

THE CERTAINTY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD: -

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S FAITH: -

Acts 24:15: - "And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust."

- The Son of God has the same power as his Heavenly Father to quicken or make alive from the dead any person he so chooses. When the time comes for the dead to hear the voice of the Son of God, those who hear shall be raised to life again.

John 5:21, 25 & 26: - "**For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth [them]; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.** ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself."

- The New Testament teaches plainly that the hope of the resurrection from the grave and of eternal life is founded upon Jesus Christ being the Resurrection and the Life.

John 11:25 & 26: - "Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life:** he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

John 1:1 - 4: - "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. **In him was life;** and the life was the light of men."

John 14:6: - "Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

In the story recorded in John's gospel of Jesus raising his dead follower Lazarus from the grave and corruption, we have a living example of Christ's power to resurrect the saints to life again. In this story Jesus himself plainly compared death to being a state of sleep, from which he was able to awaken his friend Lazarus out of.

John 11:11 - 14: - "These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, **Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.** Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. **Howbeit Jesus spake of his death:** but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. **Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.**"

Our hope of eternal life is founded upon the truth that because Jesus died and rose again from the grave, we too can have the hope of the resurrection from the grave. Christ is **OUR** Life – our eternal life is **IN** him.

John 14:19: - "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: **because I live, ye shall live also.**"

Colossians 3:4: - "When **Christ, [who is] our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

1 John 5:11: - "And this is the record, **that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**"

In fact, the apostle Paul has made it abundantly plain, that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then our preaching of the gospel is in vain, and our faith in Christ is also in vain, with us still being in our sins. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is crucial to the message of the Christian gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:12 - 17: - "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: **And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain.** Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: **And if Christ be not raised, your faith [is] vain; ye are yet in your sins.**"

- Jesus himself taught that the righteous dead are going to be raised to life again, when he referred to God's speaking to Moses at the burning bush, when God referred to himself as being the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the present tense. As Jesus said God is not the God of the dead, but of the living, the whole context was referring to the resurrection of the righteous. We must also remember that the apostle Paul has taught us that **God speaks of things that are not, as though they were, especially in reference to his quickening or making alive the dead.** Therefore, when he told Moses that he was the God of the dead patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he was speaking with reference to the time of their future resurrection from the dead.

Mark 12:26 & 27: - "**And as touching the dead, that they rise:** have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I [am] the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? **He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living:** ye therefore do greatly err."

Romans 4:17: - "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, **[even] God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.**"

- Because Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the cornerstone of our hope of the future resurrection unto eternal life, he is called in the New Testament Scriptures – "the firstborn among many brethren", "the firstborn from the dead" and "the first begotten of the dead".

Romans 8:29: - "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, **that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**"

Colossians 1:14 - 18: - "In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead;** that in all [things] he might have the preeminence."

Revelation 1:5: - "And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, **[and] the first begotten of the dead,** and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood."

Acts 26:22 & 23: - "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: **That Christ should suffer, [and] that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.**"

NOTE: - A careful reading of this passage reveals the fact, that Christ should be the first who by the resurrection from the dead show light to the Gentiles. This has to be the meaning of Paul's words because the Bible does indeed record the fact that a number of other people were raised from the dead before Jesus' resurrection took place.

- The following prophecies in the Book of Psalms are applied by the apostle Paul to Christ's being raised from the dead by his Heavenly Father.

Psalms 2:7: - "I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou [art] my Son; this day have I begotten thee.**"

Psalms 16:10 & 11: - "**For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.** Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence [is] fulness of joy; at thy right hand [there are] pleasures for evermore."

Acts 13:32 - 37: - "And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, **God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.** And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, [now] no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. **Wherefore he saith also in another [psalm], Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:** But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption."

NOTE: - We can clearly see by Paul's statement concerning king David, that he fell asleep or died, and was buried with his forefathers and saw corruption. There was no intermediate state of existence for righteous David in the supposed "spirit world" after his death. The Bible only records the fact that **David** saw corruption, and that he was still dead and buried and had not ascended to heaven when the Day of Pentecost had come in Acts 2, which was approximately 1, 000 years after the time of his death.

Acts 2:29 - 34: - "Men [and] brethren, **let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.** Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; **He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.** Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. **For David is not ascended into the heavens:** but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand."

- Jesus himself claimed to have the KEYS of Hell (that is of the grave) and of Death. Because Jesus tasted of death and conquered the grave, and is alive for evermore, he can open the prison house of the grave and of death for his people.

Revelation 1:17 & 18: - "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: **I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**"

The apostles preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Acts 4:1 & 2: - "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, **and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.**"

- Jesus promised to raise up from the dead those who believe in him at the last day.
John 6:39 & 40: - "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, **but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**"
- The Bible writers compare those who have died in Christ to being asleep in the dust of the earth, from which sleep they shall be awakened to receive eternal life.
Isaiah 26:19: - "**Thy dead [men] shall live, [together with] my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew [is as] the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.**"

Daniel 12:2: - "**And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake**, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt."

All the information that we could possibly need concerning the state of those who have died in Christ and the time when they shall receive their eternal reward, is contained in the following New Testament passage. We must remember that the apostle Paul wrote this passage to clear away any confusion or ignorance held on the part of the Thessalonian Christians concerning their deceased brethren and sisters. He was informing them plainly concerning the state of those who have died in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18: - "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

- The Book of Job clearly compares death to a state of sleep, from which no person can be awakened from until the present heavens are no more. At which time the righteous shall be changed to a glorious immortality.
Job 14:12 - 14: - "**So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens [be] no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.** O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! **If a man die, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.**"

The apostle Paul has left us in no doubt, that at the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ, those who are dead or asleep in Christ shall be raised up from their graves at the last trump, to be changed from corruption and mortality to incorruption and immortality.

1 Corinthians 15:20 - 23: - "**But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.** For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**"

1 Corinthians 15:50 - 55: - "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, **then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.** O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?"

When those who are **accounted worthy** of a place in the Resurrection of the Just and of the future eternal world, actually experience this blessed change at the last trump, they will not be able to die any more, because they will then be immortal and equal with the holy angels of God.

Luke 20:34 - 36: - "And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: **But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.**"

When corruption puts on incorruption, and mortal puts on immortality as Paul refers to in 1 Corinthians 15, then shall be fulfilled the prophetic saying from the pen of the prophet Isaiah, "Death is swallowed up in victory." At that time, the righteous shall rejoice in the salvation that the Lord will then be bringing them at that time.

Isaiah 25:8 & 9: - "**He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken [it]. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this [is] our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this [is] the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**"

This truth that the Lord will be bringing salvation with him for the righteous at the time of the 2nd Coming, is further taught in the following passage in the Book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 9:28: - "So **Christ** was once offered to bear the sins of many; **and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**"

When Christ shall come again from heaven, the saints shall have their bodies made like unto his glorious body.

Philippians 3:20 & 21: - "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,** according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

It is to this time of the change of the righteous that the following words of the Psalmist apply.

Psalms 17:15: - "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: **I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.**"

- The resurrection of the dead is sown in corruption, dishonour, weakness and a natural body. It is to be raised in incorruption, glory, power and a spiritual body.
1 Corinthians 15:42 - 44: - "**So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."
- The apostle Paul himself wanted to obtain a part in the resurrection of the dead.

Philippians 3:9 - 11: - “And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; **If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.**”

NOTE: - If the apostle Paul believed in the inherent immortality of the soul doctrine that is so widely held by most professed Christians, he would hardly be wanting for himself to obtain a part in the resurrection of the dead, as his soul would have supposedly gone to heaven when he died.

THE PATRIARCH JOB’S FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD: -

Job 19:25 - 27: - “For I know [that] my redeemer liveth, and [that] he shall stand at the latter [day] upon the earth: And [though] after my skin [worms] destroy this [body], yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; [though] my reins be consumed within me.”