

## RESURRECTION

Text: Acts 24:14-15

INTRO: One earmark of Biblical Christianity is its belief in a resurrection from the dead. In this lesson we will take a brief look at some of what the Bible reveals on this interesting, important subject.

### I. THE BIBLE RECORDS 8 CASES OF INDIVIDUALS RESTORED TO THE EARTH-LIFE, 3 in OT, 5 in NT

A. In each of these 8 cases God permitted one of His servants to raise the dead.

1. Elijah raised a widow's son, 1 Kings 17:17-28.
2. Elisha raised a Shunammite boy, 2 Kings 4:14-37.
3. Elisha's remains revived an unknown man, 2 K 13:21
4. Jesus raised Jairus' daughter, MT 9:23
5. Jesus raised the son of a widow of Nain, LK 7:11-17
6. Jesus raised Lazarus of Bethany, John 11:38-44
7. Peter raised Dorcas, Acts 9:40
8. Paul raised Eutychus, Acts 20:9-12

B. It is generally accepted that these individuals eventually had to die again. Their being "resurrection" was temporary & only restored them to the earth-life.

II. AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, MANY OT SAINTS WERE RAISED & WITNESSED BY MANY OF THE CITIZENS OF JERUSALEM.

READ MATT. 27:52-53.

A. Not all O.T. saints were raised, Acts 2:29.

B. There are some who assume that these O.T. saints were taken with Jesus to heaven to die no more. E.M. Bordon

C. The Bible simply does not tell us for sure, but we can be sure that Jesus is the One who effected their resurrection.

III. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS, IN SEVERAL RESPECTS, DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHERS.

A. He was the only one ever raised from the dead by His own power.

John 10:17-18, ...I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, & I have power to take it again.

B. In the other cases, death had apparently been of natural causes. Jesus' death had been one of great violence: scourged, crown of thorns, nails, fever, infection, insects... After death body

further mutilated by a spear being thrust into His side.

C. Jesus was the firstborn from the dead.

Col. 1:18, And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

1. He was not the first to be raised
2. But He was the first to be raised to die no more.
3. As such, He has become the 1stfruits of our own resurrection.

1 Cor 15:23, Christ the firstfruits; afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

#### IV. SOME REASONS WHY I BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT RESURRECTION:

A. The Bible has repeatedly proven to be accurate.

1. One archeologist who is an unbeliever calls it "the book." He admits that in the realm of archeology "the book has never yet been wrong."

2. Its principles have been found to work whenever & where ever they have been applied throughout history.

B. There seems to be some inner instinct in man--perhaps put there by his Creator--to believe in & desire life after death. Such belief & desire is almost universal.

Eccl 3:11, He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts...

C. There is much in nature to suggest both the possibility & the probability of such an experience.

1. Plant life. winter, spring

2. Scientists tell us that with the exception of the enamel on our teeth, every cell in our body is replaced over a 7-year period of time.

a. We tend to think that the brain is the seat of knowledge & awareness in the human being, but the fact of the matter is that I've had already in my life-time 7 distinctly different brains. Not a single cell remains from more than 7 years ago--yet I can vividly recall things that happened 40 or more years ago. It is my soul or spirit that is the seat of knowledge & awareness, & it outlives the cells of my human body, including my brain cells.

2 Cor 4:16, Even tho our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

b. If my soul or spirit—the knowing part of me can outlive 7 sets of brains & yet maintain its won identity & awareness, I see no problem in believeingf it can outlive my body in death.

D. But mostly, I believe in the resurrection of the dead, because as Paul said in Acts 27:25, “I believe God that it will be just as it was told me”.

READ JOHN 5:28-29.

CONCLUSION: I invite you all to share my belief & prepare for the resurrection to life eternal in heaven. For those who have been rebellious, or even neglectful of God's will, the resurrection will not be a blessing. But for the righteous, it is the beginning of the realization of all that God has planned for us in the heavenly realm, world without end.

La Porte, TX, November 30, 1980

Exton, PA, April 9, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, September 3, 1995

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 4, 2005