

**BIBLE
STUDY**

FOUNDATION SERIES

PART 5

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RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

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, ²Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, AND OF RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD... (Hebrews 6:1)

Children, remember that what we are dealing with in our study is the DOCTRINE OF CHRIST. These are the things that Jesus Himself taught and if He taught them, then they must be truth. As we look into the doctrine of resurrection of the dead, let us consider the most basic understanding that we need to get as we begin to examine the scriptures. This understanding is that there is going to be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust (Acts 24:15). Yes, there is going to be a time when all will stand in

judgment and receive according to all that they had done in their bodies, whether it was good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10).

Let us go to the gospel of John. In the 11th chapter we find a marvelous story about Lazarus, a man whom Jesus loved and whom He also raised from the dead. In the interest of time we will list several key verses, but please read the entire story when you have time.

Verses 14-15, ***Then said Jesus unto them*** (His disciples) ***plainly, Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.*** Verses 20-27, ***Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. ²¹Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not***

died. ²²*But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.* ²³*Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.* ²⁴*Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.* ²⁵*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:* ²⁶*And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?* ²⁷*She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.* In verses 40-43 Jesus prays and calls Lazarus to come forth. Lazarus had been dead for four days and his resurrection is a type and shadow of the resurrection of the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-11.

Christ is THE RESURRECTION and THE LIFE. When we receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we receive everlasting life. Also, when we receive Him, our name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Look with me at Revelation chapter 20:1-6 where we will learn about the Book of Life, the other books, the first resurrection, and the second death, ***And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. ⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were be-***

headed for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION. ⁶Blessed 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.

Turn with me to John 5. We will come back to Revelation 20 in a minute. Let us read verses 20-29, ***For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. ²¹For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. ²²For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: ²³That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. ²⁴Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. ²⁵Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. ²⁶For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; ²⁷And hath given him authority to***

execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. ²⁸Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

These scriptures are telling us that just as Lazarus heard the voice of Jesus calling him forth from the dead, there is coming a time in the not-too-distant future, when the trump of God will sound, calling forth the resurrection. See I Thessalonians 4:13-16, ***But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶For 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.***

Let us get back to Revelation 20 and see what happens after the devil has been cast into the lake of fire. Verses 11-15 read, ***And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead,***

small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them:

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and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Wow! The Book of Life and the other books are very serious business. Our names must be found written in the Lamb's Book of Life or we will be cast forth out of the presence of the Lord. The other books contain an accounting of our works (acts of obedience to God). I Corinthians 3:13-15 tells us, ***Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.***

According to I Corinthians 15, which is referred to as the resurrection chapter, that "reward" is the degree of "GLORY" that the believer receives for their obedience to Jesus Christ. The ultimate glory would be reaching

the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, in other words, to *win Christ*, Who is the RESURRECTION (Philippians 3:7-14).

Again, the ultimate reward would be to attain unto the **first resurrection** and the receipt of the **glory** to shine forth as the sun. Turn to Daniel chapter 12:1-3, which states, ***And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, EVERY ONE THAT SHALL BE FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK.*** ²***And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt*** (see also Hebrews 11:32-40). ³***And they that be wise SHALL SHINE as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the STARS for ever and ever*** (see also I Corinthians 15:40-45).

Children, we are admonished of God to get wisdom and knowledge, but in all of our getting to get understanding (Proverbs 4:7). Regarding the resurrection of the dead, many people have been incorrectly taught and many are like the Sadducees of old, who say that there is no resurrection and who are ignorant of the scriptures. Let us see what Jesus said to them in Mark 12:18-27, ***Then come***

unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying, ¹⁹***Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.*** ²⁰***Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed.*** ²¹***And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise.*** ²²***And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also.*** ²³***In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.*** ²⁴***And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?*** ²⁵***For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*** ²⁶***And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?*** ²⁷***He is not***

the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

Let us look at Luke's recording of the same verse and we will get a bit more understand-

ing. Luke 20:34-36, ***And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:*** ³⁵***But***

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they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: ³⁶Neither can they die any more (second death): for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

Children, we shall conclude our study on the resurrection of the dead by taking some scriptures from I Corinthians 15. Verses 3 and 4 affirm that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, ⁴And that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.** These words **according to the scriptures** are letting us know in no uncertain terms that it is according to the Word of God. It is truth and it shall surely come to pass. This is not something of man's imagination or thoughts, but it is "Thus saith the Lord."

Reading on in verses 12-14, and 19 it says, **Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: ¹⁴And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain... ¹⁹If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.** But quite the contrary, according to I Peter 1:3-4, which says, **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a LIVELY HOPE by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,** we have the full assur-

ance of HOPE, because God has declared that there is going to be a resurrection and there is an order to it.

I Corinthians 15:22-23, **For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But every man in his own order (rank): Christ the firstfruits (first resurrection); afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**

God made man (Adam) in His own image. He planted a garden eastward in Eden, where He put Adam, instructing him to be fruitful and multiply. God is expecting a harvest and has been patiently waiting for it a long time. Adam sinned, therefore, God sent Jesus Christ, the second Adam, to correct the problem of sin and rebellion. Christ finished the work that the Father gave Him to do and conquered death in the process. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the first begotten from the dead, but God the Father is bringing forth a people in Christ unto the same glory and victory that Jesus has received, which He calls the FIRSTFRUITS. This firstfruits company are all the saints of God from each dispensation that are being gathered together in Christ in the fullness of times (Ephesians 1:10). I Corinthians 15:20 says, **But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.** Jesus said in John 12:24, **Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.**

Let us end with these words from Revelation 20:6, **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.** God bless you. Amen!

If you have finished studying the lesson, answer the following questions (where possible, give scriptural references):

- 1. How long was Lazarus in the grave? Of what is his resurrection a type and shadow?**
- 2. What is the first resurrection? What has no power over those who have part in the first resurrection?**
- 3. What does the word “firstfruits” mean in the Bible?**
- 4. According to what are all men going to be judged?**
- 5. In which book do we have to be written in order to escape the second death?**
- 6. What does Jesus say that He is in John 11?**