

The Resurrection and Judgement

STUDY NOTES

Death

Though a topic for another set of notes, it's important to understand the Bible's teaching about death before we can understand the need for resurrection. Proof for these concepts can be found in the study notes of our video on death.

Death is a complete cessation of life, both physically and mentally. Man dies and goes back to dust and remains there unless God raises him from the dead. Those raised will be judged and either rewarded with a change to everlasting life, or if unworthy, destroyed during Armageddon.

Who will be raised

Those who have a knowledge of God's purpose will be raised to answer to God, whether they have believed His word or not. They are those termed 'responsible' and will be judged by Jesus Christ.

Key Verses:

"The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day."

JOHN 12:48

"For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done..."

2 COR 5:10

Who will not be raised

Since judgment immediately follows resurrection (2 Tim 4v1), only those accountable to judgment will be raised. Those who do not have an understanding of God's purpose, such as those who never hear the Gospel, will not be raised.

Key Verses:

See also: Isa 26:13-14; Prov 21:16; Ephesians 2:12; Psalms 49:19-20

"I will make drunk her officials and her wise men, her governors, her commanders, and her warriors; they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake..."

JEREMIAH 51:57

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

DANIEL 12:2

"For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep."

1 THESSALONIANS 51:57

NOTE: God is just and fair. He exercises his mercy by selecting some for judgment. God expects all men to seek Him (Acts 14v15-17; Rom 1v20). However some men are blessed to directly receive His call (2 Peter 1v3-4, 10-11). This difference in opportunity is God's prerogative (Rom 9v14-23).

Resurrection and Immortal Souls

Looking at all the place where the resurrection is mentioned throughout the Bible, it's clear that Bible characters did not look forward to a time when their souls would ascend into heaven. Instead, their hope was firmly in the resurrection of the dead.

Key Verses:

See also: Daniel 12:2-3; Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 26:19; John 11:23-43; Luke 20:35-58; Acts 26:7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 John 3:2

"As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness."

DAVID — PSALM 17:15

"Jesus said to her, your brother will rise again. Martha said to him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

MARTHA — JOHN 11:23-24

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing."

PAUL — 2 TIM 4:7-8

NOTE: In John 11:23-43 is the record of Lazarus, which many have used as a proof for going to heaven at death. Note that nowhere in this record does anyone believe that Lazarus is comfortably in heaven and in fact Jesus subsequently raised him from the dead, 4 days after he supposedly should have gone to heavenly bliss. Martha's hope was in the resurrection "at the last day".

Summary of Resurrection And Judgement

- The resurrection will take place at Christ's return, when the then-living are gathered (2 Timothy 4:1, 7-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Matthew 24:38-42; 25:31)
- Judgment will be on the basis of how we have used the Gospel and the opportunities God gives us (Romans 14:10-12; Matthew 25:14-30, 31-46; John 5:28-29); Luke 12:36-48, 9:26)
- Those accepted will receive a change to immortal life. They receive a spirit body — as the risen Lord (Philemon 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 50-54)
- The rejected are sent back into the world to suffer the second death in the battle of Armageddon. Suffering will be proportionate to opportunity (Luke 13:24-30; 12:46; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 2:11)
- The second resurrection and judgement will take place at the end of the 1,000 year of the Kingdom, when all those who have lived and died during the Kingdom will be raised and judged (Revelation 20:4-6; 21:8)
- Finally death itself will be abolished (Revelation 20:14; 21:4; 1 Corinthians 15:25-26)

Questions?

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