

“ALSO FOR US”: RESURRECTION AND HOPE

Romans 4:23-5

Paul's intriguing comparison between birth of Isaac and the Resurrection of Jesus: why the Resurrection is central to our faith

See the 7 Step pattern of Scripture:

Promise → Faith → Tested → Partial Fulfillment → Intensifies the Longing → Purifies the Faith → Ultimate Fulfillment

I. Abraham

Given 3 astounding promises in Genesis 12:

- Many **descendants** and a great name (v2)
- A **blessing** to all nations (v3)
- The **Land** (v7)

Then his faith is tested, strengthened, proved: Rom 4:18-22

Note: central to this is faith in a God Who gives life to the dead (v17, 19-21 cf. Heb 11:11-12)

Even after Isaac born, he tested and must again believe God able to raise the dead (Heb 11:17-19)

But he died with the promise only partially fulfilled (Heb 11:13)

II. The Exile

Forward 1200 years to another kind of death: the death of the nation of Israel and all her hopes: Psalm 89 (note esp v46-48)

But again God promises new life from dead. Egs:

- Isaiah 35
- Jeremiah 33
- Ezekiel 36:34-36

And they are released from exile by Cyrus to go home!

But the results are nothing like the promises.

Again: supernatural enough for faith; but again thrust to a future Hope for fulfillment.

III. Messiah

Jesus comes and says the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand! He heals and raises the dead. Surely now is the time of complete fulfillment: the “Messianic Age”

But Jesus is crucified!
All hopes are dashed!
Then God raises Him from the dead!
So **now** all will be set right? (Acts 1:6)
No.

Why Paul encourages us: Romans 4:23-24: “also for us”

Your faith is built on the resurrection and reasons: a God Who can do that is able to fulfill all the rest of His promises in due time.
Why the furor over Simcha Jacobovici: no Christianity without the Resurrection. His bone boxes highlight the truth!

His resurrection not impersonal but for ME (v25)
So you live by Hope.
Even—especially in suffering (I Peter 1:3-7)

For the Resurrection is the **P**_____ of Heaven:

- **P**_____ of **P**_____ fulfillment thrusts you forward to await His Coming breathlessly
- **P**_____ He has **P**_____ sufficient to make it happen
- **P**_____ **P**_____ because His resurrection was for **you**—in fact you were raised **with** Him (Eph 2:6)!

So believe and rejoice!

(If Qs about this One Who died and rose for sinners to make them eligible for the New Eden, come to Gospel Discussions next 4 weeks: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

If you are not in another class, I invite you to discuss this and every sermon with me in Aux Cl #5 at 10am, between services.