

**THE SECOND APPEARING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
A STUDY OF EVENTS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING AND
SUBSEQUENT TO CHRISTS RETURN**

STUDY NUMBER 4:- The Resurrection of the Dead

The Lord Jesus showed in his refutation of the Sadducees belief that there was no resurrection, that in fact the resurrection of the dead was taught by implication in Moses experience at the burning bush recorded in Exodus 3: 2 Jesus replied to them, "You do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. (Mat 22:29-32)

In fact there are quite a number of scriptures in the Old Testament indicating that resurrection was the hope of the truth holders since the times of Abraham. For example Abraham was informed in Genesis 15:15 "And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age". But it was afterwards that God promised him, "I will give unto you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, **all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession;** and I will be their God." (Gen 17:8) This can only mean that Abraham will be raised from the dead to receive it. Job, a later contemporary of the fathers of Israel, expresses his faith powerfully, "For I know *that* my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: (Eloah) Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." (Job 19:25-27) Here, he is asserting his belief in his own resurrection after his body had decayed.

In the Psalms, as the apostle Peter confirms in his Pentecostal address in Acts 2:25 -28, speaks of the resurrection of Christ, " For David speaks concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore

did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Peter is quoting from Psalm 16.

Isaiah focuses upon the abolition of death for his people, **“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. (Isa 25:8)** In the following chapter of Isaiah (26:19) the teaching is explicit, **“Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise.** Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew *is* as the dew of herbs, and the **earth shall cast out the dead.**” Psalm 49:15 also **“Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. But God will redeem my soul (life) from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.** (This quotation was the last thing written by Bro. Robert Roberts before he died at his desk)

Hosea also declares God’s intention **“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be your plagues; O grave, I will be your destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes”**. (Hos.13:14)

Daniel also reveals how by his own subjection to a typical death and resurrection God will raise his faithful servants from the dead. **“Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.** And, behold, a hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and *upon* the palms of my hands. And he said to me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and **stand upright:** for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, **I stood** trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.” (Dan 10:9-12).

This is confirmed as Daniel’s expectation in chapter 12 reveals, **“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for**

the children of your 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.

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. 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.” (12:1-3)

When John sent to Jesus to know whether he was the one that is to come, Jesus replied, “Go and show John again, those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, **the dead are raised up**, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. (Mat 11:4-6)

Also we remember how Lazarus had been dead for four days and when Jesus met Martha he said to her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? (Joh. 11:25-& 26)

Jesus offered a prayer to his Father, “I thank thee that thou hast heard me. ⁴² And I knew that you always heard me: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that you have sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

⁴⁴ And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus said to them, loose him, and let him go. (Joh 11:41-44)

However, there is besides the resurrection of the dead individuals, a political resurrection, such as is forecast by Ezekiel, of the nation of Israel. Yahweh greatly blessed this nation in the days of Moses and Joshua, delivering them from slavery and bringing them into the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But Moses fore told the Israelites before his impending death, that the time would come when the nation would be cast out of the land of promise because of their infidelity and corruption of the Law of God. In Deuteronomy 28 God warns them at length of the punishments that would be brought upon

them that would culminate in their casting out of the land of Israel and their scattering among all nations. History have verified the accuracy of Moses predictions and for 2,500 years the Israelitish people were wanderers among all nations. They were known as the Diaspora, the scattered seed. The Old Testament catalogues in graphic detail the reasons for this expulsion, and the sufferings of Jewish people, but it also provides the certainty that this punishment would not last forever, but in the last days the time would come when they would return once more to their ancient homeland. Israel as a nation experienced a political death, and the countries of their exile are regarded in prophetic Scriptures as their graves.

In Ezekiel chapter 37 there is a prophecy which describes how a nation can be brought back to political life. Ezekiel in vision was transported by the Spirit of Yahweh to a valley full of dry bones and he was asked, "Can these bones live? Ezekiel was instructed to prophecy to the bones that they would be reconnected, covered in flesh and skin and they would live. He was instructed to prophecy again to the wind, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. (Ezek. 37:9) Ezekiel did as he was commanded and they became "an exceeding great army" Ezekiel was then given a message to deliver to his people, "Thus says Yahweh; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, says Yahweh. (Eze 37:12-14)

Ezekiel's prophecy has been fulfilling during the last 100 years. Persecution of the Jews in the north, south, east, and west, caused the Jews to look toward their ancient homeland which was then known as Palestine. Persecution in Russia, Poland, France, saw thousands of Jews seeking refuge elsewhere, and some came to Palestine, then under the Ottoman or Turkish Empire. These were pioneers in the late 19th century. Persecution in Europe continued and many Jews went to the United States. Then came the Holocaust when 6 million Jews were destroyed in Germany and German occupied territories. Meanwhile the number of Jews in Palestine had increased, and the British who had

promised them a national home in Palestine, reneged on their promise and closed all ports of entry to Jews. Nevertheless as a result of their suffering thousands of Jews came to Palestine, enough to consider national independence and despite all the attempts by powers that be, the Jews in Palestine defeated their enemies in battle and established themselves as an independent nation to be known as Medinat Yisrael, the State of Israel. The population of Jews in those days was about 650,000 to day the population of Jews in Israel is 6,697,000 and the nation has become the most powerful military force in the Middle East. This is the resurrection of a nation and it is a sure sign that we are living in the last days before the promised return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In his letter to the Romans the apostle Paul wrote:-

“ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.” (Rom 11:25-28)

Clearly when the Lord Jesus returns there **must be** Jews in Jerusalem in order for him to take away their sins. What we have been witnessing in the last 77 years of my life is the POLITICAL RESURRECTION of the nation of Israel. This was considered an impossibility by a majority of people in the 1940's even the Jews themselves did not believe it to be possible, probable or wise. But today it is a fact and an assurance that prophecy has been fulfilling and we are witnesses.

Today we are living in a time of trouble such as never was, and we can expect Gogue to begin his construction of a confederacy to fulfil Ezekiel's prophecy in chapters 38 & 39 any time soon, in fact it is already being worked on.

The return of the Lord Jesus as a thief could be at any time now. His first task will be to raise the dead who are responsible to his Judgment Seat. The Lord Jesus alludes to his role in this respect in John 5:19-23

“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things soever he does, these also the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that himself does: and he will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises up the dead, and quickens them; even so the Son quickens whom he will. For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honours not the Son honours not the Father which hath sent him. In verse 28 Jesus adds “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the **resurrection of life**; and they that have done evil, unto **the resurrection of condemnation**.

Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians speaking of the return of Christ alludes to the resurrection of dead:- For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For 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 go before them which are asleep**. For 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**: 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. (1Th 4:14-17) It seems that the living could still be unaware of Christ’s coming until they themselves are called.

Also Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians also explains the process of resurrection, actually he seems to allude to the words of Jesus in John12: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it die, it brings forth much fruit. He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

(John 12:24-25)

Jesus was that corn of wheat, it was necessary that he should die and placed in the ground, just as a seed only yields fruit if it is planted. Jesus saw two Greeks with Philip and Andrew, Jews and Gentiles talking together about Jesus, and in this he had a prescience of what

would come as a result of his death and resurrection, many Jews together with many Gentiles would inherit eternal life through him who was the promised seed. So Paul in his letter to the Corinthians teaches:-

And that which you sow, you sow **not** that body that shall be, but **naked grain**, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God gives it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. (1Co 15:37-38) He is drawing a parallel between the grain of wheat and those who are born again. So he continues

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, The first man **Adam was made a living soul**; the **last Adam was made a quickening spirit.**

Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. **The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.**

As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. (1Co 15:42-50) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(1Co 15:51-52)

All those who know or have known the truth must go through this process, we must die to the old Adam and become alive in Christ. But the sad fact is that many are called but few are chosen. We have been baptized into death that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life. IF we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (Rom 6:5) Our future depends upon our change of character and how much we have been striving to imitate the character of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may

receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2Co 5:10)

Isaiah describes the resurrection in this way, “Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. (Isa 26:19) The dew of herbs is a very apt description because if you have ever been out in the summer in the early morning sometimes you can see when a heavy dew has occurred the grass and herbs covered in dew drops and the sunlight being reflected from every leaf and blade all shining together in the glory of the sunrise. Such will be the gathering of all the saints in the glory of the Sun of Righteousness, our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have been given this precious hope.

DHH.