

ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



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The Resurrection of the Dead

I INTRODUCTION

The Bible truth about the “*resurrection of the dead*” is the 5th of the “*elementary teachings*” in Hebrews 6:1-2. It forms part of the “*foundation*” in the lives of disciples.

1 PETER 1:3-5

It is an important truth because it serves to give the new convert an “eternal perspective” of life. It also is a source of encouragement and hope to the believer who lives in a world where death is part of life.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23

Jesus is both the pioneer and forerunner of those who are to be resurrected and also the means through which His disciples will also rise from the dead.

JOHN 11:25-26

It is through faith in Him that we will be resurrected, and have Eternal Life.

II WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH?

GENESIS 35:18

The soul departs from the body. (cf. 1 Kings 17:21-22)

2 CORINTHIANS 5:5

Death is being absent from the body and present “at home” with the Lord

MATTHEW 22:31-32

Death is not a ceasing to exist but “living” for God is the God of the living! The implication for this passage is that though Abraham died physically years before this occasion he was in fact “living” according to Jesus.

LUKE 16:19-31

Here we have insight into where Abraham was, as well as information about the whereabouts of the other dead. This is not a parable because names are used.

EPHESIANS 4:8-10

With His resurrection, Jesus led “those of faith” to another place on high.

LUKE 23:42-43

We understand that the peace of the believing dead now is called “Paradise,” and is “*up on high*” and forms part of heaven. (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:1-4)

REVELATION 6:9-11

It is a state of consciousness, active memory, emotions, discussion, etc.

III WHAT SORT OF BEINGS WILL WE BE WHEN RESURRECTED?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38

We will have “*imperishable*” and spiritual bodies – not consisting of flesh and blood (verse 50). Some will not even die physically, but be changed into that body.

Note the “grain” principle presented here teaches us the following: -

- ◆ A direct continuity between what is planted and dies and what comes up. The basic material of the original seed is still contained in the plant that grows up out of the buried seed.
- ◆ Definite changes occur in the plant that grows up out of the seed, in form and appearance.
- ◆ The nature of the original seed determines the nature of the plant that grows up out of it. Example: a person buried in a “lost” state will rise to a state lost to God – a “redeemed” person rises to live in God’s presence. (Cf. Acts 10:41, Philippians 3:20-21 & 1 John 3:2)

IV WHO WILL BE RESURRECTED?

JOHN 5:25-29

Everybody – some to eternal life, and some to judgement.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Those “*in Christ*” when He comes – note that He brings them “*with*” Him first – presumably to collect these new bodies as the graves open and the remains are transformed to spiritual bodies. This is regarded by many as the “*first*” resurrection.

REVELATION 20:1-6

The second stage of the first resurrection when the martyrs of the great tribulation are resurrected and reign with Jesus for 1000 years (some are of the opinion that both these stages take place simultaneously).

REVELATION 20:11-15

The “*second*” resurrection or the resurrection of those outside of Christ – to the Great Final Judgement.