

# RESURRECTION LIFE



Both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible contain accounts of individuals who were raised from the dead. In addition to those accounts, the Bible records a great deal about the prophecies, fulfillment and importance of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. And finally, the Bible places great emphasis on the general resurrection of the dead -- some to the resurrection of life and others to the resurrection of condemnation. More details in each category will be following in this portion.

## INDIVIDUAL RESURRECTIONS - OLD TESTAMENT

### ☉ The Widows Son: 1 Kings 17:17-24

God led Elijah to Zarephath, where he had told a widow to provide for Elijah during a great drought. While Elijah was there, her son died and she was distraught, even questioning why Elijah was there with her. So Elijah took her son to his room and prayed, asking God if he brought tragedy on the widow by killing her son. He then "...stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, 'O Lord my God, I pray let this child's soul come back to him.'" (verse 21) God heard Elijah's petition and brought the child back to life, after which Elijah presented him alive to his mother. She said to Elijah: "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is the truth." (verse 24)

### ☉ An Unnamed Man: 2 Kings 13:20-21

Elisha had died and was buried; but later on, during the season when Moab raiders invaded Israel, some workers were burying a man whose name is not recorded. Suddenly, the workers saw a band of raiders so they put the dead man in Elisha's tomb. When the dead man's body touched the bones of Elisha, the unnamed man was raised from the dead and stood up on his feet in a most unusual resurrection!

## INDIVIDUAL RESURRECTIONS - NEW TESTAMENT

### ☉ Son of the Widow of Nain: Luke 7:11-16

As Jesus approached the gate of the city of Nain, a funeral procession was carrying the only son of a widow who lived in Nain. Jesus had compassion on her and told her not to weep. Then He came to the open coffin and touched it, halting the procession. Then He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." (verse 14) The dead man then "sat up and began to speak." (verse 15) Jesus presented the young man to his mother and fear came upon everyone and they glorified

God.

🔴 Many Dead Saints: Matthew 27:50-52

Immediately following Christ's death, many saints were raised from the dead because of an earthquake that split the rocks and opened the graves. Then, following His resurrection, they came out of the graves and went into Jerusalem to be seen of many.

## **JESUS' RESURRECTION --PROPHECIES**

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is prophesied in several Scriptures. We will mention three here:

1. Psalm 16:10: prophecies that God "will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will you (God) allow your Holy One to see corruption (decay)."

2. Mark 9:9-10: As Jesus, Peter, James, and John descended from the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus "commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead." (verse 9) "So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant." (verse 10)

3. John 2:13-22: When the Jews questioned Jesus' authority to command them to take their merchandise out of the Temple, they asked Him for a sign to prove His authority to interrupt their Temple business by His overthrow of their merchandising booths. Jesus replied, "Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (verse 19) The Jews did not understand that He spoke of His own resurrection of the dead, not a rebuilding of the physical temple, which they pointed out took forty six years to build. This dialogue proved helpful to Jesus' disciples because they recalled it when Jesus was later risen from the dead, helping them to believe both "the Scripture and the Word which Jesus had said." (verse 22)

## **JESUS' RESURRECTION...FULFILLMENT**

All four of the Gospels present an account of the fulfillment of Jesus' resurrection. For the sake of brevity, only one account will be discussed here. The other accounts will be referenced for the reader's convenience in finding and comparing them.

Luke 24:1-11 gives us the basic facts of Jesus' resurrection and the unbelief by which His Apostles received the initial report of it.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James along with other unnamed women went to Jesus' tomb early on the first day of the week. (It was the third day following the day of His crucifixion). The tomb had been opened and Jesus was not in it, which was a mystery to the women.

Two men (angels) in shining garments asked the women why they were looking for the living among the dead? They added: "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee saying, 'The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again!'" (verses 6-7)

They remembered Jesus' words and went immediately to the eleven Apostles and others with them to tell them of Jesus' resurrection. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James along with other women who told the Apostles all of the things they had learned about Jesus. Unfortunately, to the Apostles "Their words seemed to them like tales and they did not believe them." (verse 11)

### **FURTHER REFERENCES FOR YOUR STUDY**

1. Matthew 28:1-10
2. Mark 16:1-11
3. John 20:1-18

As you study these references, make notes of insights you may receive.

### **JESUS' RESURRECTION PREACHED BY THE APOSTLES**

On the Day of Pentecost and thereafter, the preaching of Christ's Resurrection from the dead has been a central teaching of the church. Peter preached about it on the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2:24 and 2:31-32, showing us that God raised Him up because it was impossible for Christ to be held by it; and that He would not stay in Hades nor would His flesh decompose.

Peter also referred to Jesus' resurrection in preaching to the Jews at the Temple Gate following the healing of the lame man. Peter's reference to God raising Jesus from the dead is recorded in Acts 3:15.

The Apostle Paul preached to the men of Athens at Mars Hill. He urged them to put away their idols and repent as the true God commands. He referred to God as the One Who will "judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom whom He has ordained (Jesus). He (God) has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17:31

### **JESUS' RESURRECTION - AN ESSENTIAL BELIEF FOR SALVATION**

Paul, in writing to the Church at Rome, said this: "...That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED." (Romans 10:9)

To refuse to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead is to refuse a belief that is essential to your salvation!

## **GENERAL RESURRECTION**

The General Resurrection refers to the resurrection of all who are dead at the time of the end. Scriptures that explain the General Resurrection are as follows:

Daniel 12:2: "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt."

John 5:28-29: "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation."

Acts 24:15: Paul, in speaking to the governor (Felix) in defense of himself said; "I have hope in God, which they themselves (the Jews) also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."

Revelation 20:12-15: "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then death and Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire."

Each of these Scriptures indicate that the General Resurrection leads to the judgment that is appropriate to each individual. Therefore, we will look at what the Bible says of those judgments in the next principle on "Eternal Judgment."



### **A MOMENT TO REFLECT:**

Is your name written in the book of Life? If not, it can be by simply coming before the Father, repenting of your sins and making Jesus Lord of your life each and every day..."Take up your cross and follow Him."