

LESSON 9: RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT

DAY 57

The Apostle Paul said, “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8). How does this happen? How do we come to be present with the Lord? It is through the resurrection of the dead. Study for yourself this critically important and hope-filled doctrine.

1. What is the ultimate penalty for sin? (Genesis 3:17-19; Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23)

2. How does the Bible describe the condition of death? To what is death likened? (John 11:1-14, Acts 7:57-8:1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20)

3. What is a person doing when they fall asleep (die)? (Ecclesiastes 9:10; Psalm 6:5; Psalm 115:17; Psalm 30:8-9; Isaiah 38:18-19)

P2P: Meditate on how the Bible likens death to sleeping and how it says there is no work, device, wisdom, knowledge or praising of God in the grave. There is no thought or work in death. The Bible clearly describes death like a state of sleeping, without consciousness. Death is our enemy because it removes us from fellowship with God.

4. Will death be destroyed? (1 Corinthians 15:25-26)
5. When a person dies, what happens next? (Job 14:10-15)
6. List out the specifics of what happens in death and resurrection according to Job 14:10-15.

{death}

DEATH IS LIKE SLEEPING, WHERE THE PERSON CANNOT BE ROUSED UNTIL THE TIME OF THEIR AWAKING.

P2P: Do you believe that when man dies, he does not rise up until the heavens are no more? Do you believe that when a person dies he waits for God to raise him from the dead? Is this consistent with your current beliefs on what happens when a person dies? If not, how does it differ?

PRAY Thank God for giving you life with which to think and work and praise Him. Thank Him for every moment of every day that He gives you to sing praises to Him as King David did. Ask Him to continue to bless you with life so that you can praise Him, knowing that there is no praise of Him in the grave where all men go. Thank Him for the fellowship you and others have with Him right now, today.

DAY 58

In Job 14:10-15, God declares:

- Man will lie down and not rise up until the heavens are no more.
- God will hide us in the grave until His wrath is past.
- God will set a time and remember us.
- We will wait for our change.
- God will call and we will answer.

Consider how each of these statements from the book of Job is affirmed in the New Testament. Use the space provided below for scripture notes, then answer the related questions.

7. Man will lie down and not rise up until the heavens are no more.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

Matthew 24:29-31

2 Peter 3:10

- a. Why do you think Paul begins 1 Thessalonians 4:13 by stating that he didn't want fellow believers to be ignorant of what happens when you die?

- b. What does 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 teach about the order of resurrection for those who are resurrected at Jesus return?

- c. Is your current belief regarding the resurrection of dead believers consistent with the teachings of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18? If not, how do they differ?

8. God will hide us in the grave until His wrath is past.

Isaiah 26:19-21

Revelation 14:12-20

- a. Why would God say, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on”?

- b. In what ways can death be a blessing?

9. God will set a time and remember us.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24

Revelation 20:4-15

- a. Combining what you read in these two passages of Scripture, how many appointed times are there?

- b. When do these resurrections take place?

{resurrection}

CONSIDER THAT GOD HAD A PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING, AND AN APPOINTED TIME WHEN HE WOULD RESURRECT:

JESUS, AFTER 3 DAYS AND 3 NIGHTS, ON THE DAY OF THE WAVE SHEAF OFFERING, DURING THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD.

THOSE WHO ARE CHRIST'S AT HIS COMING.

THE REST OF THE DEAD AT THE END, AFTER THE 1,000 YEAR REIGN OF JESUS AND HIS SAINTS, WHEN HE FINALLY DESTROYS DEATH ITSELF.

10. We will wait for our change.

1 Corinthians 15:35-53

Philippians 3:20-21

1 John 3:2

Psalm 17:15

- a. Whose body will ours be like? (1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:49)

b. List the ways our bodies will be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

THE BODY IS SOWN IN:	THE BODY IS RAISED IN:

c. What does this passage reveal about the reason we have to be changed? (1 Corinthians 15:36)

II. God will call and we will answer.

John 5:25-29

Revelation 11:11-12

a. To what events are those who dwell in graves called?

PRAY

Thank God for His promises to resurrect the dead, to bring us back to life at His appointed times. Thank God that He has thought His plan through to the end and that He will complete His plans according to His divine schedule. Ask God to help you understand His plans, as He has laid them out in His word, and to remove any of the confusion caused by other teachings and beliefs that are inconsistent with His revealed plans.

DAY 59

12. Why does God delay the fulfillment of His promised resurrection until the return of Jesus Christ? (Hebrews 11:39-40)

13. Is King David, who prophesied of the resurrection, currently in heaven or is he still in the grave, awaiting the return of Jesus Christ? (Acts 2:29, 34)

14. Are your beliefs consistent with the declaration of Acts 2:29 and 2:34?

15. Read John 3:13 to answer the following questions.
 - a. If David did not ascend into heaven, does that mean all the saints are still in the grave?

 - b. Has anyone ascended into heaven?

P2P: Do you believe this verse to be true, that only Jesus (who came down from heaven, died and rose again) has ascended into heaven?

Are you amazed that the only direct verse in the Bible about going to heaven after death is one that states no one other than Jesus has gone to heaven? It is often assumed that when people die they go to heaven. However, this verse, along with the others from this lesson show that when you die, you rest (sleep) in the grave, waiting for the return of Jesus Christ who will resurrect His saints.

16. Read Revelation 20:4-15, John 5:28-29 and Daniel 12:1-3 to answer the following questions.
- a. What happens to all the people who have lived and died throughout history who have never heard about and/or believed in Jesus Christ? Will they be resurrected?
 - b. What is the purpose of their resurrection? (See also Hebrews 9:27)
 - c. We are declared to have passed from death to life by our faith in Jesus Christ (John 5:24). Revelation 20:6 says, "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power." But how do these three passages reveal the manner in which the rest of the dead are judged?

PRAY

Thank God that through faith and belief in Jesus now, you have passed from death to life and have the hope of eternal life at the resurrection of the dead at the return of Jesus Christ. Pray for God to bless your heart and mind with a strong, godly conscience to convict you today so that you can take action now to repent and follow God faithfully. Ask God to lead you to others who need to hear the gospel message so that they may believe and be part of the blessed and holy who have part in the first resurrection.

DAY 60

17. Who will judge the dead in the resurrection at the end? (John 5:21-23, 30; Matthew 3:12)
18. Read Revelation 20:11-15 and Romans 2:5-16 to answer the following questions.
- a. How will Jesus judge the rest of the dead, those who did not believe in Him during their lifetimes on earth?
 - b. What is the purpose of the judgment?
 - c. According to what will God render judgment?
 - d. What will either *accuse* or else *excuse* those God resurrects in the end judgment?
19. Read Ezekiel 18:4-32 to answer the following questions.
- a. How will Jesus determine whether a person is righteous or unrighteous in the day of judgment?
 - b. What do these verses tell you about the importance of repentance?

P2P: How do these verses impact your approach in continuing to deliver the gospel to others?

20. Read John 3:16, Romans 6:23, Philippians 3:18-21, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 and Revelation 20:6, 14-15 to answer the following questions.

- a. What is the final reward or punishment given to the righteous and unrighteous?

- b. What is the contrasting punishment/reward for those who are sinners versus those who God saves?

- c. What is the second death? (See also Revelation 2:11)

21. Was man created with an immortal soul, or can a soul die? Are you an immortal, eternal being or are you mortal, able to die? (Genesis 2:7, 22, Genesis 3:19, Ezekiel 18:4, 20, Matthew 10:28, Romans 6:21, 1 Corinthians 15:15-18, 53-54, 2 Thessalonians 1:9)

22. If we can die, as the above scriptures indicate, are we to seek after and pursue the gift of eternal life and immortality? (John 3:16, Romans 2:6-12, Romans 6:21-23, 1 Timothy 6:12)

23. Does anyone have immortality in himself? (1 Timothy 6:12-16)

MEDITATE Meditate on the fact that God alone has immortality. One of the things that make Him God is that He is immortal and eternal. It is that gift of eternal life that He wants to give to us, but He has guarded the way to the tree of life so that we won't live forever (Genesis 3:22). However, He has promised His saints that they *will be granted* to eat of the tree of life (Revelation 2:7).

PRAY Praise God that He alone has immortality and that He alone has the power to give immortality and eternal life to others. Thank Him for the great gift of eternal life that we have in Jesus Christ. Thank Him for the promised resurrection of the dead and the change that will happen in your life to transform you from mortal to immortal. Ask God to send people your way with whom you can share the good news of His coming and of the hope of eternal life.

DAY 61

24. Since all who will receive life need God's forgiveness of sins and mercy, *how will Jesus judge each person impartially*, deciding whether they receive life or death?
- a. **By their response to the gospel and God's works.** (Matthew 10:14-15; Mark 16:14-16; Matthew 11:20-24)

P2P: Based on these passages, how important is your response to the gospel, to live as a disciple of Christ? Meditate upon the warning contained in what God is saying.

- b. **By what they knew and what they did with what they knew.** (Matthew 12:41-42; Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 4:5)

P2P: Jesus has the ability to know the intents and thoughts of the heart, to even know if a person who didn't repent would have repented had he been in the same circumstances and situation as someone else. This allows Jesus to judge with righteous judgment.

- c. **By their own conscience.** (Romans 2:12-16)

P2P: Jesus knows if you had the knowledge to do right or not. A person's conscience will either accuse them, because they knew better and didn't heed what they knew, or it will excuse them, because they didn't understand the truth of their sin. How sensitive are you to the dictates of your own conscience?

- d. **By their own words.** (Matthew 12:36; James 3:1)

P2P: What are you doing to consider the judgments that come out of your mouth?

- e. **By their judgment of others.** (Romans 2:1-3; Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 6:37-38; James 2:1-4, 8-13)

P2P: How important is your forgiveness and condemnation when it comes to your own judgment?

When God judges all the rest of the dead, every person who stands before Him is dependent upon His mercy. So how can He judge impartially, giving life to some and the second death to others, when all are dependent on His mercy?

God does it by applying each person's own thoughts, words and actions on himself. In effect, a person judges himself by what he did to others in his own life. Jesus will take what you did and the way you measured out to others and apply it to you personally.

So how can He judge perfectly and righteously and without partiality? By letting you judge yourself, by your own works and your own words.

f. By their treatment of others. (Matthew 25:31-46)

P2P: Note how none of these knew Jesus, but by their works He was known to them. What are the works God was looking for in their lives?

P2P: How are you treating your brothers? Are you looking out for others' interests as well as your own? (See Philippians 2:3-4)

MEDITATE Meditate on how God's system of perfect justice works for each person. Just because a person didn't know Jesus doesn't mean he is condemned forever. Those who heard and knew the message of Jesus will be judged differently than those who never heard it. Jesus knows how to fairly judge each person because He judges the heart and mind and He knows what they did based on what they knew.

Think about how God causes each person to, in effect, judge himself by applying his own words, judgments, conscience and actions to his own life. Think about how God will be merciful to those who didn't know Him, who maybe never even heard the gospel, but who showed mercy to others. And consider how those who do not demonstrate mercy will themselves be shown no mercy.

PRAY Thank God that He has a perfect system of justice whereby we are judged by our own words, thoughts, judgments and actions of others. Thank God that He is so merciful with us and praise Him for His mercy that never fails. Thank God the Father that Jesus has been granted the authority to judge the living and the dead. Ask God to give you a heart of compassion and mercy, that your judgment would always be fair and that you would look to demonstrate love, even to those who don't love you. Ask God to send Jesus to this earth soon.

DAY 62

25. Reflect upon the following verses in regard to the gospel and resurrection of the dead.
(Job 14:10-15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:1-15)

PRAY

Thank God for His perfect plan of redemption and for the appointed times when He will raise the dead either at the return of Jesus (for those who are His at His coming) or at the end (for all the rest of the dead). Ask for God's blessing in helping you to see and believe the scriptures concerning His plan for the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

DAY 63

MEDITATE & PRAY

Spend time further reflecting upon and praying about the parts of Lesson 9 that really inspired you.