

First Lesson : WHAT IS JESUS RESURRECTION?

OT background of Resurrection: (Psalm 17:15/ Isaiah 26:19 / Daniel 12:2/ 2 Macc 7)

Resurrection of Jesus Christ: (Mt 28:1-7/ Mk 16:1-8/Lk 24:1-12/Jn 20:1-9)

Jesus' teaching on Resurrection

What impact Jesus' resurrection had on the disciples?

St. Paul's teaching on Jesus' Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15)

Resurrection is the center and Heart of our Christian Faith (1 Cor15:20)

Why Resurrection is important to us?

How well it should affect our faith?

First and second resurrection (Daniel 12:2/ Rev 20:4-6)

Old Testament background of Resurrection

Psalm 17:15 "I am just—let me see your face; when I awake, let me be filled with your presence"

The word "awake" shows that David believed in life after death. Although belief in resurrection was not widespread in the OT times, several verses show that it was partially understood (reference: Job 19:25-27/ Psalm 16:10/49:15/139:17-18/Isaiah 26:19/Daniel 12:2, 13)

Isaiah 26:19 "But your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise! Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust! For your dew is a dew of light, and you cause the land of shades to give birth"

In this verse Isaiah tells us that our bodies shall rise again. According to 1 Corinthians, 15:50-53, all the dead believers will rise with new imperishable bodies – like Jesus had when he resurrected

Hosea 6:1-3 "Come, let us return to the LORD, For it is he who has torn, but he will heal us; he has struck down, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence. Let us know, let us strive to know the LORD; as certain as the dawn is his coming. He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth."*

Job 19:26 "This will happen when my skin has been stripped off, and from my flesh I will see God"
Here Job in his resurrected body will see God

Daniel 12: 2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; Some to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace"*

This is a clear reference to the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked although the eternal fates of each will be quite different. Upto this point in time, teaching about the resurrection was not common although every Israelite believed that one day he or she would be included in the restoration of the new kingdom.

2 Maccabees 7:1-42 is a very clear passage about bodily resurrection which Jews anticipated. This passage speaks of seven sons of a faithful Jew who are being murdered one by one for keeping the Law. When the third son's turn comes he holds out his hands and stick out his tongue (which the persecutors had come to remove). He basically tells them they can have these bodily parts because one day God will give them back. That makes it pretty clear he expects a physical element to the body he will get at the end. This view is like that of the Pharisees and was the view of resurrection Paul had as a Pharisee. When he sees Jesus in a glorified form, it indicates and reinforces this understanding of resurrections.

Jesus' resurrection

Jesus resurrection has been recorded in all the gospels (Mt 28:1-7/ Mk 16:1-8/Lk 24:1-12/Jn 20:1-9). Jesus rose from the dead. What was Jesus' resurrected body? It was not a figment of the imagination or the appearance of a ghost. The disciples touched him and he ate food. He was able to appear and disappear.

Jesus' teaching on resurrection and the Inability of the disciples' understanding it

Jesus proved the reality of Resurrection to Sadducees (Matthew 22:31-32). The Sadducees accepted only the Pentateuch as God's divine word. Jesus answered from the book of Exodus (3:6) when God said, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Issac and the God of Jacob". From God's perspective, they are alive. Jesus said, " That I am of the OT is Jesus in the NT: I am the gate, good shepherd, I am the resurrection, way and life, I am the living bread"

Matthew 17:22-23 On many occasions Jesus spoke of his resurrection. The disciples heard only the first part of Jesus' words and became discouraged. They could not understand why Jesus wanted to go back to Jerusalem where there was trouble waiting for him. The disciples did not fully comprehend the purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection until they saw him face to face after the resurrection and in the feast of Pentecost (Acts 2)

Did the disciples understand the purpose of jesus' resurrection?

Matthew 17:22-23 No. they were filled with grief about Jesus' death. They focused on what Jesus said about his death and ignored what he said about his resurrection. Even though he spoke plainly, they would not grasp the significance of his words until they saw the risen Christ face to face

How did Jesus' resurrection's effect the disciples?

The disciples were eyewitnesses to all that had happened to Jesus Christ – his life before his crucifixion. 40 days after his resurrection, he taught them more about the kingdom of God. Resurrection made change in their life. After seeing the resurrected Christ, they were fearless and risked everything to spread the good news about him around the world. They faced imprisonment, beatings, rejection and martyrdom and yet they never compromised

their mission. They were fired with enthusiasm to tell others. Twenty centuries later we can still be confident that our faith is based on fact

St. Paul's teaching on the resurrection of Jesus

Most Greeks did not believe that people's bodies would be resurrected after death. They saw the afterlife as something that happened only to the soul. According to the Greek philosophers, the soul was the real person, imprisoned in a physical body and at death the soul was released. There was no immortality for the body and the soul entered an eternal state as per the Greeks. Christianity by contrast affirms that the body and soul will be united after resurrection. The church in Corinth was in the heart of Greek culture and thus many believers had a difficult time believing in a bodily resurrection

Resurrection Examples: St. Paul compares the resurrection of our bodies with the growth in a garden. Seeds sowed in the ground do not grow unless they 'die' first. The plant that grows looks very different from the seed because God gives it a new 'body'. There are different kinds of bodies – people, animals, fish and birds. Even the angels in heaven have bodies that are different in beauty and glory. Our resurrected bodies will be very different in some ways, but not all, from our earthly bodies. Our resurrected bodies will be transformed. These bodies will not be limited by the laws of nature. That does not mean we will be superpeople but our bodies will be different from and more capable than our present earthly bodies. Our spiritual bodies will not be weak, will never get sick and will never die. They are powerful, glorious and spiritual.

Why is the truth of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ so important?"

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in history, providing irrefutable evidence that Jesus is the Son of God. The resurrection was not only the supreme validation of His deity; it also validated the Scriptures, which foretold His coming and resurrection. Moreover, it authenticated Christ's claims that He would be raised on the third day (John 2:19-21; Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34). If Christ's body was not resurrected, we have no hope that ours will be (1 Corinthians 15:13, 16). As the apostle Paul said, our faith would be "useless" and the life-giving power of the gospel would be altogether eliminated.

When Jesus Christ was resurrected, He became the "first fruits" of all who would be raised (see also Colossians 1:18). The "first fruits" language Paul uses indicates something to follow, and that something would be His followers – the rest of the "crop." This is how Christ's resurrection guarantees ours. Indeed, His resurrection requires our resurrection.

How is Jesus' resurrection key to our faith?

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the central fact of Christian history. On it, the church is built. Without it, there would be no Christianity. Jesus' resurrection is unique. Other religions have strong ethical systems, concepts about paradise and afterlife and various Holy Scriptures. Only Christianity has a God who became human, literally died for

his people and was raised again in power and glory to rule his church forever. Just as he promised, he rose from the dead. We can be confident therefore that he will accomplish all he has promised. Jesus' bodily resurrection shows us that the living Christ is ruler of God's eternal kingdom. We can be certain of our resurrection because he resurrected, defeating death. As he rose, we will rise and for us, Death is not an end, there is an eternal life. The resurrection is the basis for the church's witness to the world. We do not spin stories but we proclaim the reality of his resurrection. He is not legend. He is real and living. The resurrection helps us find meaning even in great tragedy. No matter what happens to us as we walk with the Lord, the resurrection gives us hope for the future

How Jesus' resurrection should affect our life?

Because of the resurrection, nothing we do is in vain. Sometimes we hesitate to do good because we don't see any results but if we can maintain a heavenly perspective, we will understand that we often will not see the good that results from our efforts. If we truly believe that Christ has won the ultimate victory, that fact must affect the way we live right now. Let us not be discouraged over an apparent lack of results from our good works. Let us keep on doing the good, having a heavenly perspective. Christ is the first born from among the dead (Col 1:8). His resurrection proves his lordship over the material world. All who trust in Christ will also defeat death and rise again to live eternally with him.

How does our resurrected body look like?

We will be recognized in our resurrected bodies and yet they will be better than we can imagine for they will be made to live forever. They will be perfect without sickness or disease. Refer Phil 3:21: He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

First resurrection and the second resurrection

Daniel 12:2 summarizes the two very different fates facing mankind: "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Everyone will be raised from the dead, but not everyone will share the same destiny. The New Testament reveals the further detail of separate resurrections for the just and the unjust.

Revelation 20:4-6 mentions a "first resurrection" and identifies those involved as "blessed and holy." The second death (the lake of fire, Revelation 20:14) has no power over these individuals. The first resurrection, then, is the raising of all believers. It corresponds with Jesus' teaching of the "resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:14) and the "resurrection of life" (John 5:29).

The first resurrection takes place in various stages. Jesus Christ Himself (the "first fruits," 1 Corinthians 15:20), paved the way for the resurrection of all who believe in Him. There was

a resurrection of the Jerusalem saints (Matthew 27:52-53) which should be included in our consideration of the first resurrection. Still to come are the resurrection of “the dead in Christ” at the Lord’s return (1 Thessalonians 4:16) and the resurrection of the martyrs at the end of the Tribulation (Revelation 20:4). The second resurrection, then, is the raising of all unbelievers; the second resurrection is connected to the second death.