

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 134

April 2023

The Resurrection - Part 1

Introduction

While I have the ability to recollect, I do not think I will ever forget sitting among the students at the Christian school in Fiji as they sang the glorious triumphant hymn, "Thine be the glory". Sitting there looking over the rolling waves of the Pacific Ocean and the smell of frangipani filling the air, how delightful it was to hear some 700+ children of all ages singing:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb,
Lovingly, He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

What makes this so soul exalting?

What is it that makes this music and words so magnificent? No doubt the words written by Edmond Bundy are uplifting, and certainly the music from Handel's oratorio is very suitable, but there is more than these, delightful as they are. That which lifts the spirit up and makes one join in the singing of it is the reality that Christ is risen from the dead! This is not a fable or conjured idea from the mind of sinful man, but is the theme which goes back to eternity past and will be the theme of the eternal ages.

Such is the glory of the resurrected Lord that it was the theme of the early church, the power by which blessing flowed, lives were transformed, and the foundation for man to be brought into fellowship with God for all eternity.

Recently, as my daughters and I stood beside my wife Jean's casket, my son Rowan carefully stretched over her body and taking the lid slowly closed it. We were seeing mum for the last time on earth. I think of what was it like for those two men, Nicodemus and Joseph, and the women as they, with tender consideration, wrapped the body of the Lord? Then, taking the napkin and lifting His head and wrapped it around his face. To them, Jesus had been seen for the last time. With devout sadness, His body was placed in the tomb. It was the second time that day darkness would fall. Devastation and confusion wracked their brains for they thought it would be He who would redeem Israel (Lk. 24:21). Hearts were broken as they gathered together with the need of being with others in such grief. That was day one.

Two days passed and on the third day they were able to go to the tomb intending to do the embalming more perfectly. As the women were en route to the tomb there was a localized earthquake, the second in three days. Unknown to them, this was not a normal earthquake, God was in control and used the movement of the earth to roll away the stone from the mouth of the tomb.

Arriving at the tomb they saw a sight never to be forgotten. On a stone sat an angel showing utter contempt for the power of Rome whose seal meant nothing to the purposes of God. Looking into the now opened tomb they saw two angels, one where the head and the other where the feet of the Lord had been (Jn. 20:12). Then, words were spoken: "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" (Lk. 24:5); "He is not here, for He is risen . . . Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matt. 28:6).

One of the lessons learnt in life is, "believing does not make what I want to be a fact"! I can believe that Antarctica is a glorious place with tropical seas, palm trees and sandy beaches, but all the belief in the world does not change the fact that Antarctica is a dreadfully cold place with howling winds and miles of ice and snow. Belief does not change facts. If one were to argue that there is no such a thing as the resurrection of a corpse, and that includes Jesus, since belief is based on facts, the onus is on me to present the facts for rejecting the matter of the resurrection. Therefore, the fundamental question is, since belief rests on facts, not feelings or hopes, what is the evidence Jesus rose from the dead vacating the tomb? Books have been written on it but the question asked is, "Do I live with the conviction that there has been and will be a bodily resurrection of all who have died, and that includes Jesus?" While I am alive in this body, yet knowing I will die can I die having the assurance that I will rise again? The answer is either "Yes" or "no". Did Jesus rise from the dead? Again, the answer is "yes" or "no".

[Why would anyone deny the resurrection?](#)

Like the ostrich sticking its head in the sand, humanity finds it easier to scoff at the entire narrative of Jesus as a myth and His resurrection is the mythical story of imagined ignorant men. Such are:

- a) Afraid of the consequences of the resurrection for it means death is not the end of human existence.
- b) Afraid because there, as in life, consequences for what is now done.
- c) Afraid to believe in the reality of God or the truth of the scriptures.
- d) Men seek to deny the bodily resurrection of the Lord because they are afraid of the consequences of the afterlife. Since Christ rose from the dead, every individual who has ever died, is dying or will die, will live again. There is the knowledge that man is not fit to meet God and so seeks to deny the resurrection.
- e) Man denies the bodily resurrection of the Lord by arguing that while the basic fact is Christ rose from the dead, yet the "contradictions in the gospels" show that unknown men wrote in a way people could understand. Therefore, the darkness was poetical language showing what happened in the three hours but it was not literal. The earthquake was not literal but a traumatic shock to the mentality, hopes and emotions of the disciples and the others who followed the Lord. Yet, they do not say this about the earthquake when the Lord rose and which occurred BEFORE they were aware of His resurrection. Such arguments are foolishness.

[Evidence](#)

To believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, or anyone else for that matter is based on the belief that God exists.

- a) Elijah was not God yet by the power of God he was used raising an individual. If it was not the power of the Almighty, the Source of life to raise the widow of Nain's son (1 Kgs. 17:22); the resurrection of the Shunammite's son (2 Kgs. 4:34); and the resurrection of the man touched by his bones (2 Kgs. 13:21), in the Old Testament then there is a serious problem for these miracles were done by Elijah and Elisha, men who were prophets of God. If it was not the power of the living God who raised these persons then what other power could give life and undo the decomposing that had already begun, for decomposition begins within minutes of death. Accepting God exists

and that all living creatures, including humanity, came by His power, then why should it be impossible for Him to raise a dead body? (Acts 26:8)

b) The following is a list of the resurrections in the scriptures:

i) Those in the Old Testament when a living individual raises a dead person:

1. The widow's son in Zarephath (1 Kgs. 17:17–22).
2. The Shunammite's son (2 Kgs. 4:18–37).

ii) One of a dead man touching another dead man and raising the man who was thrown into Elisha's grave (2 Kgs. 13:21).

iii) Those performed by Jesus while alive:

1. Jairus' daughter (Mk. 5:41).
2. The young man at Nain (Lk. 7:14).
3. Lazarus (Jn. 11:38–44).

iv) Those performed by the early apostles after the Lord's glorification:

1. Tabitha/Dorcas (Acts 9:36–42).
2. Eutychus (Acts 20:7–12).

v) Those who will be raised:

1. The dead saints of the Church (i.e., Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:23)).
2. The Two Witnesses (Rev. 11:3–11).
3. The Old Testament Saints and Martyrs (Rev. 20:4).
4. The unsaved (Rev. 20:5).

vi) There is also the Lord's own resurrection (Matt. 28:1-6), and those who were raised after He rose from the dead (Matt. 27:52-53).

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