

# The Resurrection

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.

Few churches want to speak about the resurrection, mainly because they do not have a clear understanding of what happens. With the majority of churches teaching we ascend to heaven at death it really doesn't leave any reason for a later resurrection, especially when we look to what the scriptures have to say.

*1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

*1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

These should be more than enough scriptures to peak one's interest in what is the resurrection?

Two powerful statements one is that flesh and blood cannot inherit God's kingdom, and that we know we will be like Jesus, but do not know exactly how we will appear. Let us also remember Job's words.

*Job 14:10-13*

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

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

*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.*

*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. The body decays and dries up and verse 12 says clearly man lies down and rises not until the heavens be no more and prays he will be remembered after God's wrath has passed it certainly does not sound like Job planned to go into heaven.

What does Paul have to say to us of the New Testament?

*1 Thessalonians 4:15-18*

*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.*

*16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*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.*

*18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

We see that Paul's teachings coincide with what Job states, that is that the dead are in the grave waiting on the call of our Lord Jesus to restore his faithful to eternal life. This teaching then makes clear what is said in Revelation about two resurrections.

*Revelation 20:5,6*

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

*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 are those spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 4 the living and dead that are caught up to meet Jesus in the air at his second coming please read all of chapter 20 in Revelation.

Some will argue that the transfiguration is proof that the dead righteous ascend into heaven, but this is not true.

*Matthew 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.*

*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.*

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 these disciples that they might comprehend the glory of Jesus.

I ask you to consider Revelation 20:5 from above there is clearly a resurrection for the righteous and a later resurrection for the wicked, but everyone is to be resurrected! If you read once more the scriptures from 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 no one gets to be with Jesus or the Father before anyone else, but we are all caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds together as it is written.