

The Resurrection of Man

Introduction

1. **Life after death - believed from ancient times by most, but some have not believed (Sadducees).**
 - A. **The original man, Adam was placed in the garden of Eden with access to the tree of life, which would enable him to live forever (Gen 3:22).**
 - 1) **But because of sin, that paradise was taken away from Adam, and man has lived in hope of regaining the paradise which was lost because of sin.**
2. **Evidences of the hope of life after death are seen in many cultures:**
 - A. **American Indians - "Happy hunting ground"**
 - B. **Egyptian Pharaohs - "Pyramids housing things they might need in the next life"**
 - C. **Modern World - "After Death Experiences" of those that have come back.**
 - 1) **Many do not prepare properly or take death too lightly**
 - a) **Mausoleum in Grinnell, IA**
3. **These things can never replace what the inspired word of God has spoken to us concerning life after death.**
 - A. **Jesus, who was raised from the dead, tells us plainly about life after death. He points us to the resurrection.**

What Happens to Man at Death?

1. The scriptures answer this question.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

2. Jesus revealed the habitation of the immortal spirits of the dead in his discussion of the rich man and Lazarus.

Luke 16:19-31

(Show Slide of Great Gulf)

A. Explain the two places (HADES - (Torment; Paradise)

B. Righteous cannot “fall from grace” **after death** nor can the wicked be saved.

3. Paul expressed his yearning to go home to be with God at the hour of his death.

Philippians 1:21-24

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

A. Paul understood that death is the gateway to the presence of God. When properly viewed, we understand that death can be a blessing for man.

- Leaving a world of suffering, and going to Abraham's bosom!

What Shall Be Raised from the Dead?

1. **The scriptures direct our hope to the resurrection. What shall be raised from the dead?**
 - A. **Not the spirit, for the spirit does not die.**
 - 1) **Therefore, that which is raised from the dead is that which dies -- the body!**
 - B. **Men asked this question back in Corinth.**
1 Corinthians 15:35
 - 1) **It could be that they were thinking of the various things which can happen to the body, such as being eaten by animals, burned in a fire, blown to bits in an explosion, drowned at sea and eaten by sharks, or totally decay in a tomb.**
 - a) **Their concern was probably "How shall the various parts of the body be reassembled when the body has gone back to the dust and may have even blown a thousand directions or burned to ashes!"**
 - 2) **When reading on we can learn more about what Paul tells the Corinthian brethren.**
1 Corinthians 15:36-37
 - a) **Before a seed can produce a living plant, it must die.**
 - b) **The plant which grows does not resemble the seed does it? If God can produce this natural event, he will also be able to raise the body of man. After all He is God!**

What Kind of Body Will Man Have at Resurrection?

1. What kind of body will man have? The answer again is given by Paul. **1 Corinthians 15:38-42**

A. God will give man a body fit for eternal habitation. He gave bodies to all life as we know it, He is able to prepare a body fitted for a heavenly dwelling.

1) Another point is that Man will have the same body as Jesus had.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who **will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

2) In teaching about the nature of the resurrected body, Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

a) Just as we have a natural body, we will have a spiritual body.

2. Man's physical body cannot inherit heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

A. Therefore, those that just happen to be alive at the moment that Jesus returns to this earth, will experience a change in their body. Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

Who Shall Be Raised?

- 1. Not just the righteous. Both the wicked and the righteous will be raised from the dead.**

John 5:29 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 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

- A. The wicked shall be raised to face eternal damnation and the righteous shall be raised to face Jesus and enter eternal life!**

The Guarantee of the Resurrection

- 1. Jesus guarantees man shall be raised from the dead. The Bible says:**

Acts 17:30-31 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

- A. The resurrection of Christ is our proof that we too shall be raised from the dead.**

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ all shall be made alive.**

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

The Consequences of the Resurrection

1. **It would seem** that if we truly believe in the resurrection then that should affect the way in which we live in the corruptible body.

A. **Rejection of the resurrection surely effects how the wicked and disobeying live.**

B. **If there is no resurrection, then we might as well live a heathen lifestyle. Even Paul said:**

1 Corinthians 15:32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? **If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"**

2. **In contrast to the wicked, the righteous believe in the resurrection. This effects how they live. Paul again said:**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

A. **Peter said:**
2 Peter 3:11-14

3. **Belief in the resurrection provides comfort in the hour of death. Christians do not mourn in the face of death like those who have no hope. Paul expressed this kind of faith when he wrote:**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

4. **The resurrection removes the sting of death!**

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

A. **That is why Paul encouraged us in verse 58!**

Conclusion

- 1. **Everyone of us will live forever in a resurrected body.**
- 2. **That body will either be in a place of everlasting torment or everlasting bliss.**
- 3. **Everyone of us has control of our eternal destiny!**
- 4. **Where will your resurrected body live forever?**

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