

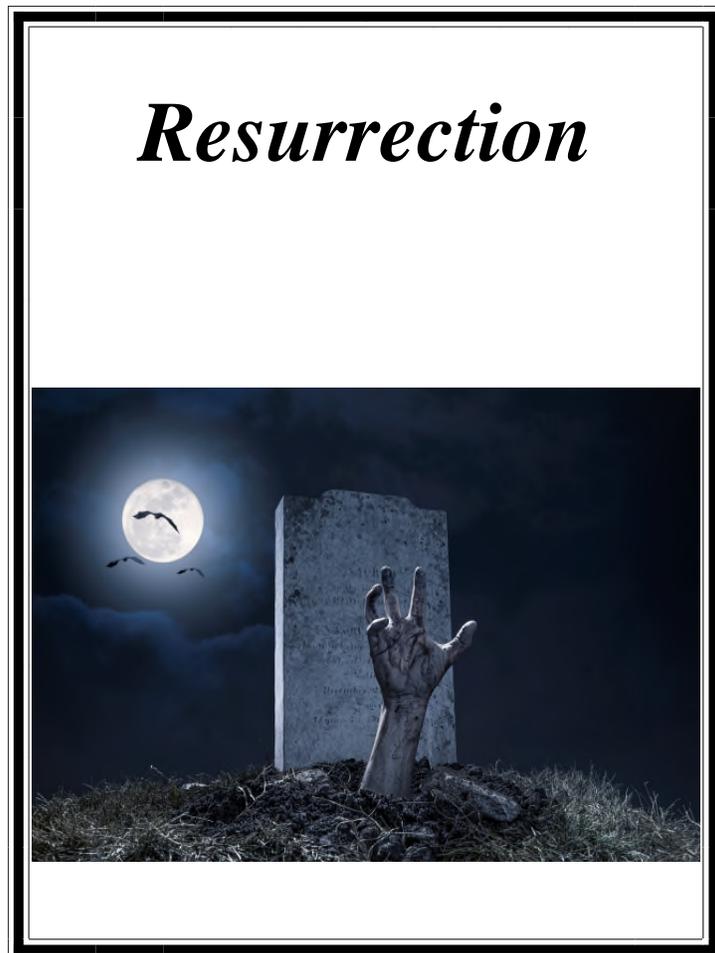
ment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Verse 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. *This is* the first resurrection.

Verse 6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

These scriptures show us those which are still alive at the return of Jesus will be caught up with him. These scriptures coincide with what Job states, that the dead are in graves. Revelation tells us that the first resurrection is for all the saints that did not fall to Satan and will reign with Jesus for the thousand years. The second resurrection is for all those that remain in their graves and done after the thousand-year reign. Both of these resurrections happen after the return of Jesus.

Created by the Church of God
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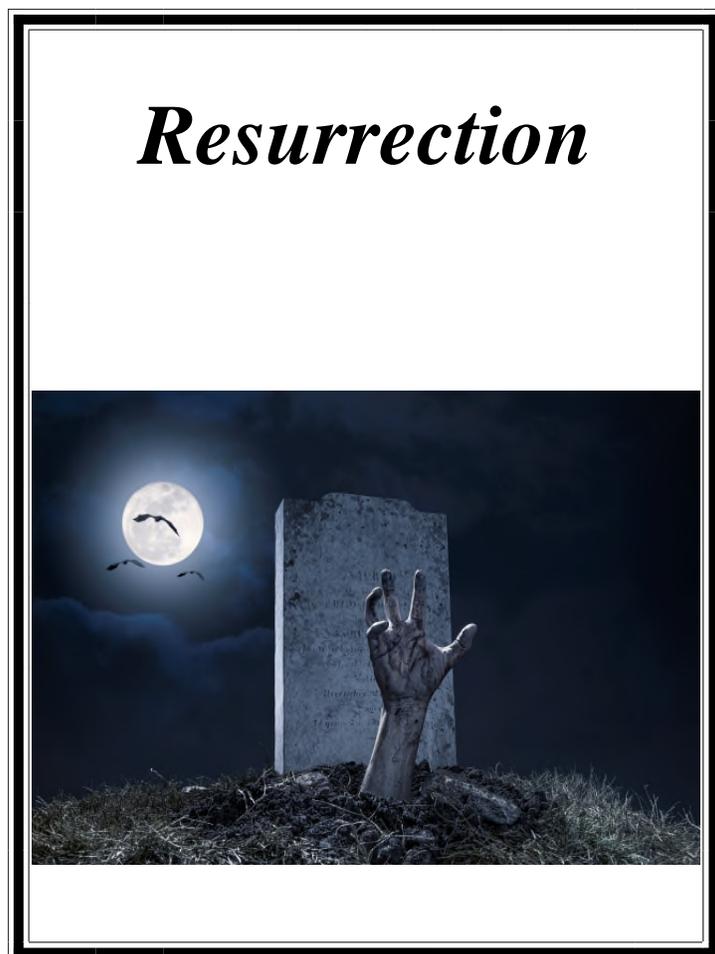
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This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word, and not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on the resurrection. Few churches want to speak about the resurrection, mainly because they do not have a clear understanding of what happens. The majority of churches teach that we ascend to heaven at death; but with that thinking it really does not leave any reason for a resurrection. Some will argue that the transfiguration in Matthew is proof that the dead ascend into heaven. John 3:13

Verse 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Matthew 17:2, 3, 9

Verse 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Verse 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Verse 9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

We see this scripture tells us clearly that no man hath ascended to heaven. At first one would think this was an actual encounter with dead people; but in fact, as we read, we see that it is a vision granted to these disciples that they might comprehend the glory of Jesus. We will go to Job to see what he says about man ascending after he dies.

Job 14:10-13

Verse 10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

Verse 11 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:

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Verse 12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

Verse 13 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!

Job gives us one of the best insights to the state of the dead along with the resurrection. We read that man lies down and rises not until the heavens be no more, the body decays and dries up. Job prays that he will be remembered after God's wrath has passed. He clearly lays out what happens to you after death, and going to heaven is not part of it.

After reading these scriptures it can leave one wondering about when we will ascend to heaven. Let us go to the New Testament to learn more about the resurrection and when it will happen.

John 5:28, 29

Verse 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

Verse 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

I Thessalonians 4:15-18

Verse 15 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.

Verse 16 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:

Verse 17 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.

Verse 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Revelation 20:4, 5, 6

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