

The Resurrection and the Life

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References: **John 11**, Job 19:25-26; Psalm 16:8-11; Isaiah 25:8; 1 Corinthians 15:54; Daniel 12:2; Genesis 3:19; John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:20; Matthew 28:6; 1 Corinthians 15:17; Ephesians 2:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:53; Romans 10:9; Revelation 21:4; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

So, John chapter 11, verse 25 to 27. John chapter 11, verse 25 to 27. Thank you. Let me share my screen with you.

So, the resurrection and the life. John chapter 11, verse 25. All the Bible verses I will be reading tonight are from the King James Version, but we will look at the text together:

[John 11:25-27 NKJV]

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

These words were spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ to Martha at the tomb of her brother Lazarus. Death had entered a home. Tears were falling. Hope seemed buried beneath a stone. Yet in the midst of sorrow, the Lord Jesus did not merely offer comfort. He revealed the truth; He revealed His identity. He declared, **"I am the resurrection and the life."**

He did not say, "I can give a resurrection," but **"I am"** the resurrection. The resurrection is not merely an event; the resurrection is found in a **person**, that is, the Lord Jesus Christ. The resurrection is not merely an event that will happen someday. The resurrection is a **person**. Jesus Christ Himself is the source of life, the conqueror of death, and the fulfillment of God's promise from Genesis to Revelation.

Tonight, we are going to consider the resurrection. Let's begin with five great truths:

1. The resurrection was promised in the Old Testament.
2. The resurrection was demonstrated by Christ.

3. The resurrection gives life to believers.
 4. The resurrection calls for a personal response.
 5. The resurrection and the future glory.
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1. The Resurrection Was Promised in the Old Testament

The doctrine of resurrection did not begin in the New Testament. From the earliest pages of Scripture, God revealed His power over death. Long before the Lord Jesus stood before Lazarus's tomb, God had spoken of victory over death.

First, consider Job's hope. Job looked beyond the grave and saw a living Redeemer. Job chapter 19, verse 25:

[Job 19:25-26 NKJV]

- ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;
²⁶ And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God,

Job suffered deeply, yet he looked beyond the grief. He believed that his Redeemer lived and that he would one day stand in a resurrected body before God.

Then, look at King David's confidence. Psalm 16, verses 8 to 11. William MacDonald says in his Believer's Bible Commentary on Psalm 16, "Christ Arose," that the key to understanding Psalm 16 is found in Acts chapter 2, verses 25 to 28, where Peter quotes verses 8 to 11a as referring to the resurrection of Christ. Here is King David's confidence:

[Psalm 16:8-11 NKJV]

- ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.
¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
¹¹ You will show me the path of life;

In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

This prophecy pointed ultimately to the resurrection of Christ, as the Apostle Peter later explained in Acts 2.

Next, Isaiah's prophecy. Centuries before Christ, God promised that death would be swallowed up. Isaiah 25:8:

[Isaiah 25:8 NKJV] - He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

John Nelson Darby writes in his Synopsis of the Books of the Bible on Isaiah chapter 25:

"The resurrection of the faithful will have taken place. I say the faithful, for it is death swallowed up in victory. Moreover, 1 Corinthians 15 applies it thus."

The resurrection of the faithful will take place. Darby says "the faithful" because this is the resurrection in which death is swallowed up in victory. As the Apostle Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:54:

[1 Corinthians 15:54 NKJV] - So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

That triumph over death belongs to those who are raised in Christ, and Paul applies this very passage to their resurrection.

We also have Daniel's vision. The Old Testament saints understood that death was not the end. God has promised a resurrection. Daniel 12:2:

[Daniel 12:2 NKJV] - And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

"Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth." Sleep is a common biblical metaphor for death, especially the death of the body. The "dust of the earth" recalls humanity's creation from dust and God's sentence after the fall in Genesis chapter 3, verse 19:

[Genesis 3:19 NKJV] - In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

Daniel is speaking of those who have physically died. "Shall awake, shall awake"—this is the language of resurrection. Just as a sleeping person awakens, those who have died will be raised by God. The metaphor emphasizes that death is not the final state.

"Some to everlasting life." This refers to the righteous who are raised to receive eternal life in God's kingdom. The word everlasting indicates that this life is permanent and glorious.

"And some to shame and everlasting contempt." The wicked are also raised, but not to enjoy life with God. Instead, they are raised for judgment, resulting in shame and everlasting contempt. This is one of the strongest Old Testament affirmations that both the righteous and the wicked will experience a future resurrection, though with very different outcomes.

Why does Daniel say "many" instead of "all"? The Hebrew word translated "many" often functions inclusively rather than restrictively. In other words, it can mean "the multitude" or "the many" without implying that others are excluded. The context—the context divides those who are raised into only two groups, only two groups: those raised to everlasting life and those raised to everlasting contempt. Since no third group is mentioned, many interpreters understand "many" here as referring to humanity generally, rather than suggesting only a portion of the dead are raised.

This understanding fits well with later passages, such as John chapter 5, verses 28 and 29, where the Lord Jesus said that all who are in graves will hear His voice and come forth:

[John 5:28-29 NKJV] - ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth--those who have done

good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Daniel chapter 12, verse 2 is foundational because it shows:

- * Death is not the end of human existence.
- * God will bodily raise the dead.
- * There is a final judgment.
- * Eternal destinies differ according to one's standing before God: everlasting life for the righteous, everlasting contempt for the wicked.

The New Testament builds on this hope with passages such as 1 Corinthians 15:20, presenting the resurrection and the final judgment in greater detail:

[1 Corinthians 15:20 NKJV] - But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Daniel 12:2 finds its ultimate fulfillment through the resurrection of Christ, who guarantees the future resurrection of all humanity. The Old Testament consistently points toward a future resurrection. When the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, said, "I am the resurrection," He was declaring that He is the resurrection. Every promise of God finds its fulfillment in Him.

2. The Resurrection Was Demonstrated by Christ

The Lord Jesus did not only speak about resurrection; He demonstrated His power over death.

First, consider the raising of Lazarus. In John chapter 11, Lazarus had been dead four days. Humanly speaking, the situation was hopeless. All hope was gone. But the Lord Jesus cried, "Lazarus, come forth!" and the dead man walked out of the tomb. This miracle was a sign pointing to a greater truth: the Lord Jesus has authority over death itself.

The greatest proof came on the third day after the crucifixion. Matthew chapter 28, verse 6:

[Matthew 28:6 NKJV] - He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

The empty tomb is the foundation of our faith. 1 Corinthians 15:17 says:

[1 Corinthians 15:17 NKJV] - And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile. But the Apostle Paul triumphantly declares in the same chapter, verse 20:

[1 Corinthians 15:20 NKJV] - But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Praise the Lord, Jesus Christ is risen indeed! Jesus Christ is the resurrection because He conquered the grave. The stone was rolled away. Death could not hold Him. Because Jesus Christ rose, believers have a living hope. Our faith rests on a risen Savior.

3. The Resurrection Gives Life to Believers

The Lord Jesus said, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." This is the promise of eternal life. Physical death may come, but spiritual life in Christ can never be extinguished.

There is a spiritual resurrection **now**. Before we are physically raised, we are spiritually raised. Ephesians 2:1 says:

[Ephesians 2:1 NKJV] - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Through Christ, dead hearts come alive.

There is also a physical resurrection **later**. For the believer, death is not the end. 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verse 16:

[1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV] - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

One day graves will open, and the redeemed will rise in glorified bodies. As 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verse 53 declares:

[1 Corinthians 15:53 NKJV] - For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The Christian does not face death with despair; we face it with expectation.

4. The Resurrection Calls for a Personal Response

After declaring Himself to be the resurrection and the life, the Lord Jesus asked Martha an important question: "Believest thou this?"

That same question comes to us today. Do we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? Do we trust Him for eternal life? Resurrection hope is not found in religion, morality, or human effort. Resurrection is found in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. The issue is not merely whether we understand the doctrine of resurrection; the issue is whether we believe in the risen Christ.

Martha answered, "Yea, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world." This is the confession every sinner must make. May that be the confession of every heart here tonight. Romans chapter 10, verse 9 declares:

[Romans 10:9 NKJV] - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

If you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord—recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God—and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

5. The Resurrection and the Future Glory

The resurrection points beyond this present world. The Apostle John saw the final victory. Revelation chapter 21, verse 4:

[Revelation 21:4 NKJV] - And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." This is a beautiful picture of God's personal care for His people. Every cause of grief, loss, and suffering will be removed, and God Himself will comfort His redeemed.

"There shall be no more death." Thus, the last enemy brought into the world through sin will be abolished forever. No one in the new creation will ever die again.

"There shall be no more sorrow, nor crying, nor pain." All the consequences of living in a fallen world—grief, mourning, emotional distress, physical pain, and suffering—will come to an end. This is not merely temporary relief, but a permanent condition.

"For the former things have passed away." The present world with all its corruption, sin, and curse will have passed away. God will establish a new world, a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells, and the brokenness of the old creation will never return.

In the context of Revelation 21, this verse describes the final and eternal blessing of God's people after the resurrection and the final judgment. It fulfills the hope expressed throughout the Scripture that God will completely reverse the effects of sin and death so that His people will enjoy unbroken fellowship with Him forever. It is the consummation of the promise that death is swallowed up in victory, as written in 1 Corinthians 15:54:

[1 Corinthians 15:54 NKJV] - So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

The same Jesus who raised Lazarus and rose from the grave will one day abolish death forever. Then the words of Isaiah will be completely fulfilled: He will swallow up death in victory.

What does the resurrection mean for us today?

- * It means no grief is too deep for Christ.
- * It means no sinner is too dead for His saving power.
- * It means no believer's story ends in the cemetery.
- * It means Jesus has conquered death, hell, and the grave.

When fear comes, remember the empty tomb. When sorrow comes, remember Lazarus. When death approaches, remember the promise of Christ: "I am the resurrection and the life, and because He lives, we shall live also."

The Old Testament promised resurrection. The New Testament reveals that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that promise. His own resurrection guarantees the resurrection of all who believe in Him. Therefore, let us not fear the grave; let us not despair in times of loss. Our Savior lives. The tomb is not the end. For the child of God, death is a doorway into the presence of Christ and the promise of a glorious resurrection.

As the Lord Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." May we answer with Martha, "Yea, Lord, I believe."

You know that I always enjoy Handel's music. This next piece is "Since by Man Came Death." It is the second chorus in Part III of George Frideric Handel's Messiah, HWV 56, drawing its text from 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.

The chorus contrasts the tragedy of humanity's fall through Adam with the triumph of the resurrection through Jesus Christ. Handel vividly portrays this contrast by alternating slow, solemn music for the words "Since by man came death" with bright, joyful passages for "by man came also the resurrection of the dead." The chorus powerfully proclaims our hope that although death entered the world through Adam, eternal life and the resurrection come through the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's enjoy this together. Let me make some adjustments here.

[Smartphone connected]

[George Frideric Handel's Messiah plays: "Since By Man Came Death"]

[18:21-22 NKJV] - ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Let's pray.

Father, we thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who declared, "I am the resurrection and the life." We praise You that He conquered the grave and rose again in victory. Thank You, Father, for the promise spoken through the prophets, fulfilled in Jesus Christ and confirmed by the empty tomb.

Father, strengthen our faith when we face sorrow, uncertainty, and death. Help us to trust in the risen Savior with all our hearts. If there is anyone who has not yet believed, draw them to the Lord Jesus today, that they may receive eternal life. Comfort those who mourn, encourage those who are weary, and remind every believer that because Jesus Christ lives, we also shall live.

Fill us with the hope of the coming resurrection, when the dead in Christ shall rise and we shall be with the Lord forever. May our lives proclaim that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the resurrection of all who believe.

Separate us with Your blessings and take each of us home safely. Bring us back next week, Father. We pray and give thanks in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Fellowship & Closing Comments:

Paul: Thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you, brother. Well done. Very encouraging. Thank you.

Roy B: Paul, the Lord bless you.

Paul: Yeah, Lord bless you. Love you. Keep going, brother.

Roy B: Thank you, Roy. Thank you very much.

Dennis: Thank you, Dennis. Thank you.

Roy B: Lovely. Thank you.