

# The Resurrection is Our Hope

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In the message that I gave *How Did Death Come Upon Humans?* we saw how death came upon all of mankind, because of the fall of Adam and the deceitfulness of Satan the devil who was responsible for lying to Eve. Therefore, bringing death upon mankind because of his lies and their disobedience to God and obeying Satan rather than Him.

Today we'll take a look at the resurrection, because that is the hope of every Christian. Death came by man, but also we saw that life comes by the Man Jesus Christ Who came to this earth in the physical form, to die a horrible death in order that we could have the opportunity of a resurrection to life.

Here's an example that Abraham knew and also about the resurrection and believed in back in his day, that he had that knowledge.

Hebrews 11:17: "By faith Abraham, when he was being tried, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises offered up *his* only begotten *son* of whom it was said, 'In Isaac shall your Seed be called'; *because he* reckoned that God was able to raise him even from among *the* dead, from which he also received him in a figurative way" (vs 17-19). We see here that Abraham knew about the resurrection and he believed that even though that if it required taking Isaac's life, that he could be resurrected again.

Our hope and faith, like Abraham's—the father of the faithful—is to obtain eternal life in the first resurrection, or if still alive, to be changed in 'a moment, in the twinkling of an eye' when Christ returns as Paul tells us.

Verse 27: "By faith he [Moses] left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he persevered, as *if he were* seeing the *One Who is* invisible." Moses looked forward to seeing the One Who is invisible and have the opportunity to be like Him some day as we all hope to have eternal life in His Family and His Kingdom.

We know that the One Who became Christ appeared to Abraham and others. He also appeared His disciples after His resurrection in a physical form, even eating with them. It says that 'we cannot look upon His glorified form and live.' To truly see God face-to-face we must be like Him in a spiritual form, not one composed of this flesh, which is earthy, fleshly; but obtaining or being in the first resurrection, which will allow us to be able to have that opportunity just as Abraham, Moses and others, to see God in His glorified form, because we will be glorified and be able to see Him face-to-face.

Verse 35: "Women received their dead restored to life; and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a **superior resurrection.**" Our hope is to be in that first resurrection that is said to be 'the best resurrection.'

Let's go to the Old Testament and we'll look at some resurrections that occurred there. We're familiar with some in the New Testament, but too often we don't think of those that are recorded in the Old Testament or Old Covenant.

We see a story here where Elijah is able to raise up—God is the One Who did it—a widow's son back to life.

1-Kings 17:17: "And it came to pass that after these things, the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick. And his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. And she said to Elijah, 'What do I have to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to call my sin to remembrance and to kill my son?' And he said to her, 'Give me your son.' And he took him out of her bosom... [he must have been a fairly young child] ...and carried him up into a loft, where he stayed, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried to the LORD, and said, 'O LORD my God, have You also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn by slaying her son?' And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the LORD, and said, 'O LORD my God, please let this child's life come to him again.' And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child came into him again, and he lived. And Elijah took the child and brought him down out of the room into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, 'See! Your son lives!' And the woman said to Elijah, 'Now by this I know that you *are* a man of God, and that the Word of the Lord in your mouth is Truth'" (vs 17-24).

We see the example here—the first one recorded that I could find—where Elijah raises up a widow's son.

Here's an example where Elisha raises up the Shunammite's son, 2-Kings 4:30: "And the mother of the child said, 'As the LORD lives, and *as* your soul lives, I will not leave you.' And he arose and followed her." This lady had come to Elisha and she didn't tell him what was wrong at first, but he knew something was wrong.

So, Elisha said, v 29: "Then he said to Gehazi, 'Bind up your loins and take my staff in your hand, and go. If you meet any man, do not greet

him. And if any greet you, do not answer him again. And lay my staff upon the face of the child.’ And the mother of the child said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.’ And he arose and followed her. And Gehazi passed on before them and laid the staff upon the face of the child. But there *was* no voice nor hearing. And he turned back to meet him and told him, saying, ‘The boy has not awakened.’” (vs 29-31).

Verse 32: “And Elisha had come to the house. And behold, the boy was dead, and laid out upon his bed. And he went in and shut the door upon the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. And he went up and lay upon the boy, and put his mouth upon his mouth and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands. And he stretched himself upon the boy. And the flesh of the boy became warm. And he returned and walked in the house to and fro. And *he* went up and stretched himself upon him. Then the boy sneezed seven times, and the boy opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi and said, ‘Call this Shunammite.’ And he called her, and she came in to him. And he said, ‘Take up your son!’ And she went in and fell at his feet and bowed to the ground, and took up her son, and went out” (vs 32-37).

So, we see this example where Elisha was able, through God—pleading to Him and asking Him; and we realize that he didn’t right away jump up—that Elijah walked back to and fro, and I’m sure praying, and went back again and this time God caused the boy to sneeze and life came back into him and Elisha was able give back a son to his mother.

2-Kings 13—this was in a time of war where this man was brought back to life just by touching the bones as he was lowered into the gravesite or tomb of Elisha.

2-Kings 13:20: “And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the first of the year. Now it came to pass as they were burying a man, behold, they spied a band *of men*. And they threw the man into the grave of Elisha. And the man went down and touched the bones of Elisha, and revived and stood up on his feet” (vs 20-21). So, we see another occasion, an example, of the dead being brought back to life.

This is three examples that we’ve looked at. Let’s go now to the New Testament and we’ll look at some examples there.

Luke 7:11: “Now, it came to pass on the next *day that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a great multitude.... [there were a lot of people accompanying them] ...And as He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, *one* who had died was being carried out, an only son to his mother, and she was a

widow; and a considerable crowd from the city *was* with her. And when the Lord saw her, He was moved with compassion for her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’ And He came up to the bier *and* touched *it*, and those who were bearing *it* stopped. Then He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise!’ And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and He gave him to his mother. Then fear seized everyone, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great Prophet has risen up among us,’ and, ‘God has visited His people’” (vs 11-16). Here we see the resurrection of a young man by Jesus Christ.

Luke 8:41: “And behold, a man came whose name *was* Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue; and after falling at Jesus’ feet, he begged Him to come to his house, because his only daughter, about twelve years *old*, was dying.... [this case gives the age of the child] ...And as He went, the multitudes were thronging Him. And a woman who had been *afflicted* with a flow of blood for twelve years, *and* had spent *her* whole living on physicians, *but* could not be cured by anyone” (vs 41-43). It kind of breaks in here and gives the story of this lady who was also healed.

Verse 49 picks up about this young child, daughter of the ruler of the synagogue: “While He was yet speaking, one came from the ruler of the synagogue’s *house*, saying to him, ‘Your daughter has died. Do not trouble the Master.’ But hearing *this*, Jesus answered him, saying, ‘Do not be afraid. Only believe, and she shall be restored.’ And when He went into the house, He did not allow anyone to go in *with Him* except Peter and James and John, and the father and the mother of the child. And they were all weeping and bewailing her. But He said, ‘Do not weep. She is not dead, but is sleeping.’ Then they laughed at Him, knowing that she was dead. But after putting everyone outside, He took hold of her hand and called out, saying, ‘Child, arise.’.... [be resurrected] ...And her spirit returned, and she immediately arose; and He directed *that something* to eat should be given to her. And her parents were amazed, but He charged them not to tell anyone what had happened” (vs 49-56). We see the resurrection there of Jarius’ daughter, by Christ.

John 11:17: “And so, when Jesus came, He found *that* he had already been lying in the tomb *for* four days. Now, Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs away, and many of the Jews had come to *join* those around Martha and Mary, so that they might console them concerning their brother. And when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she *went and* met Him. But Mary was sitting in the house. And Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. **But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.**’” (vs 11-22).

So, she had faith that Christ could raise even the dead. We'll later where she knew about the resurrection.

Verse 23: "Jesus said to her, 'Your brother shall rise again.' Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'" (vs 23-24). So, they had the knowledge of the resurrection. Christ had taught them; they had knowledge of the resurrection and about the last day. As John said, 'There are many things that are not written' about Jesus Christ; the things and the miracles that were done. He says that if that were so, there would not be enough books to contain them.

Verse 25: Jesus said to her, '**I am the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in Me, though he die, shall live *again*; and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall not die forever. Do you believe this?' She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, Who was to come into the world.' And after saying these things, she went away and secretly called her sister Mary, saying, 'The Teacher has come and is calling *for* you.' When she heard *this*, she rose up quickly and came to Him. Now, Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha had met Him. Therefore, when the Jews who were with Mary in the house, consoling her, saw that she had quickly risen up and gone out, they followed her, saying, 'She is going to the tomb to weep there.'" (vs 25-31).

Verse 32: "Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was *and* saw Him, fell at His feet, saying to Him, 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.' As a result, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in spirit and was Himself inwardly moved. And He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, 'See how much He loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not this Man, Who had the power to open the eyes of the blind, also have caused this one not to die?'" (vs 32-37).

Verse 38: "Because of this, Jesus again groaned within Himself *as* He came to the tomb. Now, it was a cave and a stone was laid over the opening. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of him who had died, said to Him, 'Lord, he already stinks, for it has been four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not say to you that if you will believe, you shall see the glory of God?'" (vs 38-39).

Verse 41: "Then they removed the stone *from the tomb* where the dead man had been laid. And Jesus lifted *His* eyes upward and said, 'Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You hear Me always; but because of the people who

stand around I say *this*, so that they may believe that You did send Me.' And after He had spoken these things, He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth.' And he who had been dead came forth, his feet and hands bound with grave clothes, and his face bound up with a napkin. Jesus said to them, 'Loose him and let *him* go' Then many of the Jews who had come to *console* Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done'" (vs 41-46).

Verse 47: "Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, 'What shall we do? For this Man does many miracles.'"

We can see what 'religion' can do to people, and that the Pharisees weren't afraid. Later on they took counsel and we know that they were responsible for the death of Christ, even though it was put in the hands of the Romans to do the murdering. But they wanted to kill Lazarus. You think that they would have been afraid to kill a man that they knew personally that God had resurrected back from the dead. It goes to show how the mind gets so twisted in certain beliefs—beliefs about God and their own 'religion' and ideas—and it's scattered throughout all the 'religions' of the world, not just the Jews and the Pharisees of their day.

A man can get so positive in his own 'righteous' beliefs that here they were willing to kill a man that was a miracle and had been resurrected.

Matthew 28:5: "But the angel answered *and* said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you are seeking Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here; for **He has risen**, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord Himself was lying. And go quickly, *and* tell His disciples that **He has risen from the dead**. And behold, He goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see Him. Listen! I have told you'" (vs 5-7). They came to the tomb expecting to find Christ still there, but He had been resurrected, He had risen, just as He said He would.

Matthew 27:52: "So that the tombs were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had died, were resurrected after His resurrection... [after Christ's resurrection] ...*and* they came out of the tombs. *Then* they entered into the Holy city, and appeared to many" (vs 52-53).

We see where there were many people who were resurrected after Jesus Christ's resurrection that they came out of the tombs back to life and they went into the city.

The story of Tabitha and Peter had a part in her resurrection, Acts 9:36: "Now, *there* was in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha; which, being interpreted, is called Dorcas. She was full of good

works and of alms that she did.” She did many good things for a lot of the people.

Verse 37: “And it came to pass in those days *that* she became sick and died; and after washing her, they put *her* in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, beseeching *him* not to delay to come to them. Then Peter arose *and* went with them; *and* when he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood around him, weeping and showing *him the* tunics and garments that Dorcas had made while she was with them. But after putting everyone out, Peter fell to his knees and prayed. Then, turning to the body, he said, ‘Tabitha, arise.’ And she opened her eyes; and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her *his* hand *and helped* her stand up; and after calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And this became known throughout the whole *city* of Joppa, and many believed in the Lord” (vs 37-42).

Again, we see the resurrection of Tabitha taking place, who was called Dorcas and was well known and had done many good deeds. All the people were weeping because of her death. God brought her back to life using people. Again, proof of a resurrection, giving hope to people; knowing that there is life after death.

We look at these examples—three in the Old Testament and six in the New Testament—and we know that *it is the hope of every Christian to be in the first resurrection*. God promises that there will be a first resurrection, and then later others as the plan of God will be revealed and He will bring to fruition. When God says something it is good, it is to be done and we know that it will be done. We can have faith and hope in our resurrection or change.

2-Corinthians 4:14: “Knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus *from the dead* shall also raise us through Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.” Just as Christ was raised back from the dead and the others, as we’ve read, there’s also a promise through Jesus Christ that God the Father also has resurrection promised for His people.

Proverbs 14: 32: “When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but the righteous, even when he is brought to death, has hope.” That hope is a resurrection back to life.

Job 14:14: “If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time *in the grave* I will wait, until my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall have the desire for the work of Your hands” (vs 14-15).

Job knew and believed in a resurrection back to life. He said that he would wait until that change came. Speaking of that change from mortal

to immortal, as Paul talks about (1-Cor. 15).

Job 19:25: “For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, and *that* He shall stand upon the earth in the latter days; and *though worms* destroy my skin *and body*, yet apart from my flesh shall I see God” (vs 25-26). Job knew that even though the body goes back to the earth, decomposes, that God will bring back him to life in a resurrection to immortality, not to mortal life.

These are some of the Scriptures—there are many others—that tells us the hope, the faith that Job and others had—Abraham, as we saw earlier in Hebrews—that there would be a resurrection back to life; that we can be resurrected and our loved ones in the plan of God. So, this should be very encouraging to not only us, but to those who don’t have a full understanding or knowledge of what God’s plan is for mankind.

Isaiah 26:19: “Your dead ones shall live, *together with* my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust; for your dew *is as* the dew of lights, and the earth shall cast out the dead.” Another Scripture talking about the dead being raised up again.

Romans 4:17: “(exactly as it is written: ‘I have made you a father of many nations.’) before God in Whom he believed, Who gives life to the dead, and calls the things that are not as though they are.” Again, a promise that God Whom we believe gives life to the dead.

John 6:38: “For I did not come down from heaven to do My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me. And this is the will of the Father Who sent Me: that *of all* whom He has given Me, I should not lose any, but should raise them up in the last day” (vs 38-39).

We see a promise here, v 40: “And this is the will of Him Who sent Me: that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” The last day Christ will resurrect the saints, He will give them life. This is a promise that’s sure, something that we can count on. Something that every day when we awaken, we can realize that the promises of God are sure and He cannot lie.

Hopefully these Scriptures are an encouragement to all of us, the promise that God has for us that death cannot hold you in the grave. That God will resurrect and bring all His saints back to life and other people, too, as His plan goes forward.

Acts 24:15: “Having hope in God, which they themselves also acknowledge, *that there* will be a resurrection of *the* dead—both *the* just and *the* unjust.” God will bring those back to life again.

John 5:28: Do not wonder at this, for *the* hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth: those who have practiced good unto a resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil unto a resurrection of judgment” (vs 28-29). Talking about the life and there is going to be judgment.

All in the plan of God will have an opportunity at some point to know the Truth, to have His Holy Spirit, to repent and to build the very character of God. We are striving each day to build the character of God ourselves, by and through the power of the Holy Spirit, which God has given us, and with the help of God the Father and Jesus Christ. There is a resurrection of the dead for both the just and the unjust.

Daniel 12:2: “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Daniel was told, which hopefully can be said of us, v 13: “But you, go your way till the end be, for you shall rest and stand in your lot at the end of the days.”

Daniel, and David as well, we know are promised life, coming up in a resurrection. David will be king over all of Israel. Many shall sleep in the dust of the earth and they will arise.

Matthew 16:27: “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall render to everyone according to his doings.” Showing that Christ is coming back with His Holy angels and giving an reward to the saints, those who have died and those who will still be alive at His coming.

2-Corinthians 1:9: “For we had the sentence of death within ourselves...” We all did; we were all under the death penalty. We all had to repent and accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, to be able to receive His Holy Spirit upon the baptism of being submerged in water.

“...so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God, Who raises the dead.” Another Scripture showing that it is God Who raises the dead and we will have a resurrection.

1-Corinthians 15:21: “For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came the* resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die... [he brought the death sentence upon all of us] ...so also in Christ... [God Who came from heaven to become a man] ...shall all be made alive. **But each in his own order...**” (vs 21-23). God does have an order, plan and a time. As He told Daniel, ‘You will come up at the last day.’

“...Christ *the* Firstfruit; then, those who are

Christ’s at His coming. Afterwards the end *comes*, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to Him Who *is* God and Father, when He shall have put an end to all rule and all authority and power” (vs 23-24).

Verse 45: Accordingly, it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living soul; the last Adam *became* an ever-living Spirit.’

Verse 47: “The first man *is* of the earth—made of dust. The second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *is* the one made of dust, so also *are all* those who are made of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *one*, so also *are all* those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *one* made of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *One*” (vs 47-49).

We are made in the image of God and His likeness. So, whatever spiritual form that we have, we’re going to look like God and have a body that looks like God’s body.

Verse 50: “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *the* Kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed” (vs 50-51). All have to be changed from this mortal, physical flesh to a spiritual body that God will give us in the resurrection.

Verse 52: “In an instant, in *the* twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for *the* trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility, and this mortal must put on immortality. Now, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruptibility, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? Now the sting of death *is* sin, and the power of sin *is* the law” (vs 52-56)—which shows us what sin is.

Verse 57: “But thanks *be* to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in *the* Lord” (vs 57-58).

1-Thessalonians 4:13: “But I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren...” Paul is plainly saying here that he wants us to be aware of this; I want you to have knowledge and understanding.

“...concerning those who have fallen asleep, that you be not grieved, even as others, who have no hope” (v 13). They don’t know about the resurrection, or if they do they don’t fully understand it or believe the hope and the whole

promise that God gives to His people. They think they're either going to heaven or to hell, or somewhere in between. They don't understand and they're not taught. The world does not understand, nor are they taught these things, because Satan wants them to remain under that cloud-cover of deception.

Verse 14: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." That's the resurrected saints when He comes back as King of kings and Lord of lords to put down this worldly, Babylonish satanic system.

Verse 15: "For this we say to you by *the* Word of *the* Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep, because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words" (vs 15-18).

So, we have looked at Scriptures today concerning the resurrection, those in the Old Testament that there proofs that there was a resurrection and God could bring them back to life. We also looked at several in the New Testament. Then several Scriptures we have gone over here concerning the promise of the resurrection given by God.

Like Job and Abraham we can look forward to the resurrection of change from this mortal to immortal, to having a spiritual body and have immortality; a life with God the Father and Jesus Christ, and we will be able to see Them face-to-face!

These Scriptures are proof and a handy reference *to our future as the sons and daughters of God!* Let's take *hope and encouragement in the Scriptures and promises that God has given us, and the hope of eternal life He has laid before us!*

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Hebrews 11:17-19, 27, 35
- 2) 1 Kings 17:17-24
- 3) 2 Kings 4:30, 29, 20-37
- 4) 2 Kings 13:20-21
- 5) Luke 7:11-16
- 6) Luke 8:41-43, 49-56
- 7) John 11:17-39, 41-47
- 8) Matthew 28:5-7
- 9) Matthew 27:52-53
- 10) Acts 9:36-2
- 11) 2 Corinthians 4:14

- 12) Proverbs 14:32
- 13) Job 14:14-15
- 14) Job 19:25-26
- 15) Isaiah 26:19
- 16) Romans 4:17
- 17) John 6:38-40
- 18) Acts 24:15
- 19) John 5:28-29
- 20) Daniel 12:2, 13
- 21) Matthew 16:27
- 22) 2 Corinthians 1:9
- 23) 1 Corinthians 15:21-24, 45, 47-58
- 24) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Also referenced: Sermon:

*How Did Death Come Upon Humans?*

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