

Resurrection of the dead

1 Corinthians 15:20 “But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.”



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“Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.” Heb.6:1-3.

The resurrection of the dead is a doctrine of Christ which every believer must understand and believe in. There are believers who question this doctrine and some others claim that it already happened, both of these are false according to 2Tim2:18 and 1Cor.15:12. It happened in several places in the bible, only that some woke up to continue their life in this present world as in the case of Lazarus (John11:43,44) and the child of the Shunammite woman (2Kings4:32-37).

Before the resurrection of Jesus' account in Matthew28, there was an account of resurrection of dead bodies after Jesus died on the cross in Matt.27:50-53

“Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”

The three significant things that happened after Jesus died were a. The temple curtain tore from top to bottom. b. There was an earthquake c. the dead rose.

These three events have their significance but the resurrection of the dead is our focus.

For the purpose of this course we will be talking about the resurrection to life and resurrection to judgement as prophesied by Daniel in Daniel12:2 and declared by Jesus in John5:28-29.

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

Since we have established the prophecy and declaration of resurrection, it is important to know the sequence of this end-time event. Jesus will descend with a command and the trumpet will sound. At the sound of the trumpet, 2 major events will take place:

The resurrection of the dead who died in Faith and Rapture.

“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.” 1Thess4:16-17

The resurrection of the dead being spoken of here, is for believers who died before the tribulation. This is the reason Paul admonishes us not to mourn for believers who die as though we have no hope (vs13). There is yet going to be another resurrection as recorded by John in the book of Revelation

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.” (Rev.20:13)

Rapture according to 1Cor.15:52 is the transportation of believers from this present life to heaven in a split second. This is a moment where the spirit of man will take precedence over the body and so the speed will be faster than that of light causing believers who are prepared spiritually to disappear without notice. It will happen as in a normal day as Jesus described it in Luke17:26-36.

Implication of resurrection

Your resurrection of being raptured or resurrected is determined by how light or heavy you are. The bible admonishes us to lay aside every weight and sin that besets us. Heb12:1-3. We as believers must live in the consciousness of the fact that a day like this coming. This means that if you are not raptured or resurrected, there awaits you a harder way of repentance where you will have to be part of the anti- Christ regime. This will not be your lot.