

Two Resurrections

John 5:25:29

²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 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.

Introduction:

by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D *

Importance of the Resurrection

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. Everything else that was said or done by Christ and the apostles is secondary in importance to the resurrection. If the resurrection did not take place then Christianity is a false religion. If it did take place, then Christ is God and the Christian faith is absolute truth.

Death is our greatest enemy and it has conquered all men but Christ. No man is wise enough to outwit death or wealthy enough to purchase freedom from death or strong enough to vanquish death. The grave always wins the victory and every person sooner or later returns to the dust.

In fact, the inexorable triumph of death applies not only to people, but to all things. Animals die and plants die, and even whole species atrophy and become extinct. Cities and nations, like people, are born and grow for a season, and then fade away. Homes and automobiles and clothes wear out and must eventually go back to the dust, just as do their owners. Even the universe itself is running down and heading toward an ultimate "heat death."

This universal reign of decay and death is called in the Bible "the bondage of corruption" ([Romans 8:21](#)). In science it has come to be recognized as the Second Law of Thermodynamics. Also known as the Law of Increasing Entropy, this Law is now recognized as a universal law of science, with no known exception ever observed. It says, quite simply that every system tends to become disordered, to run down and eventually to die. Its entropy, which is a measure of disorder, always tends to increase. The universality of the reign of decay and death is the measure of the absolute uniqueness of the resurrection of Christ. All other men, even the greatest men and the holiest men, have died. Buddha, Mohammed, Zoroaster, Confucius, Caesar, Marx--men who made a profound impact on the world in one way or another--are all dead. But Jesus Christ is alive! It is true that He died and was buried, in common with all other men, but unlike other men He returned from Hades, resurrected His own dead body, made it henceforth immortal, and emerged from the tomb, alive forevermore! This was the greatest of all miracles since the creation itself, and could have been accomplished only if Jesus indeed is God, as He had claimed to be.

if the resurrection is really a demonstrable fact of history, then not only are His claims vindicated, but so are His promises. Death is not, after all, the great victor, but is a defeated foe. He has "begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" ([1 Peter 1:3](#)). "Now is Christ risen from the

dead . . . even so in Christ shall all be made alive" ([1 Corinthians 15:20, 22](#)).

Without the resurrection, it is quite certain there would have been no Christian church. With the ignominious death of their Master, His disciples were utterly confused and afraid for their own lives. There is no possibility that they could have continued as teachers of the Nazarene's doctrines, and even less that others could have been persuaded to follow them, in those circumstances.

What are some Evidences of the Resurrection

The Empty Tomb

The first evidence the disciples had for the resurrection was that of the empty tomb, and this evidence is still unanswerable

The Appearances of Christ

Not only was the tomb empty, but the disciples actually saw their resurrected Lord, on at least ten separate occasions after He left the tomb. These appearances were probably in the following order:

- 1 To Mary Magdalene ([John 20:11-18](#); [Mark 16:9](#))
- 2 To the other women ([Matthew 28:8-10](#))
- 3 To Peter ([Luke 24:34](#); [1 Corinthians 15:5](#))
- 4 To the two on the road to Emmaus ([Luke 24:13-35](#); [Mark 16:12](#))

- 5 To ten of the disciples (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-29)
- 6 To all eleven disciples, eight days later (John 20:24-29)
- 7 To seven disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-23)
- 8 To five hundred followers (1 Corinthians 15:6)
- 9 To James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- 10 To the eleven, at the ascension (Acts 1:3-12)

The Witness of the Apostles

Now it is completely impossible that the apostles could have preached and written as they did unless they were absolutely sincere and under deep conviction of the truth of what they preached. They had instantaneously changed from craven runaways to bold Spirit-filled proclaimers of Christ and the resurrection. Such preaching cost them the loss of their possessions, intense persecution, and finally the loss of their lives, but they kept preaching as long as strength permitted. Multitudes who believed what they were preaching suffered the same persecutions.

No wonder then, in view of the combined evidences of the empty tomb, the numerous appearances, the change in the disciples, and the authenticity of the records, not to mention the testimony of two thousand years of Christian history, that such a man as Thomas Arnold, formerly Professor of History at Rugby and Oxford, one of the world's great historians, could say:

"I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better, fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died, and rose again from the dead."1

In like manner, Simon Greenleaf, one of the most skilled legal minds ever produced in this nation, top authority on the question of what constitutes sound evidence, developer of the Harvard Law School, after a thorough evaluation of the four Gospel accounts from the point of view of their validity as objective testimonial evidence, concluded:

"It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they had narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact."2

The Resurrection IS Certain

IT Happened

I heard a story the other day about a man that went on vacation to the Holy Land with his wife and mother-in-law. Half way through their trip, the

mother-in-law dies, so this guy goes to an undertaker who explains that they can ship the body home, but it will cost \$5,000 or they can bury her in the Holy Land for \$150.

The son-in-law says, "Let's just go ahead and ship her home." The undertaker said, "Are you sure? That is an awfully big expense and I can assure you we do a very nice burial here." The son-in-law said, "Look, two-thousand years ago they buried a guy here and three days later, he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance!"

. Job asks this question in **Job 14:14**, "If a man dies, will he live *again?*" And then he answers with confidence, "All the days of my struggle I will wait until my change comes".

1. He believed in a resurrection.

1. All people, both believers and unbelievers, will one day be raised from the dead. Everyone will live forever, consciously

and individually.

11. In **Genesis 22** when Abraham was told to go to Mount Moriah to sacrifice his son Isaac, he told the young men in verse 5, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”
12. He was confident that both he and Isaac would return from the sacrifice because he knew “that God is able to raise people even from the dead” (**Heb.11:19**), and would do so, if it was necessary to keep His Word.
13. Daniel said in **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.”
11. Job again said in **Job 19:25-27**, “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.
²⁶ Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; ²⁷ whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!
11. The New Testament also teaches a physical bodily resurrection.
12. **Paul said in Philippians 3:20-21**, “ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble

state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

18. **He also wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:16**, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”

19. To the Corinthians he said in **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**, “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

18. Jesus not only spoke of the resurrection but He raised the dead.

19. We hear Him in **John 11** say at the tomb of Lazarus, “Lazarus, come forth.”

20. Verse 44 says, “The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’”

23. We saw in our last study where Jesus raised the synagogue official’s daughter from the dead in **Matthew 9:18-25**.

24. We also saw in **Luke 7:11-15** where he raised a man from the dead who had lived in the city of Nain.
25. **The apostles also preached the resurrection.**
26. **Acts 4:2** records that the Jewish authorities were “greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”
27. Not only did the apostle’s preach the resurrection from the dead but **Peter in Acts 9** does this very thing.
23. **Acts 9:36-42** says, “Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated *in Greek* is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.³⁷ And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, “Do not delay in coming to us.³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.⁴⁰ But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, ‘Tabitha, arise.’ And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.⁴² It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

29. As we come to **John chapter 5, Jesus is still responding to the Jews who had accused Him of breaking the Sabbath** when He healed the cripple man at Bethesda.
30. *He responds in verses 17-24 by saying that He was equal to God in His Person (vv.17-18), His works (vv.19-20), His power and sovereignty (v.21), His judgment (v.22) and His honor (vv.23-24).*
31. Now in verses 25-29, He further illustrates those truths, presenting both the spiritual resurrection of believers and the physical resurrection that awaits everyone.
32. Here the Messianic claims of Jesus stand out most clearly. He is the Son of Man; He is the life-giver and the life-bringer; He will raise the dead to life and, when they are raised, He will be their judge.¹

The Spiritual Resurrection (vv.25-27)

Jesus begins verse 25 the same way He began verses 19 and 24 with **“truly, truly” or amen, amen.**

This again introduces an emphatic, unarguable declaration by Jesus to assure His hearers that what He was about to say to them was true.

He says, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father**

has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.”

In verse 25 He references “the dead” and in verse 28 “all who are in the tombs.” Both will “hear the voice of the Son of God.” Both will rise. One to life and the other to judgment.

In verse 25 He is speaking of those who are spiritually dead while in verse 28 those who are physically dead.

The spiritually dead are those who are “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph.2:1).

The Bible says...The Spiritually Dead will Rise in the Future (v.25a) He says, “the hour is coming”

1. This is a reference to a future spiritual resurrection under the preaching of the Apostles

. **a) It began at Pentecost – Acts 2**

After Peter preached to those who were at Jerusalem, verse 37 says, “they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’”

. **b) Luke records what follows in verses 38-41:**

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ ‘For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.’ ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation!’ ⁴¹ So then, those who had received

his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”

Verse 47 says that the “Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

d) After the healing of the lame man in the temple in chapter 3, Peter preaches his second message. **Acts 4:4**, says that “many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.”

2. This is also a reference to a future spiritual resurrection under the preaching of all of God’s preachers

a) **In Acts 8, God used Philip to preach His Word** and God raised many who were spiritually dead:

Verse 12 says “they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, [and] they were...baptized, men and women alike.”

Verses 26-39 records him talking with an **Ethiopian eunich** and the eunich responds by stating that he believed “that Jesus Christ is the Son of God...and he was baptized” (vv.37-38).

Acts 11:19-21 says, “So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.²¹ **And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.**

- . c) After the conversion of Paul, Acts 9:20 says “Immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’”
Through Paul’s preaching of God’s Word “as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48).

Not only does Jesus refer to a spiritual resurrection in the future under the preaching of God’s Word but He also says...

B. The Spiritually Dead will Rise Now (vv.25b-27) He says, “The hour is coming and now is.”

This phrase first appears in 4:23 and the second part, “**and now is**” refers to Jesus’ public ministry.

He has already stated in **verse 24**, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**”

1. This is a reference to His public preaching. Those who heard His word and believed “passed out of death into life.”
2. John has already told us about those who were spiritually resurrected under Jesus’ preaching:
 - a) **John 1:12** says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.”
 - . b) John the Baptist said in John 1:34, “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

- . c) Andrew said to his brother Simon in John 1:41, “We have found the Messiah.”

- . d) Philip told Nathanael in John 1:45, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

- . e) After Nathanael heard Jesus He believed and said in verse 49, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”

- . f) After Jesus met with a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus in John 3 believed according to John 7:50.

- . g) In John 4, after the woman of Sychar had a conversation with Jesus, she believed (v.29). After her the whole city (v.41) proclaiming that “this One is indeed the Savior of the world” (v. 42).

- . h) In John 4:46-53 after Jesus heals a royal official’s son, verse 50 said, “he believed.”

What is going on in the background unseen by the human perception

When the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and God opens the heart, the spiritually dead rise from spiritual death.

- . 1) Paul says in Ephesians 2:1-5, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.³

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

- . 3) The **story of the prodigal son also illustrates** one who was dead and now lives:

Luke 15:24 says, **“For this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.”**

That is the testimony of those who have believed. They experience His life now. They are “in Christ” and live by His Spirit.

Jesus again makes Himself equal with God when He says in **verses 26-27**, **“For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”**

He already said in **verses 21-22**, **“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.”**

William MacDonald says, “Not only has God decreed that the Son should have life in Himself, but He also **has given Him authority** to be Judge of the world. The power to judge has been given to Jesus **because He is the Son of Man**. The Lord is called both Son of God and **Son of Man**. The title *Son of God* is a reminder to us that the Lord Jesus is one of the Members of the holy Trinity, one of the Persons of the Godhead. As Son of God, He is equal with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, and as Son of God, He gives life. But He is also **the Son of Man**. He came into this world as a Man, lived here among men, and died on the cross as a Substitute for men and women. He was rejected and crucified when He came into the world as a Man. When He comes again, He will come to judge His enemies and to be honored in this same world where He was once so cruelly treated. Because He is both God and Man, He is perfectly qualified to be Judge.”³

In verses 28-29 Jesus also speaks of...

II. The Physical Resurrection (vv.28-29)

This passage is **not speaking of one resurrection but two: *The resurrection of life and the resurrection of judgment.***

Notice first...

A. The Resurrection of Life (vv.28-29a)

Jesus says, 28“**Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,** ²⁹ **and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life.**”

Albert Barnes says, “In the resurrection the righteous will be raised up to the full enjoyment and perpetual security of that life. It is also called the resurrection of life, because there shall be no more *death*, [Revelation 21:4](#). The enjoyment of God himself and of his works; of the society of the angels and of the redeemed; freedom from sickness, and sin, and dying, will constitute the life of the just in the resurrection. The resurrection is also called the resurrection of the just ([Luke 14:14](#)), and the first resurrection, [Revelation 20:5,6](#).”⁴

did the good *deeds*

A.W. Pink says of those who are part of the resurrection of life have “done good” [and that] is a characteristic description of them. It has reference to their walk which manifests the new nature within them. In the previous verses (24, 25) we have had life, eternal life, imparted to the spiritually dead by the sovereign power of the Son of God. This is His own life which is communicated to them. The Christ-life within is seen by Christ-like acts without. This is forcibly and beautifully brought out in the language which the Lord Jesus here uses when referring to His people. Just as in Acts 10:38 the apostle sums up the earthly life of Christ by saying He “went about doing good ,” so here the Lord Jesus speaks of His own as “they that have done good ,” that is, have manifested His own life. These will come forth at the time of His appearing (1 Corinthians 15:23; Thessalonians 4:16); come forth “unto a resurrection of life” for then they shall enter fully and perfectly into the unhindered activities and joys of that life which is life indeed.”⁵

1. **We are not saved by good deeds but because we are saved we do good deeds)**

2. **Paul said in Titus 3:3-5**, “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

b) **Ephesians 2:10** says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

c) **Jesus said in John 15:8**, “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.”

d) **He continued in verse 16 by telling His disciples**: “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”

2. The “resurrection of life” is promised by Jesus to those who believe

a) **Jesus said in John 6:39-40**, “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.⁴⁰ ‘For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.’”

. b) **He said in verse 44**, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

- c) **He also said in verse 54**, “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Jesus speaks of another resurrection. It is called...

B. The Resurrection of Judgment (v.29b)

An "atheist church" in North London is proving a big hit with non-believers. Does it feel a bit like a new religion?

Not many sermons include the message that we are all going to die and there is no afterlife.

But the Sunday Assembly is no ordinary church service. Launched last month, as a gathering for non-believers, it is, in the words of master of ceremonies Sanderson Jones, "part foot-stomping show, part atheist church, all celebration of life".

A congregation of more than 300 crowded into the shell of a deconsecrated church to join the celebration on Sunday morning.

Instead of hymns, the non-faithful get to their feet to sing along to Stevie Wonder and Queen songs.(another one bites the dust”

There is a reading from Alice in Wonderland and a power-point presentation from a particle physicist, Dr Harry Cliff, who explains the origins of antimatter theory.

The audience - overwhelmingly young, white and middle class - appear excited to be part of something new and speak of the void they felt on a Sunday morning when they decided to abandon their Christian faith. Few actively identify themselves as atheists.

The number of people declaring themselves to be of "no religion" in England and Wales has increased by more than six million since 2001 to 14.1 million, according to the latest census. That makes England and Wales two of the most unreligious nations in the Western world.

A Banner on the Building where they meet says”

“There’s Probably no God

Now Stop Worrying and Enjoy Your Life”

He says to **“those who committed evil deeds”** they will experience “a resurrection of judgment.”

According to verses 28-29 everyone will be raised from the dead and will fall into one of two classes: life or judgment.

Craig Keener says, “The Old Testament (Dan 12:2) and much of ancient Judaism taught a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous, which would take place at the last day. (Some circles in ancient Judaism taught only a resurrection of the righteous; others taught that the wicked would be resurrected only temporarily for judgment and then destroyed; still others held that the wicked would be resurrected to eternal judgment.)”⁶

The phrase **“those who committed the evil deeds”** describes those **who have never put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus**, and consequently whose lives have been evil in the sight of God. These will be raised to stand before God and to be sentenced to eternal doom.⁷ This is the judgment to come that John the Baptist refers to in Matthew 3:7.

1. He said to the Pharisees who came to his baptism, **“Matthew 3:7, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”**

2. **Revelation 20:11-15:**

¹¹ **Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.** ¹² **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.** ¹³ **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. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

CONCLUSION

1. Which resurrection will you be a part of? The resurrection of life or of judgment?

2. Life comes from Jesus Christ.

3. He is both the giver of life and the executioner of life.

4. If you haven't repented and surrendered you life to Him, I urge you to do so right now and flee the wrath that is to come.

Most of the Body of these notes where taken from a Message preached by Steve Hereford