

THE RESURRECTION

Text:

Acts 1:3 *ESV He (Jesus) presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days...*

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 *ESV For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (6) Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. (8) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*

Introduction

- The resurrection, like the cross, is central to the Christian faith; they are part of the one saving message of the Gospel.
- The resurrection marks the beginning of something new. It is not an ending, but the start of a new creation made possible by Jesus overcoming the forces of corruption and decay through His death and resurrection.
- What God did for Jesus by raising Him from the dead, He will also do for all who believe in Him—raising them to new bodily life to share in the life of this new world.

1. God has a Plan

- We are created and redeemed to take part in God's plan.
- Salvation has a purpose: to eradicate evil and usher in new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness resides.
- Heaven serves as a temporary dwelling while we wait for Christ's return; it is not our final destination.
- Living in a disembodied state is not God's ultimate, final, or greatest purpose for us.

Romans 8:19-25 TPT *The entire universe is standing on tiptoe, yearning to see the unveiling of God's glorious sons and daughters! For against its will the universe itself has had to endure the empty futility resulting from the consequences of human sin. But now, with eager expectation, all creation longs for freedom from its slavery to decay and to experience with us the wonderful freedom coming to God's children. To this day we are aware of the universal agony and groaning of creation, as if it were in the contractions of labour for childbirth. And it's not just creation. We who have already experienced the firstfruits of the Spirit also inwardly groan as we passionately long to experience our full status as God's sons and daughters—including our physical bodies being transformed. For this is the hope of our salvation. But hope means that we must trust and wait for what is still unseen. For why would we need to hope for something we already have? So because our hope is set on what is yet to be seen, we patiently keep on waiting for its fulfilment.*

2. The New Creation

- It is not a creation from nothing but from the old – it involves the rescue, redemption, and re-establishment of the present creation itself.

Colossians 1:15-23 ESV *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. **He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead**, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and **through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross**. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

- This project has begun. Through Jesus, God overthrew the dark powers that have spoiled and corrupted his beautiful world.
- **Philippians 3:20-21** NLT *But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Saviour. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.*

3. The Overlap - The Now and the Then

- There is an overlap between the present and the future regarding the ongoing battle in which Jesus will implement the victory He won on the cross.

- Jesus is already reigning, as emphasised in Matthew 28, where He possesses all authority in heaven and on earth. The new creation is at work in our current world.
- The active reign of Jesus aims to completely destroy all His enemies, particularly the forces of darkness. The last enemy to be defeated is death, leading to the creation of a new world where death itself has been swallowed up in victory.
- For many, the ultimate goal is to have a great number of saved souls living in heaven with Jesus.
- With Jesus, we realise that what we call "heaven" (God's space) and what we call "earth" (our space) are designed to work together, overlapping and interlocking.
- We humans are created specifically to stand at the threshold between the two, exercising responsible authority on His behalf over the areas He has entrusted to us in the world.
- One day, the Creator will sum up all things in Jesus the Messiah—things in heaven and things on earth. Jesus holds them all together and will bring them all together; He is the ultimate heaven-and-earth person—true human and simultaneously true God.
- The "age to come" has broken into the "present age." Although we still sin and die, the power of God's age to come has been unleashed by the Holy Spirit in the present time through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is why we preach the Gospel—not just to save souls but to make followers of Jesus Christ; that's how His kingdom comes.
- Why is there this overlap? Why doesn't God complete His plan immediately? Because God's rescue operation is an act of love; He does not want to exclude the many who are currently being won by the

Gospel.

- As **2 Peter 3:9** (NLT) states, *"The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent."*
- The resurrection is an "already but not-yet" reality for the believer because of our union with Christ. Jesus's resurrection means that those who have faith in Him have been raised from the dead because they are in Christ; yet we still await the full experience of the resurrection to come.
- **Romans 8:22-23** (ESV) reminds us, *"For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."*

Conclusion

- Paul said in **Philippians 3:10** ESV "...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection..."
- Jesus gave everything so that you could be forgiven for your sins and be reconciled with God. He did this by dying on the cross as a substitute, taking the punishment for your sins. Not only that, but he also rose from the dead to break the power of sin that corrupts our lives. This is God's gift to you—if you believe it, receive it right now!
- *"Dear God, I know that my sin has separated me from you. Thank you that Jesus Christ died in my place. I turn away from my old way of life and surrender my life to You. I ask you, Jesus to forgive my sin and to come into my life. Thank you for giving me eternal life. In Jesus' name, Amen."*