

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Key question

What will happen at the resurrection of the dead?

Key text

Acts 24:14-15

“But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets; having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.”

Introduction

1. The “blessed hope” of the believer is centered in the promise of resurrection from the dead.
 2. The resurrection of the dead will not be a reincarnation back into this present world but will be a part of the new heavens and earth that make up the Kingdom of God.
 3. The resurrection of the dead will be the prelude to the final judgment of those outside Christ.
 4. The key text that explains the resurrection of the believer is I Cor.15.
- A. **Texts that deal with the resurrection of the dead.**
1. The Old Testament speaks of a resurrection. Job 19:25-27; Ex.3:6; Ps.16:8-11; 49:14; Isa.26:19; Dan.12:2; Zech.14:5.
 2. Christ predicts his own resurrection. Matt.16:21; 17:23; 20:19
 3. Christ taught the truth of a resurrection. Matt.22:31-32; Jn.2:19-20; 5:28-29; 11:25-26
 4. Paul taught the truth of a resurrection. I Cor.15:20-24, 35-50; II Cor.5:1-4; Phil.3:21; I Thess.4:13-18
- B. **I Cor.15 is a key text.**
1. Christ’s Resurrection is fundamental to the faith (vs.1-11).
 - a. The death and resurrection of Jesus are central to the Christian faith.
 - b. vs.3-4 “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

2. Christ's Resurrection is fundamental to the integrity of our witness and hope (vs.12-19).
 - a. Without the resurrection there is no assurance of freedom from the curse of the law with respect to our sins.
 - b. vs.16-19 "For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."
3. Christ's Resurrection is the Christian's hope (20-34).
 - a. Christ's resurrection is the "first fruits" of all those who are dead in Christ. vs.20.
 - b. Christ is contrasted with Adam who was a type of Christ.vs.22 (Rom.5:14).
 - c. The motive for sacrifice in this life is the promise of resurrection and justice in the next. vs.32 "If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."
4. The Nature of the Resurrection Body (vs.35-50)

Present Body	Resurrection Body
earthly	heavenly
perishable	imperishable
dishonor	glory
weakness	power
natural	spiritual
Adam - a living soul from the earth	Christ - a life giving spirit from heaven
First - the natural	Second - the spiritual
cannot inherit the kingdom of God	is compatible with the kingdom of God

5. The Resurrection is the Believer's Victory (vs.51-58).

C. **The order of the resurrection.**

1. There will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. Dan.12:2, Acts 24:14-15

Jn.5:28-29 "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."

2. The first resurrection is of the righteous.

Rev.20:4-5 "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

3. Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection of the righteous believers who will be raised at his coming.

I Cor.15:22-23 “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order; Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming.

- 4. There is a second resurrection of the wicked.

Rev.20:12-13 “And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every one of them according to their deeds.”

RESURRECTIONS

I Cor. 15:23

First resurrection at the second coming of Christ

Second resurrection at the end of the millennium

Rev.20:4-5

Rev.20:12-13

<p>CHRIST “the first fruits”</p>	<p>BELIEVERS “those who are Christ’s”</p>	<p>NONBELIEVERS</p>
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