

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

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

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How Will The Resurrection Affect Me?

Introduction

Believing that the Scriptures are in-fact the inerrant communication of God to man, God declares for all humanity both promises and warnings.

- a) He gives a clear promise of:
 - i) A welcome to come to Him, such as, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isa. 1:18).
 - ii) A promise with the assured welcome, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28).
- b) He also gives advance warning, such as:
 - i) “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). Several observations are to be taken from this verse:
 1. There is an appointed day for judgment. Every unsaved individual, irrespective of when, how or where they lived on this earth, is already under the condemnation of God because we were all born with the sin nature and are not only already declared guilty by God, but already under the sentence, the condemnation of judgment, they are “condemned already” (Jn. 3:18).
 2. God will judge the world by the man He has ordained and that judgment will be done in accord with God’s righteousness. There will be no appeals, no second chances, no jury. Every word of condemnation from God will resonate with the conscience and every human will stand speechless.
 3. The assurance that the day and executor of judgement will come because God raised Christ from the dead. Since all will be raised from the dead there will be no escape. At the moment of time when we leave this world and go into the next, that is not the end of everything. Katherine McGregor who played Harriet’s mother on “Little House On The Prairie” died recently. Upon hearing of Katherine’s death, Melissa Gilbert wrote, “I really loved her and I find great comfort knowing that she is at peace and, per her beliefs, her soul has moved on to its next incarnation”. Katherine was wrong in her beliefs for there is no reincarnation or coming back to life after being frozen for “x” number of years?

I have never seen a resurrection, neither has anyone alive on earth at this time ever seen such. In fact, no one saw the Lord rise from the dead.

- a) Some saw the widow of Nain's son rise from the dead (Lk. 7:13-16); also those at the tomb of Lazarus (Jn. 11:37-42); and Jairus' daughter (Mk. 5:36-42).
- b) No doubt some had been seen after they had been raised, such as those who went into Jerusalem after the Lord was raised (Matt. 27:52), and many others who saw the Lord after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:5-8), but no one alive at this moment has ever seen a resurrection. However, the truth remains, whither one believes in the resurrection of the body or not, there will be a resurrection and each of us as individuals will be raised. The question is, "How will that affect me?"
- c) The supreme proof of the resurrection is our Lord who said, "And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:17, 18).
- d) Having said that, apart from those who saw those raised in the Old Testament, in a coming day there will be those who will see two men rise from the dead (Rev. 11:11) and then ascending to Heaven (Rev. 11:12). However, the vast majority of people have never seen one rise from the dead or one who has risen from the dead. God has declared plainly that all will rise from the dead. This includes all men, women, boys, girls and infants.

God has stated, "He hath given assurance unto all men" (Acts 17:31)

God has given assurance, that is the absolute truth. It is not a maybe or a chance of error because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and God has given His pledge which goes to all humanity. It is irrelevant whether they are black or white, rich positionally or the beggar on the streets, religious or non-religious, God fearing or atheist, all will be raised. A person can be cremated, that will make no difference; they can be blown apart in an explosion, buried at sea or die in the air, nothing will make the slightest difference. The Lord said there is coming a day when "all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth" (Jn. 5:28, 29). There will be no smugness at that point in time, no hesitation, no escaping, how long they have been dead will make no difference, they will rise from the dead. Some time ago I watched a criminal who was about to be put to death. He knew it was the day of his execution and he sat in his cell, apparently unfazed by that which was about to happen. Then one heard the keys of the prison door and it opened, still he sat there staunch. Then the religious leader walked to the man and suddenly his composure began to fade, his lower lip began to tremble, for this was the real thing. Turning toward the wall he tried to hide from the harsh reality as his body began to convulse in bitter tears and expressions of grief. After several moments, two officers came and took him by the arms. He refused to walk but it made no difference. He was brought to the place of execution and in weakness and trembling he was led to the guillotine. This is how it will be for the Christ rejector as they are raised from the dead and the moment approaches for the divine judgment. Then, without an iota of mercy, the individual is banished from God for eternity.

In case there is any doubt in one's mind, there are three recorded resurrections the Lord made BEFORE His resurrection, and since He was able to raise folk from the dead BEFORE his resurrection, surely He will be more than able to do the same after it.

The Great White Throne

Having been raised from the dead the judgment seat is set, the court is in session and no one stands beside the individual. Nothing of earth now helps, no spirit masters are there to support the individual, no opportunity of "anything to say" is given, the individual stands, knowing that which lies ahead. Then the Lord opens the books, possibly the book of opportunity when one heard the gospel and knew the need of salvation but rejected it. One possibly the book of sins committed, every lie, every taking God's name in vain, every act of covetousness, every mockery of believers, each crime deepening the degree of severity in judgment. There will be no friends to make this a laughing matter, no earth, just to stand alone and wait for the opening door of the Lake of fire and the forever hopelessness of never again a ray of light. Others will be there, drinking buddies, church deacons and ministers, people who knew the way of salvation and rejected it, but none will give any comfort and there will be nothing of earth to give any relief. This was the consequences of personal decision making, no one else stopped the individual from accepting Christ as Saviour, it was their decision. No one forced them to reject Christ, it was their decision and now the consequences.

They will have a body which shall never die, it will know suffering, but there will be no appeasement through the mind getting diverted or anesthetic to dull the pain, there will be memory and the awareness of hopeless foreboding and doom for ever. God says, "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2). Wise is the individual who runs to the open arms of the Saviour and casting themselves on His love and mercy, grasps the free gift God is offering, placing their dependance on Christ alone for salvation. As the old hymn says:

*Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.*



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