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The Resurrection of the Dead

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THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD  I Cor.15:42-44

I. I remember Jesus.
A. He taught the Resurrection - John 5.
  1. It was the Sabbath, Jerusalem, Bethesda, impotent folk in great multitude (Jesus there!), angel troubled the water, man sick 38 years, couldn't reach water, rise & walk did, later learned it was Jesus.
  2. Jews incensed because it was Sabbath.
     a. You'll see greater works.
     b. I'm God's Son, therefore equal (v-18).
     c. I can give eternal life.
     d. I am the resurrection. v-28 "Marvel not at this, for the hour is come"
B. He experienced the Resurrection.
   1. 1st day, early, angels & women.
      Matt. 28:6 "He is not here, for he is risen "Come & see--go & tell"
      John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the
   2. Did he really?
     a. Swoon theory--thief did die, not Jesus. Yet push away rock untreated wound, and became the world's greatest deceiver??
     b. Friends stole body--every guard asleep, and testify, yet fold napkin??
     c. Enemies stole--defeats purpose.
     d. Hallucination of friends--does that make for astonishment when they see him, MT tombs, Pentacost conversations, martyrs.
I Cor. 15:55-57 "Death is swallowed up
C. He Promised the Resurrection.
I Thess. 4:14 "For if we believe that Jesus died & rose, even so them also which sleep in Jesus
the tomb.
b. Best people of all ages always believed it.
Ps. 17:15 "I shall be satisfied, when I 2. It is reassuring.
2. I Cor. 15:22 "For in Adam all die even II. Since I'm connected with it, naturally there are questions I would like to ask. Some are:
A. When shall it be?
1. Jesus stated it 4 times in John.
John 6:39 "Of all which he hath given me, I 6:40 "Everyone which seeth the Son 6:44 "No man can come to me 6:54 "Who so eateth my flesh & drinketh 2. This "last day" is the time of Judgement.
John 12:48 "He that rejecteth me, & receiveth not my words 3. Apostles signify it at the end.
I Cor. 15:24 "Then cometh the end" I Pet. 4:7 "The end of all things"
B. How many Resurrections are there?
1. Once more we turn to the Bible for our answers.
a. John 5:28-29 "Marvel not at this for the (1) Two or one—note the hour (how long) & the all.
(2) Does this teach.
(a) Jesus comes for church & the marriage supper. (b) 7 yrs. Jews are converting Gentiles on earth.
(c) Jesus then calls Tribulation saints—then the millennial period. (d) Finally return to raise Christless dead.
2. Read these passages.

Acts 24:15 "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the [a] just and of the [b] unjust.

John 11:24 "I know that he shall rise...the Lord himself shall...shame...conquer...in the dust...eternal life...shame...conquer...Had Daniel said black & white, men & women, would he have meant two?"

I Thess. 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend [c] from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

a. Not one passage teaches two resurrection unless its Rev. 20. If it did, we'd believe it, once is enough. But can we give a literal interpretation to one sentence of a highly symbolical passage & then retract steps & give an interpretation of all eschatological teachings of entire Bible to agree with this? No—interpret obscure in light of clear!

b. Rev. 20 figurative description of righteous dead in intermediate state.

c. No reference to Jews, Jerusalem, earthly kingdom, bodies, physical dead (1st resurrection contrasts 2nd dead—spiritual—see v-14), resurrection from the dead, temple, natural citizens.

3. We conclude—1 resurrection—reaturing

a. Short time, dead raised, living transformed, meet the Lord, judgment, end of world, assembly of all nations, chief Shepherd knows his own sheep, each to place fitted.

III. But that is not to say that there is not something distinctive in the resurrection of God's people.

Phil. 3:11 "If by any means I might at A. Picture this scene.
1. At one time dead of all ages called forth. It is a resurrection not a restoration. I Cor. 15:38 "To every seed his own body"


C. Deliver me from the condemned. What will the righteous be? I Cor. 15:42-44.

1. Sown in corruption raised in incorruption
   a. As we begin to live we do to die.
   b. Not subject to death no need for reproduction. Marriage ceases. Scriptures do not teach abolition of spiritual sex—characterless. The soul of a woman will always be exactly that. But in physical relations we are like angels.

2. Sown in dishonor—raised in glory.
   a. We'll resemble Jesus—the effulgence, beauty, power ours, "When I rise to worlds unknown and behold thee on they throne"

3. Sown in weakness, raised in power.
   a. No hearing aids, trembly knees, feeble hands, neither weary nor faint.

4. Sown natural, raised spiritual body.
   a. Willing instruments of the Lord we glorify forever and ever.

West End 3/15/61
"Today, the people who teach Second Advent truth divide into two classes. These groups may be found in every section of the church, and often, their opposition to the other party is extremely bitter. This is certainly a cause for extreme regret, but more will be said of that toward the end of this chapter. There are many teachers, who declare that Christ will come at any moment to call away His church; that every believer will be caught up to meet Him in the air, and that afterward, the Tribulation, or the Time of Jacob's Trouble, will come to this earth. This period of intense persecution will last for nearly seven years, and during this time, the Man of Sin, or the Antichrist will dominate the entire world. Finally, when he is about to annihilate the Jewish people, the great conflict Armageddon will be terminated by the appearance of Christ. It is said that the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives, and that the glory of His coming will
destroy the persecutor. The rescued Jews will accept Him as their Messiah, and thereafter the Lord will reign for a thousand years. At the end of this period, Satan will be loosed to gather together all whose hearts are rebellious toward the King of kings. A final onslaught will be made upon the city of God, but evil once again will be overcome. Then the unrighteous dead will appear for judgment before the throne of God, and afterward, eternal bliss will come to God's new world.

from "This I Believe"
by Ivor Powell
page 199
An Unanswered

A superintendent of the Ohio Penal Industries says a question asked him years ago by a reporter still bothers him because he has never learned its answer.

A brochure prepared by a Penal Industries salesman proclaimed that each of the caskets produced in the penitentiary workshop was equipped with a safety catch.

The reporter's question: "What for?"

The Bible has some very important questions which remain unanswered. Here are two of them:
Some shall awake unto shame & everlasting contempt. Their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh. The wicked shall be cast into everlasting darkness. There shall be weeping & the gnashing of teeth. They shall be tormented day & night forever & ever.
They shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and as the stars forever, we shall bear the image of the heavenly. We shall be conformed to the body of Christ's glory. We shall be like Him.