

Let us bow our heads; If we need to use the Recovery Procedure as found in 1 John 1:9, let us do so at this time that we might be in fellowship. (pause) Father, we thank you for the privilege and opportunity to study your word and for the freedom that you have provided for us here. Furthermore, we express our appreciation to God the Holy Spirit who will enlighten us regarding the message this evening. We as priests pray this through the person of our Lord Christ Jesus, our High Priest, Amen.

Resurrection to be taught:

Outline:

- 1. Resurrection must not be confused with resuscitation:**
- 2. Details leading up to and including His Resurrection: **exclude****
- 3. The Power involved in His Resurrection: **exclude****
- 4. The Lord's Resurrection guarantees our Resurrection:**
- 5. Our Resurrection is the Lord's Victory:**
- 6. There are two general resurrections namely the First and the Second:**
- 7. Old Testament applications related to Resurrection:**
- 8. Though the Resurrection of Christ is part of the Gospel-Message, it is not a necessary part:**
- 9. The Importance of Resurrection as it relates to Salvation:**

Resurrection must not be confused with resuscitation:

Resuscitation defines a person who has died and then is brought to life in the body in which he died. For example, Lazarus was resuscitated by Jesus [brought back to life in his mortal body and subsequently died]; Paul resuscitated a boy [returned life to his mortal body] who fell out of a window; two boys in the Old Testament were resuscitated [life was returned to their mortal bodies], and Elijah and Moses residing in their interim bodies in heaven will return to the earth in the last half of the Tribulation. After their ministries on the earth will have been completed, they will be murdered by Abaddon. However, they will be resuscitated and ascend into heaven with their interim bodies. Then, at the 2nd Advent, these interim bodies will be transformed into eternal resurrected bodies: corruption will become incorruption]. On the other hand, resurrection means to be given an eternal body which does not corrupt or die.

The Lord's Resurrection guarantees our Resurrection:

1 Thessalonians 4:13, "But we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, about those who are asleep [the body sleeps as it were until the believer resurrects, gets up from his sleep], that you may not grieve as do the rest [the unbelievers] who have no confidence [regarding eternity]."

Ignorance is the greatest problem with Christianity today, and it is not an easy problem to solve especially since most Christian do not think that learning the Word of God is important.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-16, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and we do. So, in the same manner, the God [the omnipotence of God the Father] will bring with Him those [in interim bodies] who have fallen asleep [died] by [the will of] Jesus (15) for this we communicate to you by the word of the Lord, that we [Paul identifies himself with the Rapture generation] who are alive and remain until the coming of the

Lord [at the Rapture], will not precede [in meeting the Lord in the air at the Rapture of the Church] those who have fallen asleep [died]. [There will be one generation of believers who will be alive when the resurrection takes place.]. (16) because the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a command [will give a command through Gabriel], with the voice of the archangel [for mortality to receive immortality, a reference to those alive at the Rapture] and with the trumpet of God [the Father's trumpet command for the corruption of the interim body of those who have died before the Rapture to become the incorruption of an eternal body], in fact, the dead in Christ [those having died before the Rapture] will rise first [in their resurrection bodies].”

Notice that at the resurrection there are two commands. The voice command of the archangel is for the resurrection of Christians alive on the earth, mortal becoming immortal, from having a mortal body to having a resurrection body. There is also a trumpet command of God the Father which command is blown for the resurrection of those believers who will have died before the Rapture: the corruption of the interim body will be transformed into the incorruption of the Resurrection body.

Since both God the Father and God the Holy Spirit provided the humanity of Christ with his resurrection body so will they provide the resurrection bodies of Church Age believers at the Rapture of the Church. The Father will use his power in providing the resurrection bodies of those who have already died, whereas God the Holy Spirit will provide the resurrection bodies of those who will be alive at the Rapture.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54, “Now this I affirm, brethren, that flesh and blood [the mortal body] cannot inherit the kingdom of God [in the sense of the eternal state], nor does corruption [the interim body] inherit incorruption. (51) Behold, I teach you a mystery: [the resurrection of Church Age-believers about which there is no prophecy in the Old Testament] we shall not all sleep [in this analogy, sleep applies only to the physical body (not to the soul).

The body “sleeps” because the soul and spirit are absent from that body in an interim body waiting for the resurrection.], but we shall be changed [receive a resurrection body], (52) in a moment, in the winking of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead [those in interim bodies] will be raised incorruptible, and we [Church Age believers alive at Rapture] shall be changed [mortality becomes immortality]. (53) For this perishable [the interim body of those Christians who will have died before the Rapture] must put on imperishable [an eternal body], and this mortal [the mortal body of those alive at the Rapture] must put on immortality [eternal body], (54) but when this perishable [the believer in his interim body] shall have put on the imperishable [resurrection body], and this mortal [the believer alive at the Rapture] shall have put on immortality [resurrection body], then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in [as a result of] victory [All Christians both the evil and the great will receive a resurrection body and live with God for all eternity]”

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18, “Then, we [Paul identifies himself with those who will be alive at the Rapture] who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (18) Therefore, comfort one another with these words.”

These doctrines are a source of comfort when you have lost Christian loved ones since the separation is only temporary. They are in heaven in their interim bodies waiting for the Rapture just as you. These doctrines are a source of blessing as you face the adversities of life and realize that there is something far beyond this life, and that God will provide for you an eternal body to be enjoyed in both the Millennium and in the eternal state, a permanent body that will never experience pain or deterioration in any possible way.

The Promise of the Rapture: John 14:1-3, "Do not let your heart [the mentality of the soul] be troubled [addressing future Church age believers]; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you [addressed to the apostles but applies to future Church Age believers]; for I go to prepare a place for you [the groom prepares a home for his bride]. If I go [ascension] and prepare a place for you, I will come again [Rapture] and receive you [the Church, his bride] to myself [the ceremony: the bride is presented to the groom], that where I am, there you may be also."

1 John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears [at the Rapture], we will be like Him [a resurrection body similar to that of Jesus] because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone [the believer with momentum] who keeps having this confidence [from doctrine in the soul] in him purifies himself [by advancing in fellowship] just as that one is pure [the humanity of Christ remained in fellowship with God during the 1st Advent]."

James gives us an admonition in James 5:7-8, "Therefore, brethren, have patience until the coming of the Lord [Rapture]. The farmer waits with anticipation for the valuable production of the soil, constantly being patient until it has received the early and the latter rains. Have patience! Furthermore, all of you become stabilized in your stream of consciousness because the coming of the Lord [Rapture] has approached with the result that it is drawing nearer and nearer."

Titus 2:13, "Waiting with keen anticipation for that blessed hope [Rapture], even the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."

Three times in Revelation is the phrase, "I am coming soon": Revelation

22:7, 12, 20. Remember that, to the Lord, a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day. This statement was made in A.D. 96, and this is now A.D. 2024. Therefore, "soon" connotes imminency (meaning that there is no intervening prophecy before the Rapture), not immediacy [not a time concept]. God the Father has not made known to us when the Rapture is to take place. However, if we should know when the 2nd Advent should occur, but we don't as per Matthew 24, we could merely subtract seven years and so ascertain the date of the Rapture.

Matthew 24:36, "But concerning that day and hour [of the 2nd Advent] no one knows, not even the [elect] angels of heaven nor the Son [a reference to the humanity of Christ], but the Father alone [in other words, only the Godhead knows]."

The Significance of Resurrection as the Lord's Victory:

In John 11:25, Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me shall live [in resurrection-bodies forever] even if He dies."

So, why are you weeping and wailing about the death of Lazarus! Just as the death of the believer is the Lord's victory, so the resurrection of the believer is the Lord's victory. The resurrection of the believer is the wise and sovereign decision of God. This means that the believer's volition, cognition, and individual merit are not factors in the resurrection of the Church. Winners and losers alike will receive a resurrection body equally. So, resurrection is strictly the Lord's victory. For just as we have no control over the manner or time of our death, so we have no control over the manner or time of our resurrection. This is completely a matter of the wisdom and sovereignty of God.

There are two general resurrections namely the First and the Second:

The Resurrection of Christ is the Pattern for the First Resurrection which is pictured as a battalion pass-in-review, and therefore, is divided into four

echelons, Alpha Company, the resurrection of Christ at the end of the great power experiment of the Hypostatic Union. Secondly, Bravo Company, the resurrection of the royal family of God at the end of the great power experiment of the Church Age. Third, Charlie Company, the resurrection of the Old Testament believers and martyrs of the Tribulation at the Second Advent. Finally, Delta Company, the resurrection of the millennial saints at the end of the Millennium. The Second Resurrection is for unbelievers only. They will be resurrected to face the Great White Throne Judgment. After which, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever.

Old Testament applications related to Resurrection:

Though those in the Old Testament did not know about the Church Age and its culmination at the Rapture, the doctrine of resurrection was well known by the greats of the Old Testament. As examples, we will use Daniel, Job and Joseph although there are many others that we could have cited.

Daniel 12:2, “And many of those who sleep [who have died] in the dust of the ground will awake [analogous to receiving a resurrection body], those to everlasting life [at the 2nd Advent], and that is the First Resurrection, but others to disgrace and everlasting shame [to those who reject the gospel message].”

Job made application to the doctrine of resurrection in the time of his suffering,

In Job 19:25-26, Job turned to the doctrine of resurrection for comfort in his suffering, “And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives [resurrection after the redemptive work on the cross], and at last, He will take His stand on the earth [2nd Advent]. (26) Even after my skin is destroyed [for that is all that is left], yet out from my flesh, I [in my resurrection body] shall see God.”

Joseph ordered, while he was dying, that his bones (body) be taken to the land promised by the Lord.

Hebrews 11:22, “By faith, Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus to the sons of Israel and gave orders concerning his bones.”

Genesis 50:24-26, “And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you, so that He will take you up from this land [Egypt] to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.’ (25) Then, Joseph made the sons of Israel take an oath, saying, ‘God is going to deliver you. Therefore, you will carry my bones up from this place.’ (26) So, Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin [above ground] in Egypt.”

His coffin remained above ground for over four hundred years as a testimony that he knew he would be resurrected and so wanted to be resurrected from the Promised Land. In Exodus 13:19, we see that Joseph’s coffin went with the Jews as they left Egypt. For forty years, it was carried through the desert as a testimony of the faithfulness of God in bringing them into the Land of Promise and the certainty of resurrection.

In Joshua 24:32, “Now they buried the bones of Joseph, which the sons of Israel brought up from Egypt, at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of money, and they became the inheritance of Joseph’s sons.”

Though the Resurrection of Christ is part of the Gospel-Message, it is not a necessary part:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died [a substitutionary spiritual death] for our sins [propitiation,

reconciliation and redemption] according to the Scriptures, (4) and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures [Even though the Corinthians had rejected the entire concept of resurrection, they were saved. So, after salvation as Christians, Paul had to teach them this important doctrine.],”

Most unbelievers know very little about propitiation, reconciliation, redemption and in most cases know nothing about the resurrection of Christ when they express their faith in Him. All the same, they are saved. However, some unbelievers will not believe apart from understanding something about resurrection. For example, James the half-brother of Christ obviously heard the gospel clearly presented many times, but it was not until he saw the resurrected Christ that he believed [faith alone in Christ alone]. Other unbelievers hear only the story about Nicodemus and believe in Christ and are eternally saved; still others are told only that Jesus bore the punishment of their sins on the cross and so believe in Him. They do so and are eternally saved. So, although the unbeliever needs some information, it does not take much information for the Holy Spirit to convince the unbeliever to make a decision. Of course, the more information one gives to the unbeliever, the better.

John 16:8, “And when that one comes, he will convince the world concerning sin [the sin of rejecting Christ as savior; sometimes understanding Christ’s resurrection will help to prevent this rejection] and concerning righteousness [the need for imputed righteousness, a perfect righteousness] and concerning judgment [if you should not respond to the good news, you will be condemned and judged just as Satan was].”

There are two major points regarding good news in John 16:8 namely the need to believe in Christ and the need for God’s righteousness which God provides at salvation.

The Importance of Resurrection as it relates to Salvation:

1 Corinthians 15:12-14, “Now, if Christ is proclaimed that He has been raised from the dead [in resurrection body], how do some among you say that there is no resurrection out from the dead? (13) But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised, (14) and if Christ has not been raised, then our communication is in vain, your faith also is in vain [for if there is no resurrection, there is no eternal life].”

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Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: rbthieme.org