

Although these passages are not written like prophecy, they recognize that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the future. Old Testament believers had a concept of this doctrine.

**Job 14:13 “Oh that You would hide me in Sheol, That You would conceal me until Your wrath returns to You, That You would set a limit for me and remember me!**

**Job 14:14 “If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait Until my change (transformation) comes.**

**Job 14:15 “You will call, and I will answer You; You will long for the work of Your hands.**

**Job 14:16 “For now You number my steps, You do not observe my sin.**

**Job 14:17 “My transgression is sealed up in a bag, And You wrap up my iniquity.**

Later Job answers his question:

**Job 19:23 “Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book!**

God answered Job’s request. We are reading it!

**Job 19:24 “That with an iron stylus and lead They were engraved in the rock forever!**

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A book is easily transportable. And easy to copy given the appropriate supplies. If the words were inscribed on a rock wall, it hasn't been found.

**Job 19:25 “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.**

**Job 19:26 “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;**

**Job 19:27 Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!**

One view explained in John Hartley's commentary on Job (but not accepted by Hartley) is, “(1) God will raise Job from the grave so that he will experience his vindication before his accusers. This view is dominant in the Christian community. It goes back to the early church fathers, including Clement of Rome and Origen, and it has been popularized by the major translations in the West. The Latin translation of Jerome, which even identifies the Redeemer as the Messiah, has contributed significantly to this view becoming the traditional interpretation. Luther's translation has also propagated this interpretation among Protestants.<sup>1</sup>”

Job understood the concept of resurrection. However, there are many views on this. As Thomas Constable said, Job may not have known and understood the details of resurrection, the details were proclaimed in Scripture after Job (Isaiah 26:19; Dan. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John E. Hartley, The Book of Job, Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988, page 295

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Constable, Notes on Job 2020 edition, page 77.

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**Isaiah 26:19 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.**

“Because this passage is one of the Old Testament’s clearest statements about the raising of the dead, scholars have debated its origins and potential date.<sup>3</sup>”

**Daniel 12:1 “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.**

**Daniel 12:2 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 12:3 Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.**

“From the Old Testament we learn these facts. First, there is resurrection from the dead. Second, resurrection is universal; it is for all men. Third, there are two kinds of resurrection: there is resurrection unto life and

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3 Paul R. House, A Mentor Commentary: Isaiah, Christian Focus Publication, 2019, Page 699

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resurrection unto death; there is resurrection for the righteous and resurrection for the wicked.<sup>4</sup>”

**Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?**

**Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

**John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.**

**John 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”**

**John 7:39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

Here is an indication of the importance of the resurrection of Jesus for Christians. He was glorified in his resurrection. No resurrection. No glorification. No Holy Spirit. But when we get to 1 Corinthians chapter 15 we learn that if Jesus had not been resurrected, there would be no

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salvation. If that were the case, then God is not God. But Jesus was resurrected.

Order of resurrection.

The first resurrection occurs in four orders or echelons or battalion review. The Greek word used in 1 Corinthians 15 is *taxis* and can refer to order, nature, orderly manner or regiment, legion or battalion. The review stand has God the Father. The various orders will march by for review by the God the Father.

1. The first company to walk by is known as Alpha company. Alpha company is Jesus Christ. He is the first to be in Resurrection. He is the first in Resurrection body and He is known as the first fruits. Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; Acts 2:31-34
2. Bravo company is next to march in front of God the Father. It will be the Church at the rapture.
3. Charlie company comprises believers in the Jewish age. This includes Jews and Gentiles throughout the Old Testament. And all those Jews and Gentile believers of the Tribulation. Study Daniel 12:13; Isaiah 26:19-30; Matthew 24:31; and Revelation 20:4
4. And the last to rise up out of the Resurrection is Delta company. Those in this resurrection will be the Millennial saints.

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Now, we will open our Bibles and read three extended passages concerning aspects of resurrection.

First, let us Read 1 Corinthians chapter 15. This is the longest most detailed passage on resurrection.

This passage makes the point that without the resurrection of Jesus Christ there is no salvation and the gospel is folly. But Jesus was resurrected. The reason this doctrine is a basic doctrine is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is essential to salvation and to the gospel.

The next two passages deal not with resurrection, but with the interim body. Jesus, currently, is the only one with a resurrection body.

1 Samuel chapter 28. This is the passage in which Saul, frustrated because God is not answering him, goes to the witch of Endor to bring back Samuel from the dead. The passage makes clear that Samuel is dead. He has not been resuscitated. He has not yet received his resurrection body. So he is in his interim body. Yet he is brought back to answer Saul and give him a prophecy of doom. Saul was under the sin unto death.

Luke chapter 16. This passage provides a wealth of information about the dead. It gives us a picture of Sheol and its compartments. It also confirms that Abraham, Lazarus and the rich man have bodies even though they are dead. Interim bodies.

Once I started studying the doctrine of the resurrection, it slowly dawned on me that there is more than just saying Jesus died was buried, resurrection, ascended and was seated at the right hand of the Father (DBRAS). Resurrection is connected to other doctrines throughout the Bible (Fabric of Scripture). So we are not done with this doctrine. But I

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must continue in Romans. So Resurrection Sunday will provide another opportunity to explore the various nuances of this doctrine.