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Bible House of Grace.**



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

**The Entire Person is Raised
And
Not just the Body.
(2013)**

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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The Entire Person is Raised and Not just the Body.

Topics.

- Man perishes like the animals.
- The dead know nothing.
- There is no knowledge in the grave.
- The dead are asleep in the earth.
- God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.
- The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and live.
- David did not ascend into heaven.
- Sleeping in Christ.
- Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.
- The Lord will descend and the dead in Christ will rise.
- The sea, death and hades gave up the dead to be judged.

INTRODUCTION: this article looks at the question, "Do the Scriptures teach that dead bodies remain in the grave while the spirit ascends to heaven as some kind of consciousness eternal spirit to dwell in eternal bliss with God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the angels waiting to someday descend to earth to inhabit its resurrected body as many believe or does the Bible teach something quite different concerning the state of the dead and the resurrection of those who have died."

Old Testament.

You shall surely Die.

Genesis 2:15-17 ----- ¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

God tells Adam he will die if he eats of the forbidden tree, death in this context is death of the whole person (i.e., the physical body, the mind, the consciousness and the spirit).

Man Perishes like the Animals.

Psalms 49:12 ----- ¹²Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that 'perish.

This verse shows us that human death is the same as an animal's death which is complete destruction (i.e., total and utter extinction).

The Dead Know Nothing.

Eccles. 9:5 ----- ⁵For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten.

This verse shows that the dead are completely dead, they know nothing, they have no consciousness they are extinct until, they are raised to the resurrection to eternal life or judgment to eternal death.

There is No Knowledge in the Grave.

Eccles. 9:10 ----- ¹⁰Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

Sheol: is the Hebrew word for grave. Here we are told that there is no work, knowledge or wisdom in the grave and neither is there any thoughts, showing that death not only destroys the physical body but also the mind and the consciousness.

The Dead are Asleep in the Earth.

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

The Bible refers to those that will be resurrected as being asleep (unconscious or without thoughts) until they are woken up at the resurrection. Sleep is a perfect expression for those who are dead, but who will be resurrected to life or to shame because for them death is only temporary.

New Testament.

Sadducees did Not Believe in the Resurrection.

Matthew 22:23 ----- ²³The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question.

This is the first mention of the word resurrection in the Bible, even though the Old Testament does not use the word resurrection there are verses and Scriptures that refer to it and faithful prophets who understood that they would be resurrected from the dead. Nevertheless during the Old Testament the primary focus of the Jews was not upon the resurrection, but upon God's promise to Abraham that Israel would be the head of all nations and be ruled by a mighty King and that their children and their children after them would continue to inherit a victorious Kingdom that ruled over the nations of the world. It was to the arrival of this King their Messiah the Christ that the faithful of the Old Testament set their hope upon.

God is not the God of the Dead, but of the Living.

Matthew 22:31-32 ---- ³¹Jesus said; "As for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³²I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."

This verse does not mean that Abraham Isaac and Jacob are already in heaven (as some believe) if that was true Paul would have been mistaken when he made the following statement: -

- Christ has been raised from the dead, the *firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive, but each in his own order: Christ the *firstfruits*, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (1 Cor. 15:20-23).

Obviously if anyone had been raised to heaven prior to the Lord Jesus Christ he could not be referred to as being the firstfruits of those to be raised to eternal glory. The entire context of Matthew twenty-two is upon the resurrection of dead people. Jesus in these verses is talking to Sadducees who do not believe in the resurrection, the Sadducees know Abraham Isaac and Jacob have died and believe they will remain dead in their tombs. Jesus is shining a spotlight on the reality that if what the Sadducees believed was true it would mean that God would be the God of the dead not the living. Jesus uses this truth to prove to the unbelieving Sadducees that there must be a resurrection of Abraham Isaac and Jacob because God is not the God of dead people but of the living.

People Rise from the Dead by the Power of God.

Mark 12:24-25 ----- ²⁴Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

These words of Jesus show us that the whole person (i.e., body, mind and consciousness) rises from the dead and not just a physical body. This is the majestic and awesome power of God and the Good News of the Gospel. God by His creative and awesome power is going to resurrect the whole person from the dead to immortality and eternal glory. (Like the angels means they are immortal and eternal).

Rewards and the Resurrection.

Luke 14:13-14 ----- ¹³Jesus said; "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Here Jesus clearly shows that at the resurrection there will be rewards. It is interesting to notice that the rewards in this context are not based on intellectual head knowledge, but upon how we have treated the poor, the lame and the blind, meaning God's heavenly rewards will be determined by how we have treated other humans, especially those who are less fortunate than ourselves and how we have treated our brothers and sisters in Christ. The apostle Paul wrote: -

- No one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives they will receive a reward, but if anyone's work is burned up, they will suffer loss, though they themselves will be saved, but only as through fire (1 Cor. 3:11-15).
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The Dead will hear the Voice of the Son of God and Live.

John 5:25-29 ----- ²⁵Jesus said; "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will *hear the voice* of the Son of God and *those who hear* will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will *hear his voice* ²⁹and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Since everyone knows that a body without the mind and consciousness cannot hear anything the words, "The dead will hear his voice" shows that it is not just the physical body that will be raised from dead, but the entire person (i.e., body, mind and consciousness). Added to this to judge a physical body without a mind would be pointless because it would have no consciousness of reward or punishment of judgment.

David did not Ascend into Heaven.

Acts 2:34 ----- ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand."

This verse shows us that even King David who God loved has not yet ascended to heaven.

It is interesting to notice that the New Testament constantly states that Jesus has, "Passed into heavens, to sit at the right hand of the Father," but no such thing is said of the faithful dead who have died in faith they are always pictured as having fallen asleep in Christ and as remaining asleep in Christ until the resurrection.

Sleeping in Christ.

Sleeping in Christ: when a person who belongs to Christ dies, the Bible says, that they have no knowledge and know nothing, they are totally unaware of it and are therefore in a perfect state of peace, this state is called sleeping in Christ and because they have no consciousness there, is no time. It is very similar to someone in a deep sleep there is no awareness of time, when the person wakes they have no idea of whether four, seven or twelve hours have passed.

Likewise because there is no time in death the moment a Christian dies is the moment they are in the Kingdom of God and with the LORD, for them it is instant, even though many years may have passed by in our world's time. David died thousands of years ago, but the moment he is resurrected will be like the moment he breathed his last breath, because for him there is no awareness of time, so it is for every Christian from death to Christ is instant.

Death to the Christian is similar to a person in a coma: a person in a coma has no consciousness of time, time does not exist to them, when they wake, they often think only a day or so has gone by, when in actual fact several years may have passed yet they think they are waking up, the same day, or next day after they went to sleep. The person in the coma or in death is totally unaware of any time that they have spent in the coma or being dead.

Death to those who belong to Christ is much the same as the person in the coma, the dead or those who are sleeping in Christ have absolutely no consciousness of time so for them, the moment they die, is the moment they are instantly with the Lord, even though many years may have passed during the time they have been dead (i.e., sleeping in Christ).

It is the same principal as a person who goes into hospital for an operation: the patient is given an anaesthetic and put to sleep, surgeons cut them up and take bits out, over the next few hours, yet the patient is totally unaware of it they wake up and have absolutely no idea of the time that has passed, therefore when Paul says: -

- We are of good courage, and we would rather be away (absent in the KJV) from the body and at home with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).

It is a true statement, even though he may have spent years sleeping in Christ.

NOTE: a second reason a Christians death is called sleeping in Christ is because their death is only temporary, being asleep in Christ means everyone who dies in Christ is kept in the eternal mind and memory of God.

Jesus said: -

- Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them falls to the ground without the father knowing it and even the hairs of our head are all numbered therefore we should not fear death because we are of more value than many sparrows (Matthew 10:29-31).

The entire person, (i.e., body, spirit, mind and consciousness) remains sleeping in Christ, until the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) when all who are asleep in the Lord are woken up at the blast of the angels trumpet and raised from the dead to everlasting glory and clothed with an eternal and immortal body.

NOTE: some people find it difficult to comprehend God raising the dead, but think of it this way: we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is

resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen (soon it is most likely they will simply appear in the air), then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again.

Knowing that God has given his creation a mortal mind and finite memory to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps us all in His immortal mind and eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and raise us once again to life. Added to this very few Christians have any trouble believing God created the universe that we live in so raising the dead in comparison is not such a difficult task for such an awesome, powerful and majestic God (Heb. 11:3).

In Christ all will be Made Alive.

1 Cor. 15:22-23 ----- ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the *firstfruits* then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

The words, "In Adam" carries the idea of being separated from God and being a citizen of this world while the words, "In Christ" carry the idea of being united with God and being a citizen of heaven. Once again we see that Christ is the first of those to be raised from the dead to eternal glory and that all the faithful will not be raised until the Lord returns in majestic and spectacular glory at which time God by His creative power will raise from the dead all those who have died in faith to eternal life and to always be with the Lord in eternal glory.

If the Dead are Not Raised, Why are People Baptized on their Behalf?

1 Cor. 15:29 ----- ²⁹Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?

The King James Bible translates it this way: -

- Else what shall they do which are baptised for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptised for the dead?

NOTICE: the KJV does not add, "On their behalf." This is a difficult verse since it seems to imply that people can be baptised for those who have already died, but anyone who knows the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life will also know that no-one can be baptised for those who have already died so what is Paul saying? The following two steps will help us answer this question: -

1. The word, *otherwise* (in the ESV) and *else* (in the KJV) link (v29) back to (v25-28) which talk about death being destroyed and God being ALL in ALL, so what Paul is talking about is a shared hope in death, in resurrection and in eternity for all those that belong to Christ (i.e., the shared hope of those who are asleep in Christ, those beginning to believe in Christ and those being baptised into Christ) all have the same shared hope which is the resurrection from the dead, eternal life and God being ALL in ALL.
2. If the word otherwise is replaced the by the words, "If there is no resurrection" it then puts the verse in the context of the resurrection which is what Paul is talking about in this conversation.

The following four suggestions may also help explain what Paul is saying: -

1. It may mean; otherwise, if people are prepared to put their lives in danger of persecution and give up eating and drinking to support and baptise others why would they do that, if they are not going to be raised at all, supporting this idea is verse thirty in which Paul says: -
 - Why do we stand in jeopardy every hour (to baptize people) and verse thirty-two in which Paul said, "What do I gain (by baptising people) if the dead are not raised, we may as will eat and drink, if our end is simply death."

Meaning why should he suffer preaching the Gospel and baptising people if the dead are not raised, what does he gain everyone might as well eat and drink because tomorrow they may die.” Paul is saying, why would he and others risk persecution by baptizing people into Christ if the dead are not going to be raised to eternal life (even today Christians in extreme Communists and radical Moslems countries risk prison, torture and death if they are seen baptizing people into the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. It may mean; “Otherwise, why do people who are alive get baptised?” When people who are alive get baptised it supports what the dead in Christ have died for, if the dead, are not raised at all, why are people being baptised in the hope of those already dead being raised?
3. It may mean; “Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptised in the hope of the dead being raised, if the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptised in this hope?”
4. It may mean; “Otherwise, why bother at all to be baptised and fill up the ranks of those taken from us by death, if the dead are not raised at all, why bother to be baptised to be united with the dead if they are not going to be raised”.

The important thing here is not which of these four interpretations is the right one since they are all true statements, what is important to see is that verse twenty-nine is not teaching that Christians can be baptised on behalf of people who have died.

The Resurrection of the Body.

1 Cor. 15:42-44 ----- ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies (celestial bodies in KJV) and earthly bodies (terrestrial bodies in KJV), but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. ⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable (is corruption in the KJV); what is raised is imperishable (is incorruption in KJV). ⁴³It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Perishable (corruption in the KJV) is from the Greek word (phthora) which means, decay, ruin and destroy. This shows that the words, “What is sown is perishable” means that the complete person ceases to exist at death (i.e., body, mind and consciousness). This is why it is called death it is final until the resurrection. In these verses Paul brilliantly answers the question, “What kind of body will we have in the resurrection by likening the human body to a seed. Every gardener knows that a seed must be planted and die to rise to the glorious life it contains within itself. The human body is no different to any other seed it must die to release the glory of the life it contains within.

Flesh and Blood Cannot Inherit the Kingdom of God.

1 Cor. 15:50-54 ----- ⁵⁰I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable (corruption inherit incorruption in KJV). ⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable (incorruptible in KJV) and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable (corruptible in KJV) body must put on the imperishable, (incorruption in KJV), and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable (corruptible in KJV) puts on the imperishable (incorruption in KJV) and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

The word flesh comes from the Greek word (sarx) and can refer: -

- To the skin of any living creature animal or human.
- To human nature with its physical and moral frailties and its passions.

- To a human being carnally and worldly minded.
- To the physical body and what is external as opposed to the spirit.

The word blood comes from the Greek word (haima) and refers to the literal blood of men or of animals and the atoning blood of Christ. In Leviticus it is written, "The life of the flesh is in the blood" (Lev. 17:11). From these definitions we see that Paul in these verses has the entire human body in focus (i.e., body, mind and consciousness) and not just the physical literal body.

Paul shines a spotlight on the following two truths: -

1. This mortal, corruptible, decaying and perishing body we live in at the moment cannot enter God's eternal Kingdom.
2. When the Lord returns to raise the dead who died in faith at the resurrection there will be other faithful believers who are alive that will also be raised with them and changed by the awesome power of God in the same supernatural fashion.

Here is the glory of the Christian faith the mortal body of every faithful brother and sister in Christ whether it has been dead for hundreds of years or is alive will be changed when Christ returns in glory. When a human dies the life goes out of them and they cease to exist physically and mentally until the resurrection when they are raised to eternal life and everlasting glory. It is then that death is swallowed up in victory.

Paul's Hope was to Attain to the Resurrection of the Dead.

Philippians 3:10-11 --- ¹⁰that I (Paul) may know him and the power of his resurrection and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Paul's two major desires in life were: -

1. To deliver the lost from the domain of darkness and transfer them into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13).
2. To be counted worthy when he is resurrected from the dead.

Paul's words, "That by any means possible I may attain to the resurrection from the dead," does not mean that Paul had doubts about being accepted by Christ if this was the case everything he has taught about faith and God's grace would be nullified and worse still if Paul the author of most of the New Testament and who suffered far more for Christ than most in the Christian faith are ever called to do had doubts about being saved how can any of us ever be expected to trust in the Lord and in God's grace to be counted righteous and saved to eternal life.

The verse carries two dominant thoughts: -

1. Paul was going to do whatever he had to no-matter what it cost or how much suffering it meant to attain to the resurrection. Meaning no-matter what hardships and troubles came his way he was not going to give up his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Paul had taught the Corinthian brothers and sisters that: -
 - If anyone builds on the foundation (the Lord Jesus Christ) with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, they will receive a reward, but if anyone's work is burned up, they will suffer loss, though they themselves will be saved, but only as through fire (1 Cor. 3:12-15)

This shows that Paul was very aware that not everyone was going to be counted as a worthy and honourable servant so his statement, "That by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead" also carries the idea that Paul would not only do everything possible to honour God, but will also willingly suffer loss so that he will be found by Christ to have been a worthy servant of the Lord's at the resurrection of the dead as opposed to feeling ashamed.

Our Citizenship is in Heaven.

Philippians 3:20-21 --- ²⁰our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Those whose citizenship is in heaven refers to those whose minds are set on the things that honour God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ it carries the idea of being humble and filled with the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, kindness, compassion, mercy, grace, forgiveness etc.), and desiring to be a good testimony to the name of Christ in contrast to being driven by pride and ego and having our minds set upon worldly riches and the indulgences and pleasures of luxury living and upon earthly and worldly things that would offend God and bring a bad testimony to the name of Jesus.

We await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: this refers to the return of Jesus in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15).

Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Lord will Descend and the Dead in Christ will Rise.

1 Thess. 4:16 ----- ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Nowhere in the Bible does it teach that Jesus is returning with the bodiless souls and spirits of the dead who have been dwelling in heaven as some kind of conscious spirit and as they descend with the Lord their bodies are raised from the grave so that the bodiless soul and spirit will have a body to dwell in, yet this is what much of traditional Christianity believes. The very clear teaching of the Bible is that when the Lord returns in glory those sleeping in Christ (the dead) will be resurrected body, mind and consciousness (i.e., body, soul and spirit) to eternal life and everlasting glory then those who are alive at that time will be caught up to be with them.

Some say the Resurrection has Already Happened.

2 Timothy 2:17-18 ---- ¹⁷their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

This verse clearly shows that the resurrection has not taken place yet (as some believed) and that no-one (with the exception of the Lord Jesus Christ) has been raised from the dead to eternal glory. Certainly Jesus and the apostles raised some from the dead, but they were raised only to mortal life to die again and not to eternal life and everlasting glory never to taste the pains and darkness of death again.

NOTE: some people find it difficult to comprehend God raising the dead, but think of it this way: we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen (soon it is most likely they will simply appear in the air), then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again.

Knowing that God has given his creation a mortal mind and finite memory to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps us all in His immortal mind and eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and raise us once again to life. Added to this very few Christians have any trouble believing God created the universe that we live in so raising the dead in comparison is not such a difficult task for such an awesome, powerful and majestic God (Heb. 11:3).

The Faithful of the Old Testament Died, Not having Received God's Promise.

Hebrews 11:13 ----- ¹³These (the faithful) all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

There is one majestic and glorious moment of glory and one only, to which all the New Testament writers look forward to with great hope which is the resurrection of all the faithful at the arrival of the Messiah in glory. The point or focus around which hope and interest revolve is not the moment of death, but the appearance of Christ in the glory of his Kingdom. In many churches the all-important moment of the coming of Christ to establish His glorious millennial Kingdom on earth has been replaced by the moment of the individual's death with the soul going to heaven, but the New Testament speaks only of those who have died (body soul and spirit) and who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ (Old and New Testament) being raised together in glory at the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5).

People Obtain a Better Resurrection.

Hebrews 11:35 ----- ³⁵Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.

The dead that were raised refers to the entire person being raised from the dead (i.e., body, mind, consciousness and thoughts). Though these people were only raised to mortal life their resurrection gives us a small glimpse (howbeit a much inferior one) of what it means to be raised from the dead to eternal life. Throughout the Bible the loved ones of certain faithful woman were raised from the dead, but only to die again. Jesus the firstfruits of every faithful brother and sister to be raised to eternal life, is the only person who at this time has been raised to eternal glory and eternal life. Throughout history there have always been faithful brothers and sisters who have suffered extreme persecution because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but rather than give up their faith and turn from the Lord they endured steadfast knowing they would be raised to a better life in eternal glory.

Born Again because of the Resurrection of Jesus.

1 Peter 1:3 ----- ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Jesus, was raised from his tomb to heaven (body, mind and consciousness (i.e., body soul and spirit) not just his body it is in this same way every faithful brother and sister sleeping in Christ will be raised from the dead to eternal glory. A sinner has no assurance of an eternal future with God since they are in a hopeless state of guilt before the one true God, but if they hear the message that God has raised the man Jesus from the dead and that he now lives forever and they believe it and by faith embrace Christ and his Gospel they also will be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory.

Whoever by faith embraces the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and believes the Good News of the Gospel will have a new hope. This new faith and new hope not only transforms their worldview, their passions, their goals and their desires, but also transforms their life. It is in this sense they are said to be born again to a living hope because of the resurrection of Jesus.

The knowledge they have heard and believed gives them a new hope and a new life that will last forever, they are, or could say that they have been born again by the Good News of the Gospel of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ because by their faith in Christ's death and resurrection they also will be raised to eternal glory.

By this glorious and eternal knowledge of Christ a sinner's life is changed, they have new goals, new dreams, new desires and a glorious eternal future to look forward to with great hope. Their old life of living for self and the things of this world is transformed to live for God and the things that bring a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ it is in this sense they are born again by the resurrection of Christ.

Hope and faith: when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future.

The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie. The apostle Paul wrote; "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2). The Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

The Sea, Death and Hades gave up the Dead to be Judged.

Rev. 20:12-15 ----- ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and *books* were opened. Then *another book* was opened, which is the *Book of Life*. And the dead were judged by what was *written in the books, according to what they had done*. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, death and hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, *according to what they had done*. ¹⁴Then death and hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵And if anyone's name was not found written in the *Book of Life*, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

This event takes place at the end of Christ's glorious millennial reign as king of kings and Lord of lords on earth. It is called the Great White Throne judgment because at this judgment the sea, death and the grave give up the dead and they stand before God to be judged. Here we clearly see that when the dead are raised it is the entire body, mind and consciousness (i.e., body soul and spirit) that is raised and not just the body.

NOTICE: there is no mention of a living conscious spirit descending from heaven and being united with a dead body that is raised from the grave (as some believe). In both the first resurrection and this one it is the complete person being raised from the grave.

For further information concerning these verses, see the title: -

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Bible likens the resurrection of the faithful to someone resting in a peaceful sleep until they are woken up by the angel of the Lord at the sound of the last trumpet to eternal glory.

SUMMARY: the Entire Person is Raised and Not just the Body.

When a baby is born their name is recorded in the Book of Life and their life is recorded in other books kept in heaven. If they accept the Lord Jesus Christ their name is transferred from the Book of Life into the Lamb's Book of Life, but if not their name remains in the Book of Life but if a person deliberately harms other humans their name is likely to be blotted out of the Book of Life, while the names of those who show compassion and kindness toward others remain in the record of names recorded in the Book of Life.

The first resurrection: when the Lord Jesus Christ returns those whose names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life are raised in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) because of their faith in God's Son. They will dwell with the Lord Jesus Christ in God's Holy City Jerusalem during his glorious millennial Kingdom reign on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The Great White Throne Judgment: at the end of Christ's glorious millennial Kingdom reign God Himself descends from heaven to earth on a Great White Throne and the grave, the sea and death give up the dead and they all stand before God Himself.

Those whose names had been blotted out of the Book of Life are immediately cast into the Lake of Fire, a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total extinction), but all those whose names are found in the Book of Life are judged according to what they had done and according to what is written in the other heavenly books that are opened at the same time. Those counted unworthy are also cast into the Lake of Fire this is called the second death.

NOTE: there may be a literal Book of the Lamb and a literal Book of Life or it may be a simple way for the writer to explain to our mortal, finite and limited minds that the eternal eyes and mind of God sees all things and remembers all things. He knows when a baby is born, He sees their life good or bad unfold before Him and he remembers in his eternal mind their deeds, and will judge accordingly.

For further information see the title: -

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- The Book of Life and the Lake of Fire.
- The Book of Life and the Book of the Lamb.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.