

The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ

Stark Rd. Bi-Monthly Bible Reading 3/17/01

I. Introduction

1. The resurrection is used repeatedly in the scriptures to exhort, strengthen, encourage and instill hope of future glory.
Example: (Rom 8:11) - *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”*

2. The Resurrection was the keynote of the apostles gospel preaching.
Example: (Acts 2:22-37) *“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, ...Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: **Whom God hath raised up**, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. This Jesus **hath God raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? “
See also: (Acts 3:15, 4:10, 5:30, 10:40, 13:30, 13:33, 13:34, 13:37, 17:31)*

3. There are close to 100 direct references to the Resurrection in the New Testament.

4. All three Persons of the Godhead were causative in the resurrection.
 - a. The Father predominant - (Eph:1:20) *“Which He (God) wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.”*
 - b. The Son: - (John 10:18) *“No man taketh it (my life) from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”* Also (John 2:19)
 - c. The Holy Spirit: - (1Pet.3:18) *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened (made alive) by the Spirit.”*

II. The Resurrection in Picture (Type)

1. **The Priesthood of Melchizedek** (Gen. 14:18)- No beginning and no end recorded.
(Ps 110:4) *“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”*
(Heb 6:20) *“Whither (within the veil) the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”*

2. **The Two birds** (Lev. 14:4-7) One killed, its blood shed, the other dipped in the blood and released into the open heavens. The result was the leper declared clean.
(Heb 9:12) *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

3. **The First-fruits** (Lev. 23:10-11)
The sheaf of first-fruits was to represent the harvest that was to follow. Just as it was characteristic of what was to follow, so the believer in resurrection will take character from Christ. *“We shall be like Him”*

4. **Aaron's rod that budded** (Num. 17:8) Aaron's rod brought forth life from a dead rod, identifying him as God's chosen priest.

5. **The sign of Jonah** (Matt 12:39-40) Not a type, but a sign unto Israel. *“Three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”*

III. The Resurrection in Prophecy

1. **(Psalm 16:10-11)** *“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”*

Quoted, and applied to Christ by the apostles Peter (Acts 2:24-31) and Paul (Acts 13:34-37).

Note: There is an interesting and significant contrast between the believers resurrection and that of the Lord; Ours (1 Cor. 15:42-57) includes putting on incorruptibility and immortality, where The Lord need only put on immortality (1 Tim. 6:16). Corruptibility was never an issue, as it is linked with sin.

2. **(Psalm 22: 22-31, Heb. 2:12)** *“I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.”*

Only after His resurrection did He refer to His disciples as brethren.” (Matt 28:10)

3. **(Psalm 118: 22-24, Acts 4:10-11)** *“The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”*

"Rejoice" (Matt. 28:9) is the first word uttered by the Lord after His resurrection. Translated "All hail"

IV. The New Testament Doctrine of the Resurrection

1. **The Lord's own predictions of His Resurrection:** - (Matt 16:21, 17:23, 20:19, 26:32, Mark 9:31, Luke 9:22, 18:33, John 2:19, 10:17, 12:24)

- a. Its truth was hidden from the disciples (Luke 18:34) - Why?
- b. Purpose of his predictions: That afterward we might believe (John 2:22)

2. **His Resurrection as subject to valid proof:** (Acts 1:3) *“To whom (the Apostles) also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”*

- a. The Empty tomb: Witnessed by many and declared by angels. (Matt 28:5-8, Mark 16:2-8, Luke 24:1-8, John 20:1-10)
- b. His appearances to His own - Over 500 at once! (1 Cor 15:6)
- c. The revolutionized lives of His disciples: From hiding in fear (John 20:19) to preaching "boldly". (Acts 2:14, 32,40,42,46).

3. **His Resurrection as Resulting in a New Order of Beings:**

- a. The resurrection was vastly more than the reversal of Christ's death. ie. Lazarus and others He raised.
- b. Death's power to claim and keep has been broken. (2 Tim 1:10) *“But is now made manifest by the appearing of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”* (1Cor 15:55) *“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”*
- c. Christ is the first and only one of all earth dwellers to put on immortality. (1 Tim 6:16) *“Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting”*
- d. His resurrection body was a glorified body and *“We shall be like Him”!* (1 John 3:2) *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*
(1 Cor 15: 43-44) *“It (the body) is sown in dishonor; 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.”*

4. Seven Reasons for His Resurrection:

- a. Because of who He is: (Acts 2:24) *“Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”*
- b. To fulfill the Davidic covenant: God had made a promise (2 Sam 7:8-17), Interpreted in (Acts 2:30).
- c. To become the source of resurrection life: (Col 3:1-4) *“If ye then be risen with Christ ...”*
- d. To become the source of resurrection power: (Matt 28:18) *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”*
(Eph 1:18-20) *“That ye may know ... what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenlies.”*
- e. To become head of the Church: (Eph 1:22-23) *“And gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*
- f. For our Justification: (Rom 4:25) *“Who (Jesus our Lord) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.”* Because *“It is finished”*
- g. To be the First-Fruits of resurrection: (1 Cor 15: 20-23) *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”*

5. His Resurrection as the Present Standard of Divine Power:

- a. In the O.T. the standard was Israel's deliverance from Egypt (Ex 20:2) *“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage”*
- b. The standard in the present age is: (Eph 1:19-20) *“The exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead.”*

6. The Lord's Day as a Commemoration of His Resurrection:

- a. The Sabbath was a celebration of God's creational work in the original creation.
- b. The Lord's day is a celebration of His resurrection and the new creation. The first day of the week symbolizing a new beginning.
- c. Note the prominence of the first day of the week:
The resurrection, Christ's appearances to His disciples, The ascension? , The day of Pentecost, The Breaking of Bread, The collection for the Saints, etc. etc.

V. The Ascension and Current Session of Christ

The Doctrinal importance of Christ's ascension lies not so much in His departure from the world as it does His arrival in Heaven. (Eph 4:10) *“He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.”*

The following are seven activities of the exalted Savior - His present ministry (Heb 9:24) *“Now to appear in the presence of God for us.”*

1. The Exercise of Universal Authority:

- (Matt 28:18) *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”*
(1 Cor 15:27) *“For he hath put all things under his feet.”*

2. Head Over All Things to the Church:

- a. In relation to the Church - the body: (Col 1:18) *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in **all things** he might have the preeminence.”*
- b. In relation to the Local Assembly: (1 Cor 11:3) *“The head of every man is Christ”*

3. The Bestower of Gifts:

- a. He gives gifts of believers to the Church.

(Eph 4:8,11-12) *“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ... And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”*

- b. He gives gifts to individual believers.

(Rom 12:6) *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us”*

4. The Priestly work of the Intercessor:

In View of our weakness - Preservation

The Lord knows our weakness and He knows our enemy.

- a. This ministry of prayer which began before He left the earth (John 17:1-26), is continued for the saved as long as we are in the world (John 17:20).

b. His is an unfailling priesthood (Heb 7:24-25) *“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

c. A beautiful illustration in Peter’s failure (Luke 22:31-32) *“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”*

5. The Priestly Work of the Advocate:

In view of our sin - Restoration

(1 John 2:1) *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And **if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”***

(Rom 8:34) *“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”*

6. The Builder:

He has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14: 1-3)

He is building His Church (Matt 16:18)

7. The Expectant One: - His present attitude

- a. (Heb 10: 12-13) *“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.”*

The One who is now rejected will soon return for His bride, and shortly thereafter, return to the earth “in power and great glory”.

- b. Are we in an attitude of expectation?

(2 Pet 3:11-12) *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be** in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”*