

Heaven and the Afterlife
Lesson 4 - The Resurrection of the Dead
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Introduction: The path from the Hadean world to one's final abode goes through the resurrection of the body.

- A. As in New Testament times we have men today who say that there will be no future resurrection of the body. **(1 Cor 15:12; 2 Tim 2:17-18)**
 - 1. The key to this question lies in understanding the resurrection of Christ from the dead.
 - 2. This is a key question that God expects us to understand.
- B. The resurrection of the dead goes against our experience in this life. **(Heb 9:27)**
 - 1. That is why this was such a powerful sign in Jesus' ministry and would be the sign of signs for those who wanted proof of Jesus' identity.
 - 2. We all will receive a new body in the life to come. **(2 Cor 5:1-4)**

I. Old Testament passages that help us understand a future resurrection

- A. Jesus used the burning bush passage as evidence of a future resurrection. **(Mt 22:31-32)**
 - 1. This shows that man does not go out of existence at death.
 - 2. From their being alive then a future body is expected.
- B. Job expected to have a body after his flesh had decayed. **(Job 19:25-27)**
 - 1. This thought had to be comforting while he was suffering in his body.
 - 2. How did Job know this?
- C. Daniel spoke of a resurrection of the dead and two possible destinations. **(Dan 12:2)**
 - 1. Hosea language is used by Paul to describe the future resurrection. **(Hosea 13:14; 1 Cor 15:55)**
 - 2. Also consider these verses. **(Psa 17:15; Isa 26:19)**
 - 3. What was faintly mentioned in the Old, the New Testament plainly gives us! **(2 Tim 1:10)**

II. Jesus spoke in His ministry about a future general resurrection

- A. Did Jesus discuss a literal resurrection and a very different afterlife in His ministry.
 - 1. What was the disagreement with the Sadducees about? **(Lk 20:27, 34-36)**
 - 2. After the resurrection, what would be true of all those who were raised? Is this true today?
- B. Jesus had taught Mary about a future resurrection of the dead.
 - 1. Mary spoke of a future resurrection for Lazarus. Jesus did not correct her but gave emphasis to His power to raise the dead! **(Jn 11:23-26)**
 - 2. If there was any doubt what kind of resurrection this would be then it was eliminated when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead! **(Jn 11:40-45)**
- C. Jesus taught a general resurrection for all men. **(Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15-16)**

1. There are two groups and two destinations.
2. Paul pointed out that this would happen at the same time!

Questions

1. Why do we need to know clearly about a future resurrection?
2. How does the Old Testament teach us about a future resurrection?
3. What did Mary know about a future resurrection? How do we know that she was right?
4. How does the resurrection of Lazarus help us understand our future resurrection?
5. Will there be two future resurrections at different times?

III. What does the Resurrection teach us about future events?

- A. If Jesus was raised then all men who ever lived will be raised.
 1. Paul reasoned with unbelievers that they would be held accountable at the judgment day and the proof of this would be the resurrection of Christ.
(Acts 17:30-32)
 2. Why would the resurrection of Christ have any connection to proof of a future judgment of all men? Consider how Paul develops this reasoning with Christians. **(2 Cor 4:13-14; 1 Cor 6:14; Phil 3:20-21, 1 Jn 3:2)**
 3. Is this resurrection a figurative resurrection of a cause?
- B. Will all men see and personally experience things at the second coming of Christ?
 1. Christians are expecting to see and meet Jesus at His coming.
(1 Jn 3:1-2; 1 Thess 4:13-18)
 2. Since this is connected to Jesus' resurrection, then in what manner will we see Jesus? Is this a past event only applicable to the righteous?
 3. Will the unrighteous also see Jesus coming in the clouds? **(Rev 1:5-7)**
- C. Consider the power of the resurrection as developed in 1 Corinthians 15.
 1. Christ's resurrection was only a "first-fruit" of a future harvest!
(1 Cor 15:20-23)
 2. This future body will be spiritual and incorruptible! **(1 Cor 15:42-49)**
 3. Each body will have its own individuality. **(1 Cor 15:38)**
 4. This resurrection is the ultimate defeat of death! **(1 Cor 15:50-57)**
 5. It is in this future hope that we gladly endure suffering in this life.
(1 Cor 15:58)

Questions

1. What kind of resurrection did Jesus experience? How can we know this?
2. How does the resurrection of Christ teach us about our future resurrection?
3. Why do we know that our future resurrection involves our body and is not just a figurative resurrection?
3. What kind of body will we have when we are raised?
4. How does Paul's use of "first-fruits" in 1 Cor 15 help us understand the certainty of a future resurrection?

