

Understanding the Bible


Resurrection

Tom Wilson

A Bible Study Guide

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This e-book was typeset in L^AT_EX using the *memoir* document class. It was formatted to get as much text onto each page as possible. This is because a good PDF reader should allow annotations (highlighting and comments) to be added. So, there is almost no room for the reader's notes on a printed copy. All of the drawn figures in this book were created either in the Apache OpenOffice Draw program or via .

The back cover caricature of the author was drawn by the well-known artist Jan van Haasteren as a favor to Els Rooswinkel, who maintained a web site dedicated to puzzles with artwork drawn by Jan. I originally created a version of this web site and handed it over to Els, who developed the site far beyond its initial content. In appreciation of my effort, Els asked Jan to draw me.

The latest edition of this e-book is available via <https://thechurchoforlando.org>.

First Edition	8/8/24	
— Revision A	9/3/24	Minor additions that arose while preparing the video series and executing the live study.
Second Edition	9/14/24	Corrected the discussion of the Lord's supper; explained verses about the "day of unleavened bread"; explained "sixth hour" in <i>John</i> ; moved the section on other raptures to an appendix; added an appendix on the book of life.
— Revision A	9/8/25	Moved the appendix on the crucifixion timeline to the <i>Biblical Time</i> study guide [2]; moved the appendix "Where Did Elijah Go?" to the <i>How to Study the Bible – Volume 2: Intermediate Topics</i> study guide [3]; made various minor changes.
— Revision B	2/14/26	Added side study "The Books Were Opened". Moved "Israel's National Resurrection" to an appendix and expounded upon it. Reworked the appendix "The Book of Life". Minor updates to Side Study "Who Is the Archangel?" Fixed the explanation of where Enoch went. Cleaned up references to the 2 nd and 3 rd heavens.



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Preface

I will briefly give some background as to how this book came to be and how it is organized. Next, there are some suggestions as to how to get the most out of this book and how to improve it. Finally, I wanted to acknowledge those who have helped me in some way (most of whom I do not know).

Book Origin

One of my earlier bible study video series was on resurrection. It had only 2 sessions. I had a number of things wrong and didn't organize it as clearly as this work. It is nice to see my own personal growth, but I wouldn't want to leave such ugliness out for others to learn from (that series got removed long before I developed this book).

One of the things that triggered me to improve this was a teaching that Hal Bekemeyer did at Fellowship Bible Church. He highlighted the difference in our resurrection compared to the prophetic resurrection. I'll leave the details out because they are in the book. I wished he had gone further, but I was able to dig into it myself.

One of the things that I did in the interim was to develop the study "The Trumps of God". This built on a teaching that I heard by David Reid that showed how we could know how many trumps there were. My study went well beyond that and compared our resurrection to the prophetic one. That and the original material have been honed into the book that you now have.

Book Organization

The book organization is fairly simple since the main content is not very long. Chapter 1 looks at the definition of resurrection and how the bible relates to it through types. Chapter 2 presents signs related to resurrection and numerous resurrections that are themselves signs. Chapter 3 presents various aspects of Jesus' resurrection, including prophecies about it. Chapter 4 discusses our resurrection in God's secret program—the dispensation of grace. Finally, Chapter 5 discusses the prophetic resurrections that most of scripture focuses on. Most believers do not understand this well, but that's not saying much since most Christians do not rightly divide God's word.

The appendices have various aides for improving your study. Several intriguing materials have been added due to their relationship to resurrection. First, Israel's national resurrection is briefly discussed. Many people think that the bible is full of other raptures, so a detailed discussion of why many of these are not has been included. And finally, the book of life is studied since it is referenced at the final resurrection.

A Bible Study Guide

This book is referred to as "a bible study guide" since it is intended to make you study. Depending on the topic, a study guide may not have much discussion. This is typically true for more advance topics, where there may be many verses with little explanation. If you feel overwhelmed in this situation, you may be over your head. A guide is not meant to be a commentary on every given verse.

Typically, I have found most of the scriptures for you and organized them in a way that will help you draw the conclusion that God would have you draw. I don't have everything right, including my limited explanations. So, focus on the scriptures.

If you don't find yourself doing the following, you might not find the guide as useful as it meant to be:

- reading the larger context around the quoted verses,
- reading certain passages again and again,
- searching for words and phrases when you study, and
- looking at concordance information to learn more (if appropriate).

You are in charge of your maturing. Use the guide as you see fit.

A study guide may have side studies that address necessary background material. These side studies are blocked off from the main material so that they can be skipped or revisited. When a side study ends, it should help you return your focus to the interrupted topic.

A traffic light may appear in the margin. A **green** light indicates something positive worth noting. When applied to a verse or passage, it is an important scripture that is fundamental to the teaching. A **yellow** light is a warning that something may not be clear. It might highlight that I am giving my opinion, which could easily be wrong. A **red** light indicates something negative worth noting. It might accompany a quote from a corrupt bible or a tradition that is taught that isn't really the truth of the bible.

A "pointing finger" simply indicates something worth reading in order to help you find important information when skimming pages. A "thumbs up" indicates a positive message. A "thumbs down" indicates a negative one. These are very similar to the yellow, green, and red lights.

The main chapters and appendices have a whirlwind¹ symbol (🌀) in the bottom right corner of each page. This is a hyperlink that takes you to the index of verses. This is an easy way to go that index and look at verses that are elsewhere in the study guide. Hopefully, your PDF viewer has a way to come back to where you jumped from, eventually taking you back to the page where you clicked on the whirlwind.

How to Get the Most out of This Book

You can certainly print this book if you would like, but you will get the most out of it by using a good PDF reader and learning how to use it. The book contains many hyperlinks to navigate it. Examples are the table of contents and list of figures, chapter and figure references, and the page references in the bible verse index.

A good reader will allow you to navigate the table of contents as a sidebar. You can also create bookmarks and display those bookmarks in the sidebar. You can also highlight text and insert comments. These too can be displayed in the sidebar. Maybe your reader will have more facilities.

Having a good on-line bible will also aid you when you study using this book. That should have a concordance and you should go to the trouble to learn how to use it. Beware of commentaries! It is unlikely that anyone is teaching what you are reading here. You get to decide what you believe—whether it is right or wrong.

How to Improve This Book

You should have gotten this book for free with no expectation of giving anything in return. But you can give back to it by suggesting improvements.

I am interested in the following:

- Correction of simple typographical or spelling errors
- Suggestions for improved explanations (including explaining something that I didn't explain at all)
- Correcting misapplied verses or suggesting newly applied verses. Either is quite possible
- Asking questions that prompt me to add explanation

I am **not** interested in the following:

- Corrections following outdated publishing guidelines (like putting a period inside the quotes)
- Your belief that other bibles are ok
- Your disbelief that the *King James Bible* is God's word in English (including suggestions about correcting it)
- Your disagreement with right division

I do not know everything, and I make plenty of mistakes. How you present yourself will go along way toward not wasting your time when suggesting improvements.

You can submit feedback by first contacting me through the "Contact" link at <https://thechurchoforlando.org>. A reply will then ask you for your comments. Similarly, if you have clarifying questions, I might end up supplementing the book as a result.

¹The bible describes the Spirit as a whirlwind that could carry a prophet to another place.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to something open source or otherwise free. It has been a further motivation for me to make this book freely available. More specifically, I would like to thank everyone involved with

1. Linux, in general,
 2. \LaTeX and its numerous packages, Macintosh tools (MacTex, TeXShop, TeXLive), and the \TeX Users Group,
 3. \LaTeX Beamer in particular, and
 4. the \LaTeX discussion forums, where many of my problems were already solved.
- There is no way to list all of the contributors.

We all benefit from a more robust version of this book.



Introduction

The bible is full of verses about resurrection. Resurrection cannot come unless there is death. God had both in mind in his plan for making a creation and being part of it.

This book provides an in-depth study of the topic of resurrection. It discusses that there were those that were resurrected and died again, as well as the promise of being resurrected forever. We will look at the prophecies and types related to resurrection, and that the resurrections are founded on Jesus' resurrection. Then we will put all of the resurrections on a timeline to better understand God's plan and purpose on this subject.

Arise again!



Dedication

To Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, without whom nothing would be possible

Colossians 1:16—For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him

To Dahlia, my wife and my helper in all things

Genesis 2:18—And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

To all the members of the body of Christ

2 Corinthians 13:11—Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Part I

Main Content

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What Is Resurrection

Resurrection isn't too difficult a subject to understand at a basic level. We will start with the dictionary's definition and then dig into what the bible says about it. Here is what the 1828 Webster's Dictionary [1] says:¹

Dictionary Definition: resurrection

- A rising again; chiefly, the revival of the dead of the human race, or their return from the grave, particularly at the general judgment. By the resurrection of Christ we have assurance of the future resurrection of men.


The root of the word means "to rise"; the prefix means "again". Thus, you will often find the phrase "rise again" in the scripture. The idea is that the "rising" the first time is initial life (i.e., being born); the "rising again" is rising to life again (i.e., life after death). Let's see two verses describing Jesus' resurrection with "rise" and "rise again":

Mark 9:31

31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

Mark 10:34

34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

So, don't get confused by the "again". It really should be present, but it is sometimes omitted. If you want to do deeper study on the words associated with "resurrection", see Appendix B. Sometimes the same Greek word is translated with and without the word "again". When you notice distinctions like that in scripture, you are making progress on maturing. 

Let's look at something similar and how it occurs twice.

Hebrews 1:5

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

That verse is a reference to Jesus' birth: He was begotten when he was born.

Acts 13:33

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

That verse is a reference to his resurrection. He was begotten again. This second begetting is echoed in this verse:

¹A dictionary closer to 1769 would be preferable since that is when the English of the *King James Bible* was standardized. It is difficult for most to get free access to such dictionaries. The 1828 Webster's Dictionary is available on-line for free.



Revelation 1:5

5 And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Resurrection isn't just some concept of faith, but unbelievers teach it that way. All will experience resurrection as we will eventually understand by the end of this book. But, not all resurrections are the same. We will see in this chapter that God planned death and resurrection from the beginning.

1.1 A Comparison to Agriculture

A *type* is a means of understanding one thing by comparison to another thing. One of the commonly used types in the bible is agriculture. So let's see some things about agriculture that will help us understand resurrection better. This will make it apparent that death and resurrection were planned from the beginning.


Genesis 1:11-13

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, [and] the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed [is] in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
 12 And the earth brought forth grass, [and] herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed [was] in itself, after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.
 13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

When we read Genesis 1, we will read that God made plants on the third day (we will discuss "the third day" further in Section 2.1). Plants have seeds in order to produce more of the same plants. But, it is elsewhere in the bible that we gain great understanding about this:

John 12:24

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.


The corn, or seed, would die—yet would produce life.² Paul elaborates on this in much more detail in order to relate it to resurrection. 

1 Corinthians 15:35-38

35 But some [man] will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?
 36 [Thou] fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:
 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other [grain]:
 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

42 So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:
 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Seeds grow into plants that produce fruit, which are gathered in a harvest. The early phase of the harvest is called "firstfruits": 

Leviticus 23:10-12

10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:
 11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.
 12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

²You should use a concordance to understand what the word translated "corn" can mean. Don't default to what words mean today.



Jesus' resurrection is called the firstfruits of the resurrection:

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.
 21 For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead.
 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Everyone else follows. We will discuss this in much more detail in later chapters. Here is another example of agriculture as a type of resurrection:

Romans 6:5

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of [his] resurrection:

We will also talk about the resurrection body later.

1.2 Man's Mortality

Just as God planned death of a seed, yet producing another plant, he did something similar in man. Let's see that man was created mortal:

Psalms 8:4-6

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all [things] under his feet:

Man was created a little lower than the angels. A study on angels [7] goes into this in great detail, but the short explanation is that angels are immortal and men are mortal. That's what "a little lower" means. *Hebrews* expands on what *Psalms* said:

Hebrews 2:6-9

6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?
 7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:
 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing [that is] not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.
 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Jesus, as a mortal man, was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. When Adam was created, he was mortal, but he didn't have to die. But, his disobedience brought forth death:

Genesis 2:17

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

We learn in Genesis 3 that Adam ate of the tree—doing that was a sin. Once Adam sinned, his descendants (or, seed) would also surely die. "His image" carries the curse of death:

Genesis 5:3

3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat [a son] in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

Hebrews 9:27-28

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.



Paul expands upon both the problem and the solution.

Romans 5:12-21

- 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
- 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
- 15 But not as the offence, so also [is] the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, [which is] by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.
- 16 And not as [it was] by one that sinned, [so is] the gift: for the judgment [was] by one to condemnation, but the free gift [is] of many offences unto justification.
- 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)
- 18 Therefore as by the offence of one [judgment came] upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [the free gift came] upon all men unto justification of life.
- 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
- 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
- 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

That's a long passage that you should keep reading until you understand the basics of it. Again, God planned mortality and death because he also had a plan for resurrection.

1.3 Belief in Resurrection

As you read scripture, you will note that many believed in resurrection. But, also, many did not.

Acts 17:32

- 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this [matter].

Acts 26:6-8

- 6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:
- 7 Unto which [promise] our twelve tribes, instantly serving [God] day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.
- 8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

Psalms 49:14-15

- 14 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.
- 15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

Many believed in resurrection in the old testament. We will see many more examples in the next section, where death is likened to sleep.

Acts 23:8

- 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

There was one encounter during Jesus ministry that he expounded on resurrection:

Luke 20:27-36

- 27 Then came to [him] certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,
- 28 Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.
- 29 There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children.

30 And the second took her to wife, and he died childless.
 31 And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died.
 32 Last of all the woman died also.
 33 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife.
 34 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:
 35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:
 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

The answer to the question is essentially that, in the resurrection, men and women will no longer marry since that purpose is to procreate. But, Jesus gives a lot of information that no one knew. Also, in the resurrection, man will no longer be lower, but equal to angels. That means that they will be immortal.

Paul tells us that unbelief in the resurrection is foolish:

1 Corinthians 15:12-17

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?
 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:
 14 And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain.
 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.
 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:
 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith [is] vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Belief in the timing of the resurrection is also important:

2 Timothy 2:17-18

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;
 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

The two people named were teaching error about the resurrection. That is a form of unbelief since Paul taught them when our resurrection is to occur. The timing of all resurrections will be discussed in later chapters.

1.4 Death Compared to Sleep

Many scriptures refer to death as sleep.

Psalms 13:3

3 Consider [and] hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the [sleep of] death;

This one makes it plain:

John 11:11-14

11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.
 12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.
 13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.
 14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

Here are more scriptures that refer to the death of believers as sleep:

1 Corinthians 15:6

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

2 Peter 3:4

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of the creation.

If death is likened to sleep, then the resurrection would be thought of as awaking from sleep. Given the usage of those words, it is more apparent that many believed in resurrection in the old testament. The oldest book of the bible is the book of *Job*. Let's see some examples of sleeping and waking.

Job 7:21

21 And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I [shall] not [be].

Job 14:12

12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens [be] no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

Job 19:25-27

25 For I know [that] my redeemer liveth, and [that] he shall stand at the latter [day] upon the earth:
26 And [though] after my skin [worms] destroy this [body], yet in my flesh shall I see God:
27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; [though] my reins be consumed within me.

Both of the previous two passages tell us when the resurrection will be. Again, we will visit that topic later. Here are a few more examples.

Psalms 17:15

15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Psalms 139:18

18 [If] I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

Isaiah 26:19

19 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.

Matthew 9:24-25

24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.
25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

While these people may have believed in resurrection, they thought Jesus spoke of literal sleep.

Daniel 12:2

2 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.

Even the wicked will awake (i.e., be resurrected). But theirs is to an everlasting destruction.

1.5 A Better Resurrection

Scripture mentions a **better** resurrection:

Hebrews 11:35

35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

The dead that were raised to life also died again because those resurrections were not the "better" resurrection. These resurrections were to mortal bodies; the better resurrection is to immortal bodies. We read previously in Luke 20:35-36 that Jesus said that, in the resurrection, people would not die any more.



John 11:23-24

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.
 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Martha expected Lazarus to be resurrected in the better resurrection in the future (again, we'll talk about the timing later). Jesus resurrected him before that, so it was in a mortal body.

We read previously in 1 Corinthians 15:44 that there is a natural body and a spiritual body. Paul later adds this:

1 Corinthians 15:53

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

The mortal body is a natural body; the immortal body is a spiritual body. Jesus gives many details about how the resurrection will come about in this passage:

John 5:21-29

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth [them]; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.
 22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:
 23 That all [men] should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.
 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.
 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;
 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.
 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,
 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Verse 25 says that the dead shall hear Jesus' voice. Verse 28 echoes this. When Jesus resurrected someone he spoke (see Subsection 2.2.2). Some will teach that he speaks the dead person's name, but this is clearly not always true. Also, testimonies of other resurrections do not record someone speaking at all.

This passage says that there is also reward that comes with the resurrection:

Luke 14:12-14

12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor [thy] rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.
 13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:
 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

Belief in a resurrection—the better resurrection—requires belief in the one who brings it:

John 11:25-26

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Conclusion

We looked at what resurrection is: it means “risen again to life”. God describes resurrection with some language from agriculture. God planned death and resurrection. Even without witnessing a resurrection, many people believed in it. They even believed in a better resurrection to immortality. God has us view death as sleep since it is something that we shouldn't fear.



Resurrection Signs

We will look at some ways that the bible indicates resurrection through signs. Signs were typically for Jews to help them believe:

John 4:48

48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

Sometimes the phrase “the third day” signifies resurrection. Natural resurrections were a sign of a future, spiritual resurrection.

2.1 The Third Day

This verse contains a phrase that occurs frequently in scripture: the third day:

Luke 18:33

33 And they shall scourge [him], and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

Often, this phrase symbolizes a period of death followed by resurrection. It occurs over 10 times in the new testament when referencing Jesus’ resurrection. Here are the others:

Matthew 16:21

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matthew 17:23

23 And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Matthew 20:19

19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify [him]: and the third day he shall rise again.

Matthew 27:64

64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Mark 9:31

31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.



Mark 10:34

34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Luke 9:22

22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Luke 24:7

7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Luke 24:21

21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Luke 24:46

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

1 Corinthians 15:4

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

An interesting thought related to this time period is that Jesus' body would not see corruption:

Acts 2:31

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

John 11:39

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been [dead] four days.

It is specifically highlighted that Lazarus' body was dead four days, and it stunk, which means that it saw corruption. However, Jesus showed his power to resurrect those whose bodies saw corruption. This will obviously be the case for almost all resurrected. The fact that Jesus' body didn't see corruption is intriguing as to its importance.

Let's see "the third day" phrase used when it is not a reference to Jesus' death and resurrection.

2.1.1 The Earth

The earth had a type of resurrection by being raised on the third day of creation. The earth was created on the first day but was submerged under water:

Genesis 1:1-2

- 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

When it says it is "void", it means that the earth is void of life. On the third day it is raised out of the water:

Genesis 1:9-13

- 9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry [land] appear: and it was so.
- 10 And God called the dry [land] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that [it was] good.
- 11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, [and] the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed [is] in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.



- 12 And the earth brought forth grass, [and] herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed [was] in itself, after his kind: and God saw that [it was] good.
 13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

After the dry land appeared, life was brought forth in the form of plants. The earth went from being void of life to having life brought forth. This verse describes the earth as stretched out above the waters (i.e., it is raised up):

Psalms 136:6

6 To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

We already saw in Section 1.1 that the plants have seeds, which are another type of resurrection. And they were brought forth on the third day.

2.1.2 The Sacrifice of Isaac

The story of the sacrifice of Isaac has a type of resurrection:

Genesis 22:1-4

- 1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, [here] I [am].
 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only [son] Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.
 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.
 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

It was on “the third day” that Abraham saw the place to do the sacrifice. When Abraham left with Isaac, Isaac was as good as dead in Abraham’s mind since he knew that he intended to carry out the command. Then on that third day, we read:

Genesis 22:12

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only [son] from me.

Isaac was spared, and, to Abraham, he was alive again! And then we have this subtle statement:

Genesis 22:18

18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

This “blessing” through Abraham’s “seed” will be eternal life, which is resurrection life. So, the “seed” type appears again. This story is summarized here:

Hebrews 11:17-19

- 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten [son],
 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:
 19 Accounting that God [was] able to raise [him] up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

2.2 Natural Resurrections

Previously, we read this verse:

1 Corinthians 15:44

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

There is a natural body and a spiritual body. There are a number of resurrections in scripture where the person resurrected still had a natural body. I'll call this a "natural resurrection".

Matthew 10:5-8

- 5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into [any] city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

The disciples were told to raise the dead. This must have occurred often, although no resurrections that they performed were recorded. It is also likely that the resurrections were those that recently died, and, most of the time, those that had not been buried yet. But again, nothing is recorded.

Here is another thing to keep in mind:

1 Timothy 6:16

- 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] honour and power everlasting. Amen.

At the point in time when *1 Timothy* was written, no man had experienced a spiritual resurrection besides Jesus. We can also be sure that that is still true today. Until the resurrection of the body of Christ, no one else has immortality (with respect to a body).

So, why resurrect someone, only for him to die again? Well, the resurrection showed the power of God, and it validated the kingdom gospel message that they were preaching. The resurrections that were recorded also have a doctrine. Note this passage:

Exodus 4:8-9

- 8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.
 9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour [it] upon the dry [land]: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry [land].

While we won't get into the story surrounding the signs given to Moses, it says that the signs have a voice. That means that the signs say something: That's a doctrine.

So, we will look at the following natural resurrections, which I have divided into three groups:

1. Old Testament:
 - a) The widow of Zarephath's son
 - b) The Shunammite woman's son
 - c) An unnamed man
 - d) Jonah the Prophet
2. Jesus' Ministry:
 - a) The widow of Nain's son
 - b) Jairus' daughter
 - c) Lazarus
3. New Testament:
 - a) Many unnamed
 - b) Tabitha
 - c) Eutychus

Jesus' resurrection would fall into the second group, but his was a spiritual resurrection

2.2.1 Old Testament

The first recorded old testament resurrection was performed by Elijah. The next two were done by Elisha. This was appropriate since Elisha had a double portion of Elijah's spirit (as mentioned in 2 Kings 2:9). The final recorded resurrection was performed by the LORD.



2.2.1.1 The Widow of Zarephath's Son

1 Kings 17:17-24

- 17 And it came to pass after these things, [that] the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.
- 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?
- 19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.
- 20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?
- 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.
- 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.
- 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.
- 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou [art] a man of God, [and] that the word of the LORD in thy mouth [is] truth.

As already stated, the prophet Elijah performed this resurrection. Jesus pointed out that this woman was a Gentile in the next passage.

Luke 4:24-26

- 24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.
- 25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;
- 26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, [a city] of Sidon, unto a woman [that was] a widow.

The purpose of the resurrection may have been to demonstrate the Abrahamic covenant. Earlier in the chapter, the widow sustained Elijah for a time. Being a Gentile, she blessed a Jew. When her son died, Elijah raised him to life in order to return the blessing. This demonstrated Israel's purpose. When Jesus referenced this story, the people were angry with him because he highlighted that some Gentiles understood Israel's purpose better than they did.

2.2.1.2 The Shunammite Woman's Son

This resurrection story was preceded by Elisha telling this woman that she would have a son. This appeared to have been very unlikely, if not impossible. Of course, she did have a son.

2 Kings 4:18-20

- 18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.
- 19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.
- 20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and [then] died.

Once the son died, there was an interruption by some other events. This interruption will be more interesting when we look at one of the new testament resurrections that also contains an interruption.

2 Kings 4:21-31

- 21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut [the door] upon him, and went out.
- 22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.
- 23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? [it is] neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, [It shall be] well.
- 24 Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not [thy] riding for me, except I bid thee.
- 25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, [yonder is] that Shunammite:

- 26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, [Is it] well with thee? [is it] well with thy husband? [is it] well with the child? And she answered, [It is] well.
- 27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul [is] vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid [it] from me, and hath not told me.
- 28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?
- 29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.
- 30 And the mother of the child said, [As] the LORD liveth, and [as] thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.
- 31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but [there was] neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

The main point is that there was a delay between the death and the resurrection. Now, we can continue with the resurrection of the child:

2 Kings 4:32-37

- 32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, [and] laid upon his bed.
- 33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.
- 34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.
- 35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.
- 36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.
- 37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

This miracle should have been instructive to Israel. God gave them life, and he could raise them to life again.

2.2.1.3 An Unnamed Man

This story is short, but is amazing nonetheless.

2 Kings 13:20-21

- 20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.
- 21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band [of men]; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

It might be hard to think of this resurrection being performed by Elisha since he was dead. But it makes his number of recorded miracles twice that of Elijah. The man was resurrected after being put in a grave.

2.2.1.4 Jonah the Prophet

Jonah 1:17-2:10

- 17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.
- 1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,
- 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, [and] thou heardest my voice.
- 3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.
- 4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.
- 5 The waters compassed me about, [even] to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars [was] about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.
 7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.
 8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.
 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay [that] that I have vowed. Salvation [is] of the LORD.
 10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry [land].

Jonah's resurrection is particularly interesting because it was not attributed to a man. I agree that Elisha's second might not be thought of as being done by a man, but it clearly says the resurrection occurred by the touching of his bones. Let's not lose sight of the fact that all resurrections are accomplished by the power of God anyway.

Jonah's resurrection was specifically a sign of Jesus' resurrection. This will be discussed in more detail in Section 3.2. Many people today deny that Jonah died. If that is the case, it is pretty bad sign of Jesus' death and resurrection because it would suggest that Jesus didn't die and didn't need to be resurrected. So, such a teaching is very bad indeed.

There is doctrine in Jonah's whole ministry with respect to his resurrection. He was instructed to go to Ninevah (i.e., Gentiles), but would not. Once he was resurrected, he went, and they responded to the message. This pictures Israel's life as a nation. It won't be until they are resurrected as a people that they will go to the Gentiles (see ??).

2.2.2 Jesus' Ministry

There are three natural resurrections captured in the scripture during Jesus' ministry. Each of these parallels one of the first three old testament resurrections. The final old testament resurrection is parallel by Jesus' resurrection, but the latter is not a natural resurrection. In both cases, it is God who performs those resurrections. Jesus' resurrection is discussed in the next chapter. Notice in each resurrection story how Jesus spoke to the one that was raised. He didn't necessarily use the person's name.

2.2.2.1 The Widow of Nain's Son

Luke 7:11-16

11 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.
 12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.
 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.
 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare [him] stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.
 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.
 16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

This resurrection parallels the first one of the old testament. Both had the son of a widow being resurrected. Both were followed with praise for God. Also, both resurrections were done soon after the death.

2.2.2.2 Jairus' Daughter

Luke 8:41-42

41 And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house:
 42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.

Luke 8:43-48 describes an interruption to this story. This caused a delay such that the little girl died:

Luke 8:49-55

49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's [house], saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.



50 But when Jesus heard [it], he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.
 51 And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.
 52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.
 53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.
 54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.
 55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.

This resurrection parallels the second one of the old testament. This one has the daughter of a man; the other has a son of a woman. In both cases, the parent sought out the one who performed the resurrection. Although it is not a strong parallel, both stories contain an interruption. Also, both stories mention the touching of the hands.

This seems to be the only resurrection story where it was said to give the raised person something to eat. This resurrection story is echoed in Mark 5:21-23 and 5:35-43 with the story of the interruption in between. A much shorter version appears in Matthew 9:18-19 and 9:23-26.

2.2.2.3 Lazarus

The story involving Lazarus' resurrection is a long one with many tangential details in it. First, Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, but he delayed in going:

John 11:6

6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

It was at this time that Jesus said that "Lazarus sleepeth". When he eventually got to Lazarus, we are told:

John 11:17

17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had [lain] in the grave four days already.

John 11:38-39

38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.
 39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been [dead] four days.

The point of these details is that Lazarus' body had seen corruption.

John 11:41-44

41 Then they took away the stone [from the place] where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up [his] eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.
 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said [it], that they may believe that thou hast sent me.
 43 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 graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

This resurrection parallels the third one of the old testament. Both have a resurrection of someone that is buried (i.e., in a grave or tomb). Lazarus' resurrection has some details that can be compared to Jesus'. Lazarus was still bound. We will see that Jesus was loosed, which in itself is a doctrine:

Acts 2:24

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

We read this concerning Jesus' resurrection:

John 20:5-7

5 And he stooping down, [and looking in], saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.
 6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,
 7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

We don't know how he did it, but Jesus got out of his bindings.

2.2.3 New Testament

There are three new testament natural resurrections that were recorded. These have a different purpose than the previous.

2.2.3.1 Many Unnamed

Matthew 27:50-53

50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.
 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;
 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,
 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Jesus' death caused an event that opened the graves, but those dead do not arise immediately. It is important that the bodies are exposed; otherwise, the people couldn't get out when they are resurrected.

These resurrections were a sign of Jesus' resurrection. Many believers would not see Jesus after his resurrection, but some would see these people instead. Of course, this might lead some unbelievers to convert. It is likely that those resurrected died recently. Otherwise, no one might recognize them. The sign is that there will be a resurrection that results from Jesus' resurrection. This sign was a natural resurrection; what it represents is a spiritual one.

2.2.3.2 Tabitha

Acts 9:36-42

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.
 37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid [her] in an upper chamber.
 38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring [him] that he would not delay to come to them.
 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.
 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning [him] to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.
 41 And he gave her [his] hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.
 42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

This resurrection was performed by Peter. Like Jesus, Peter spoke to the one that was dead. While there are a lot of details here, the main point of recording this resurrection was so that it can be compared to by the next. It is interesting that Peter performed this miracle after the kingdom had been rejected. Israel wasn't cut off immediately; they diminished.

2.2.3.3 Eutychus

Acts 20:9-10

9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.
 10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing [him] said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

This resurrection was performed by Paul. There is little detail in this story. But, notice that Paul does not speak to the one that was dead. This resurrection was recorded for comparison to the previous. It was one of many validations that showed that Paul had a similar authority as Peter. The other validations were acts that Paul carried

out (like his first sermon) and miracles that he performed that could be compared to those Peter performed as recorded by Luke in the book of *Acts*.

Conclusion

We learned that “the third day” can symbolize a period of death followed by resurrection. We will see that this was true for Jesus. Then, we looked at many natural resurrections. Most of these symbolize the spiritual resurrections to come. They were also a sign to Jews to help them believe:

1 Corinthians 1:22

22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Jonah's resurrection typified Jesus' resurrection.

Jesus' Resurrection

Jesus' resurrection is described from the perspective of the women and disciples who came to his tomb to learn that he was gone. The story is told in Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-10. Those passages won't be shown here, but can simply be looked up on your own. There isn't much to learn about resurrection from those passages. Some might say that because Jesus got out of the tomb that the resurrection body has this power. Instead, it could just be power and authority that Jesus and the apostles had, such as healing and raising the dead.

In this chapter, we will look at a model of Jesus death, burial, and resurrection as represented by Israel's spring appointed times. Then we will look at some old testament prophecies of his resurrection. Finally, we will look at his resurrection for a pattern for other resurrections.

3.1 The Spring Appointed Times

Israel's spring appointed times provide a template for Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. A timeline of these events with respect to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is presented in the *Biblical Time* study guide [2].

3.1.1 Passover

The passover aligns with Jesus' death. The full story of the first passover is given in Exodus 12:1-28. A shorter description is here:

Leviticus 23:4-5

- 4 These [are] the feasts of the LORD, [even] holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.
5 In the fourteenth [day] of the first month at even [is] the LORD'S passover.

1 Corinthians 5:7

- 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

3.1.2 Feast of Unleavened Bread

The feast of unleavened bread denotes Jesus' burial. This type isn't as obvious.

Leviticus 23:6-8

- 6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month [is] the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.
7 In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.
8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day [is] an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work [therein].

Other passages tell us more:



Exodus 12:15

15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

Exodus 13:6-7

6 Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day [shall be] a feast to the LORD.
7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

Deuteronomy 16:3-4

3 Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, [even] the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.
4 And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there [any thing] of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning.

Just as leaven is to be put away, so was Jesus' body put away in the tomb. Verse 4 makes it more clear: whatever was sacrificed must be put away. Here are other verses that shed light on the matter:

Genesis 23:4

4 I [am] a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a buryingplace with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree:

Deuteronomy 21:23

23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged [is] accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance.

Leaven is a type for sin and our sins were placed on Jesus on the cross. He hung on the cross demonstrating the curse of the law. But, he was to be taken down and buried, or put away, to show that the curse was over.

3.1.3 The Firstfruits Offering

The firstfruits offering aligns with Jesus' resurrection. It does not appear to be associated with the previous two appointed times. Nor, is it specified in the early chapters of *Exodus*. It is linked by its place in *Leviticus*.

Leviticus 23:10-14

10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:
11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.
12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.
13 And the meat offering thereof [shall be] two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD [for] a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof [shall be] of wine, the fourth [part] of an hin.
14 And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: [it shall be] a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

The "morrow after the sabbath" puts it on the first day of the week. This verse tells us what the appointed time represents:



1 Corinthians 15:20

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.

3.2 Prophecies of Jesus' Resurrection

The most direct old testament prophecy of Jesus' resurrection occurs here:

Psalms 16:9-10

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.
10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Peter referenced this on the day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:24-27

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.
25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:
26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:
27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Paul also referenced the same passage:

Acts 13:30-37

30 But God raised him from the dead:
31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.
32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,
33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.
34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, [now] no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.
35 Wherefore he saith also in another [psalm], Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:
37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

Section 2.1 discussed how Jesus prophesied of his own death and resurrection many times. In Subsubsection 2.2.1.4, we read how Jonah was a sign. Here are some references to it during Jesus' ministry:

Matthew 12:39-41

39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:
40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas [is] here.

Matthew 16:4

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

Finally, Subsection 2.1.2 demonstrated a strong type of Jesus' death and resurrection through the story of Isaac.

3.3 A Pattern for the Resurrection

This verse says that Jesus was the first to rise from the dead:



Acts 26:23

23 That Christ should suffer, [and] that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

“The first to rise” means the first to have an immortal body:

Romans 6:9

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

No one else has a resurrection body yet:

1 Timothy 6:16

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] honour and power everlasting. Amen.

As we already saw, Jesus' resurrection is called “firstfruits”:

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.
 21 For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead.
 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

His resurrection makes our resurrection possible.

Romans 4:25

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Our resurrection body will be like his:

2 Corinthians 3:18

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Philippians 3:21

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 John 3:2

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.

This detailed passage tells us about the spiritual body by comparing it to the natural body:

1 Corinthians 15:39-49

39 All flesh [is] not the same flesh: but [there is] one [kind of] flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, [and] another of birds.
 40 [There are] also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial [is] one, and the [glory] of the terrestrial [is] another.
 41 [There is] one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for [one] star differeth from [another] star in glory.
 42 So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:
 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.
 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.
 46 Howbeit that [was] not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

- 47 The first man [is] of the earth, earthy: the second man [is] the Lord from heaven.
 48 As [is] the earthy, such [are] they also that are earthy: and as [is] the heavenly, such [are] they also that are heavenly.
 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Conclusion

Jesus made an interesting statement about his resurrection:

Luke 13:32

- 32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third [day] I shall be perfected.

This wasn't right before his death, but it references the type "the third day". There are other verses that help us understand what being perfected means:

Hebrews 2:9-10

- 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
 10 For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 5:8-9

- 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

The events leading up to his death were part of his suffering and part of his perfection. It climaxed in his death. Here, *perfection* means "complete".

The Secret Resurrection

The dispensation of grace interrupted prophecy. Just as it had a beginning, it will also have an end. The dispensation ends with a resurrection of the church, also called “the body of Christ”.

I wanted to call the resurrection of the body of Christ the “mystery resurrection”. However, the problem with that is that there is a “mystery” associated with this resurrection. That would lead to the “mystery of the mystery resurrection”. That obviously sounds a little confusing. So, it will be called the “secret resurrection” instead. This is in accord with this verse:

Romans 16:25

25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

4.1 Our Adoption

When we are saved, we are justified but remain in a mortal body. Our body is said to be dead, but is quickened by the Spirit:

Romans 8:10-11

10 And if Christ [be] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.
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.

Romans 6:4

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism 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.

But, we wait for our body to be changed at the resurrection. This is called our “adoption”:

Romans 8:15-17

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:23

23 And not only [they], but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, [to wit], the redemption of our body.

A few other verses provide more information:



Galatians 4:5-7

- 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.
 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Ephesians 1:13-14

- 13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:30

- 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Adoption isn't just a term during the dispensation of grace. Even though only Paul uses the word, it also applies to the prophetic program:

Romans 9:4

- 4 Who are Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises;

4.2 Delivered from Wrath

During the dispensation of grace, God is at peace with man. For believers, he has assured us that we will be delivered from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

- 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, [even] Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

- 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

We are delivered “from” the wrath to come—not “through” it. That wrath to come is also called the “day of the Lord”:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

- 1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

The passage above mentions “we” and “they”. We, the body of Christ, will not see God's wrath. But they, unbelievers, will. Here are passages about that wrath:

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

- 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;
 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-10

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way.
 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
 9 [Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The body of Christ will “be taken out of the way”. That is our resurrection, along with the mystery (described in Section 4.4) associated with that resurrection.

4.3 Our Resurrection

Jesus' resurrection is the promise of ours:

1 Corinthians 6:14

14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

2 Corinthians 4:14

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present [us] with you.

Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection:

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.
 21 For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead.
 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

All other resurrections will follow, and there is an ordering. The body of Christ will have a resurrection when he comes for us. The prophetic program will have a resurrection when he comes back to the earth. That is discussed in Chapter 5.

This next passage details our resurrection:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
 15 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 prevent them which are asleep.
 16 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:
 17 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.

Jesus will bring with him those that sleep (i.e., they are dead). There will be a trump, which is the sound of a trumpet (this will be confirmed shortly). Those that are dead will rise first. Many teach that their dead bodies will come up from the earth to meet them in the air, but I don't think that is necessary. They will probably receive their bodies on the way down from heaven. Then those that are alive will meet those that are resurrected in the air. We will talk about this in more detail next.

Side Study 4.1: Who Is the Archangel?

So, who is the archangel mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:16? *Archangel* means “chief angel”. Is there only one? The word only occurs one other time:

Jude 9

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Michael is called the archangel. Daniel 10:13 describes him as one of the chief princes, while Daniel 10:21 and Daniel 12:1 describe him as Israel’s chief/great prince. So, is this archangel also Michael? Most people assume it is just based on the two verses containing the word *archangel*. But angels do not really play a role in the functioning of the body of Christ.

However, this event will occur when the dispensation of grace comes to an end and prophecy continues. So, it is likely that angels become a more active participant in things. Since those going up will be meeting Jesus in the air, it may be that Michael and other angels will be protecting us from the prince of the power of the air: the devil (Ephesians 2:2).

To better understand angels, refer to *The Biblical Angels* study guide [7].

Side Study 4.2: Which Heaven Is Home?

Most people teach that everyone is going to the 3rd heaven. This is sloppy and ignores a lot of distinctions in scripture.

Let’s look at some related verses:

Ephesians 1:20

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set [him] at his own right hand in the heavenly [places],

Jesus is in “heavenly places”; again, most people assume this is the 3rd heaven.

Ephesians 2:6

6 And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus:

We are seated with him.

Ephesians 3:10

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly [places] might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

These “principalities and powers” refer to angels. We should know that they are in the 2nd heaven.

Paul tells us this:

2 Corinthians 12:1-4

- 1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.
- 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.
- 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)
- 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Paul has a vision of the 3rd heaven. He can’t tell us anything about it. Most other scriptures that describe heaven are referring to the 2nd heaven. This subject is dealt with in much more detail in the *The Biblical Creation* study guide [8].

4.4 The Mystery of Our Resurrection

Let’s see more about those that were alive at the resurrection:



1 Corinthians 15:51-53

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
 52 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.
 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

Verse 51 says that there is a mystery associated with the resurrection. Not all will sleep, or die, but all will be changed. That change is to have an immortal body. This is a big distinction compared with the prophetic resurrection. Those alive during the prophetic resurrection will not be changed. This is discussed in Chapter 5.

Verse 52 mentions “the last trump”. The same verse also explains what a *trump* is: “the trumpet shall sound”. There are at least two trumps: the first signals the resurrection of the dead and the last signals the transformation of those that are alive. We are changed before we go up (otherwise, we might not survive the trip). That transformation is in “the twinkling of an eye”. The trip up may not be that fast (but that is what people often teach). More likely is that we go up like Jesus went up (see Acts 1:9-11).

Side Study 4.3: How Many Trumps Are There?

1 Corinthians 15:52 mentions the “last” trump. Just how many are there? Some believers who do not rightly divide the word of truth get confused by the trumpets in the book of *Revelation*:

Revelation 8:6

6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Of course, we will be resurrected or raptured before the events in *Revelation* occur. So, Paul told us about the first and last trump, so let’s see if he explains how many there are. The word “trump” appears two times in the bible. Paul describes two distinct events: (1) the resurrection and (2) the mystery. Finally, if we search for “first” and “last”, we will get a number of results, but only a couple are in Paul’s epistles. One result is in the same chapter as the verse of interest. With a slightly larger context, we read:

1 Corinthians 15:45-47

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.
 46 Howbeit that [was] not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.
 47 The first man [is] of the earth, earthy: the second man [is] the Lord from heaven.

Verse 45 mentions the “first man Adam” and the “last Adam”. Verse 47 mentions the “first man” and the “second man”. So, “last” means “second”: there are two trumps.

Believers call this mystery “the rapture”. Many will say that that word is not in the bible, but it is in the Latin bible. So, we can say that the word is not in the English bible. It is simplest to say “the mystery of our resurrection”. Our resurrection is a heavenly resurrection, whereas the prophetic resurrection is an earthly one.

Conclusion

The dispensation of grace will end with the resurrection of the body of Christ. Those alive will have immortal bodies as well. This is called our adoption. It will also come before God’s wrath on those on the earth.

Our resurrection starts with a trump that raises the dead in Christ, and Jesus brings them with him to the 1st heaven. Then a second trump transforms those that are alive, and they meet Jesus and those resurrected in the air. Then we all go to the 2nd heaven.



The Two Resurrections

In this chapter, we will look at the prophetic resurrection. Believers in the old testament had a belief in a better (i.e., spiritual) resurrection, and this is it. But let's see that there are really two resurrections:

Daniel 12:1-2

- 1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy 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.
- 2 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.

John 5:28-29

- 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,
- 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Acts 24:15

- 15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

The wicked will be resurrected as well. We will see in this chapter that there are two resurrections. The first is the resurrection of the just to life; the second is the resurrection of the unjust to condemnation. Using that definition, the secret resurrection is part of the first resurrection.

But first, let's also get a better understanding of when all the resurrections will occur in time.

5.1 The Timing of the Resurrections

There are a few ways that the timing of the resurrection is specified. Refer to the *Biblical Time* study guide [2] for thorough discussions of time-related terms that are used throughout this section.

5.1.1 The Fall Appointed Times

This passage suggests when Israel's resurrection will occur.

Matthew 16:28-17:9

- 28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.
- 1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
- 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.



- 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.
 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
 6 And when the disciples heard [it], they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.
 7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.
 8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.
 9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

This is what is called the “transfiguration” and verse 9 says that what was seen was a vision. In verse 28, Jesus said that they would see him in his kingdom. In order to see Moses and Elijah, they would have to be resurrected first. The fact that Peter wanted to build tabernacles suggests that the resurrection occurs during the true feast of tabernacles after the millennium kingdom begins.

The fall appointed times are briefly presented here, along with my opinion as to what they mean. Numbers 29 provides more detail.

5.1.1.1 The Blowing of Trumpets

Leviticus 23:23-25

- 23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
 24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first [day] of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.
 25 Ye shall do no servile work [therein]: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

This may symbolize the beginning of Jesus' kingdom reign. Knowing when the kingdom begins is the next piece of the puzzle.

5.1.1.2 The Day of Atonement

Leviticus 23:26-32

- 26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
 27 Also on the tenth [day] of this seventh month [there shall be] a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.
 28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it [is] a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.
 29 For whatsoever soul [it be] that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.
 30 And whatsoever soul [it be] that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.
 31 Ye shall do no manner of work: [it shall be] a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.
 32 It [shall be] unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth [day] of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

Israel's sins are forgiven, and perhaps the new covenant is given.

5.1.1.3 The Feast of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:33-44

- 33 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
 34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month [shall be] the feast of tabernacles [for] seven days unto the LORD.
 35 On the first day [shall be] an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work [therein].

- 36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it [is] a solemn assembly; [and] ye shall do no servile work [therein].
- 37 These [are] the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim [to be] holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:
- 38 Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.
- 39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day [shall be] a sabbath, and on the eighth day [shall be] a sabbath.
- 40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.
- 41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. [It shall be] a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.
- 42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:
- 43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I [am] the LORD your God.
- 44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

God tabernacles with Israel: this should include the resurrection. The point of the prophetic resurrection is to resurrect dead believers so that they can take part in the kingdom celebration. So, they obviously need to be resurrected at the beginning of it.

5.1.2 The End of the World

Here is another passage that tells us when the resurrection is:

Luke 20:34-38

- 34 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:
- 35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:
- 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.
- 37 Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.
- 38 For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him.

Verse 35 says that the resurrection occurs in “that world”. Here, “world” can be thought of as an “age” (it really implies the world system in place during a certain period of time—see the *Biblical Time* study guide [2] for more information). Verse 34 says that mortal men and women are having children in “this world”. So, when does “this world” end and “that world” begin? This verse suggests when:

Matthew 24:3

- 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

That verse says that “the world” ends with Jesus’ coming to the earth. The next verse says that the kingdom gospel must be preached until then:

Matthew 28:20

- 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

The 2nd coming is preceded by the tribulation where God’s wrath is poured out. This is a point of focus of many prophecies: Matthew 13 gives 7 parables that describe the mysteries of the kingdom. Here are two relevant excerpts from those parables:

Matthew 13:39-40

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.
40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Matthew 13:49

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

Something else that occurs at this time is that the corrupt governments of the heavens and the earth will be replaced (the creation study covers this [8]). That is summarized by this passage:

Isaiah 65:17

17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Given all of that background, this passage has great details about when the resurrection is:

Job 14:10-15

10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where [is] he?
11 [As] the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:
12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens [be] no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.
13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!
14 If a man die, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.
15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Verse 12 isn't saying that there isn't a resurrection—it saying that it doesn't occur until the heavens be no more; that refers to the new government in the heavens. Verse 13 asks to be protected until God's wrath is past; that is the tribulation. Then, there is a call to be resurrected (as stated in John 5:25 and 5:28-29).

5.1.3 The Last Day

When we talked about belief in a better resurrection, we encountered this passage:

John 11:23-24

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.
24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

History can be modeled as seven "days", with each "day" being a thousand years according to 2 Peter 3:8. The *Biblical Time* [2] study discusses this model in detail. The model gives great context to these verses that speak to being raised "at the last day":

John 6:39-40

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.
40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:44

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:54

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

The prophetic resurrection occurs on the last day. As we have already seen, Job believed in a resurrection. He expected to see his redeemer, which we know is Jesus:



Job 19:25-27

25 For I know [that] my redeemer liveth, and [that] he shall stand at the latter [day] upon the earth:
 26 And [though] after my skin [worms] destroy this [body], yet in my flesh shall I see God:
 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; [though] my reins be consumed within me.

It says that Jesus would stand at the latter day upon the earth. That is the timeframe that we are talking about now. Job knew his redeemer is God himself.

Figure 5.1 shows a timeline of the resurrections. For more information as to the years on the timeline, refer to the *Biblical Time* study guide [2]. Jesus' resurrection was discussed in Chapter 3. The secret resurrection of the body of Christ was discussed in Chapter 4. The remaining resurrections, called the "first" and "second", will occur during the last thousand years—this is the last day.

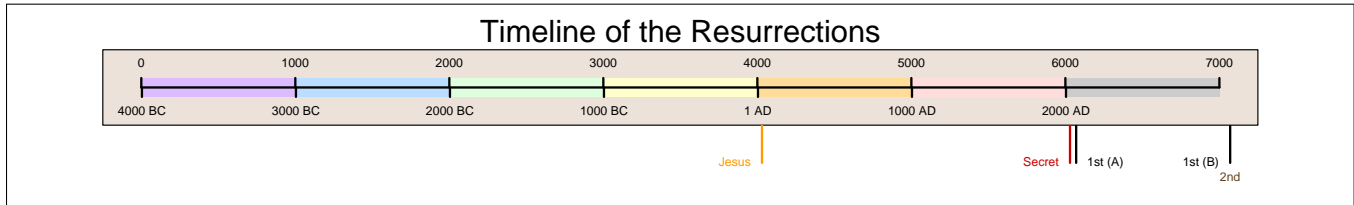


Figure 5.1: This timeline of history shows when Jesus' resurrection occurred and when future resurrections will occur. The future ones are only approximated since the end of the dispensation of grace is not known. What the bible calls the first (labeled 1st on the timeline) resurrection has two parts, here called A and B. Part B and the second (or, 2nd) resurrection coincide. Natural resurrections are not included.

5.2 The First Resurrection

Now, let's see more detail about the first resurrection:

Revelation 20:4-6

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection.
 6 Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Verse 4 calls out a very specific group of Jews that are resurrected at the beginning of the thousand years, or the millennium. These are martyrs during the tribulation. Verse 5 says that the rest of the dead are resurrected at the end of the thousand years. It also says that both groups are part of the first resurrection. Most people do not understand this point. So, the first resurrection has two parts that I have called *A* and *B* in Figure 5.1.

5.2.1 The First Resurrection - Part A

Now, I do not think that Revelation 20:4 denies that others will be resurrected in part A. Many dead saints are expecting to see the kingdom. I think the distinction is that they will not reign with Christ. Rather, they will simply live during the kingdom.

We will talk about the group in part B shortly. We will look at one more verse:

Daniel 12:13

13 But go thou thy way till the end [be]: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

How many lots are there? Is this an indirect reference to part A? I think there will be a number of resurrections within part A. Why? Just consider the logistics of resurrecting millions of people. Where will they stand? Where will they go? It could be that the 8-day period of the feast of tabernacles has a resurrection each day. That is obviously speculation, but something along this line is possible. Whether or not that is true isn't critical either.



5.2.2 The First Resurrection - Part B

Now, who is in part B? We already know that part B occurs at the end of the millennium. Let's see that it coincides with the second resurrection:

Revelation 20:11-15

- 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
- 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
- 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Verse 12 says that the book of life is checked. Verse 15 says that those not found in the book are cast into the lake of fire. Most people teach that no one will be found in the book. It seems absurd to look for names that won't be in it. But verse 5 (seen earlier) says that there are dead at the end of the thousand years that are part of the first resurrection. So, obviously names will be found.

Verse 14 says that death (and hell) are cast into the lake of fire. This essentially says that no one will be mortal any longer. This passage provides support:

1 Corinthians 15:53-54

- 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.
- 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

The following groups of people will expect a resurrection at the end of the thousand years:

1. those that lived to the end of the thousand years without dying (they will be changed),
2. the righteous mortals that were killed during the thousand years, and
3. any dead saints that were not resurrected in part A.

Let's consider each group in more detail.

5.2.2.1 Those That Live to the End

There will be mortal people living during the kingdom. Let's consider the Jews that endure and enter into the kingdom. They have these promises:

Revelation 2:7

- 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:11

- 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 3:5

- 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

So, these Jews will have access to the tree of life. If they eat of it, they will continue to live. They won't be hurt by the second death. This means that they haven't been resurrected yet, and will get an immortal body at the judgment. Obviously, their names are in the book of life, and have not been blotted out. These Jews can have children who are mortal.

Gentiles also will enter into the kingdom without the promises above. They too will have children who will be mortal. Regardless of any of them dying, some will live until the end. But they will still be mortal. They would expect to become immortal. Just as the mystery part of secret resurrection changes those alive, this group might experience the same change.



5.2.2.2 The Righteous That Die

Sin will exist during the millennium, and it is quite possible that people will be killed. It is often the righteous that are killed by the wicked. So, what happens to such a person that is killed? Jesus could resurrect him right away, but it makes more sense that it is at the end as the scripture suggests. To think that no one will die during the millennium is foolish. To think that only unrighteous would die is even more foolish. A lot of people will still be learning about sin at this time.

Also, mortal Gentiles might die of old age. Some will be righteous and some wicked.

5.2.2.3 Those Not Resurrected in Part A

This group is a bit speculative. It is my opinion that some old testament saints that lived before Abraham might not be resurrected into the kingdom. The kingdom appears to be a promise to Abraham and his descendants:

Matthew 8:11

11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

So, will Adam, Enoch, and Noah be there? I don't know for sure, but it may be that they will miss the kingdom. What land inheritance would they have? Ezekiel 47-48 describes only the land inheritance for Israel. We also read in Revelation 20:4 that those Jews that lived again were killed because of their testimony of Jesus. What about those that didn't die for that reason? This group isn't critical, but it may exist.

5.3 The Second Resurrection

Looking back at Revelation 20:11-15, we see that there will be those who are not in the book of life. They will be cast into the lake of fire. But their works will be judged by the books.

Side Study 5.1: The Books Were Opened

Let's see the verses that mention books:

Revelation 20:12-13

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

What are the "books"? It isn't the works of the dead that are in the books; the judgments are. Let's see that these are the books of the bible.

Deuteronomy 31:26

26 Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.

John 12:47-48

47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.
48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

So, Israel will judged by the old testament law and what Jesus taught. What about the Gentiles?

Romans 2:14-16

14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:



- 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and [their] thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)
- 16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Romans 3:19-20

- 19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.
- 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin.

Perhaps those that lived a long time ago will be judged by less of the books than those that lived later, but all are guilty.

We have already been told in Daniel 12:2, John 5:29, and Acts 24:15 that this is the second resurrection. This passage identifies those in the lake of fire:

Revelation 21:8

- 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The first death separates soul from body. The second death separates body and soul from God. The soul and a body will evidently be reunited first since it is called a *resurrection*. This body may be corruptible, but it will not be consumed.

5.4 Special Cases

We will consider a few special resurrection cases that are part of the prophetic program. The tribulation occurs after the secret resurrection and before the first resurrection. A few of interesting things occur during this time. We will look at some specific groups.

5.4.1 The 144,000

First, Revelation 7:3-8 describes the 144,000 Jews that are special servants. These are referenced in a later chapter as a “child”:

Revelation 12:1-5

- 1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:
- 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.
- 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.
- 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.
- 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and [to] his throne.

But this “child” is caught up to God, which means that 144,000 went up to heaven. You get confirmation of that in a later chapter where they are specifically mentioned:

Revelation 14:1-5

- 1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.
- 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

- 3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.
- 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.
- 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

They will be present in heaven with the four beasts and the elders. So, this would be a rapture for these Jews. The next question is what kind of body will they have? I would assume that they need a spiritual body to survive in heaven. Like Jesus, these are referred to as “firstfruits”. Therefore, they precede the first resurrection. If the dispensation of grace had not come, their rapture would have been very close to Jesus’ resurrection in time.

5.4.2 The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3-10 tells the story of two witnesses who testify for three and half years and are eventually killed in verse 7. But then we read:

Revelation 11:11-12

- 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.
- 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

These two are resurrected and then called up to heaven. I would expect that these have a spiritual body since they go up to heaven. They probably follow the 144,000 in time, but are still ahead of the 1st resurrection. They appear to be a type of Christ in that they have a ministry, are killed and resurrected, and then go up to heaven. They are dead a little longer than Jesus was (perhaps they saw corruption).

5.4.3 The Antichrist

This last case is somewhat speculative, and it involves a counterfeit resurrection. Scripture seems to indicate that the antichrist will be killed and resurrected. Let’s see the relevant scriptures and see if we can understand what they are saying.

Revelation 13:1-5

- 1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.
- 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as [the feet] of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.
- 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.
- 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?
- 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months.

Like all of *Revelation*, this is a challenging passage. But verse 3 says that there was a deadly wound and that it was healed. That sounds like a resurrection. Let’s see more of the chapter:

Revelation 13:11-15

- 11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.
- 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.
- 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,



- 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.
- 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Verse 12 says that the deadly wound was healed. One view that you could take is that it is a wound that would lead to death but doesn't.

Let's go with the teaching that says that the antichrist is killed. But, rather than a proper resurrection, a counterfeit resurrection will be performed. In this case, a devil will possess the dead body, and the antichrist will appear to be alive again. While there may not be anything like this elsewhere in scripture, it appears this is a specific miracle to mimic Jesus' resurrection.

Here's another tough one:

Revelation 17:7-11

- 7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.
- 8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.
- 9 And here [is] the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.
- 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, [and] the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.
- 11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

This passage might be more focused on kingdoms, but has references to its leaders. Verse 8 says "the beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition". Perhaps this means the same thing that we concluded above. Verse 11 says "the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven". A distinction is made between the eighth and one of the former "kings" (verse 10 calls them kings). Again, these are tough passages and I am not certain about the explanation.

With that in mind, here are some scriptures that may be related:

Zechariah 11:15-17

- 15 And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd.
- 16 For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, [which] shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces.
- 17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword [shall be] upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

The antichrist begins as the foolish shepherd (verse 15), but then becomes the idol shepherd (verse 17).

2 Thessalonians 2:3

- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

The antichrist begins as the man of sin, but then becomes the son of perdition. That could be related to a beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit. A "son" simply indicates someone that has come to full maturity. The same is said of Judas:

John 17:12

- 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

The son of perdition is lost—beyond being saved. Only destruction lies ahead for such a one. If there is a resurrection of the antichrist, it is a counterfeit. It is unlike the resurrections that we are talking about throughout this book.

Conclusion

Prophecy speaks of two resurrections: one is to life and one is to death. But the latter is still a resurrection. The condemned evidently will have a body to experience torment. The resurrection to life has two parts: one at the beginning of the kingdom and one at the end. The latter coincides with the resurrection unto death.

We put these on a timeline that showed the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of the body of Christ. The two resurrections occur on the “last day”. There were also a few special cases of resurrections during the tribulation.

Part II

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A

The Need for the Right Bible

There is only one bible in English today, and it has been around for over 400 years. It is called the *King James Bible* (KJB) and not the “King James Version”. If you don’t understand the issues concerning the bible, it is probably time that you did. This appendix will only highlight some of the issues; it will not teach the fullness of the topic (refer to *The English Bible* study guide [9]).

A few necessary steps for becoming very mature are:

- getting the right bible,
- learning to rightly divide, and
- learning how to study advanced topics.

I will not devote much space to these topics since this is not what this study guide is about.

God promised that he would preserve his word. If you believed a man that said that we cannot have God’s pure word today, then you’ve made the wrong decision and believed a liar. Once you believe that God has preserved his word, you’ll understand that it can be translated into other languages. Again, this will not be proven here.

God does not need multiple versions of his word in English. It is the devil who provides a bible buffet. If you refer to someone with the right bible as *King James Only*, that too highlights that you don’t understand the issue. The KJB is the English bible that comes from the correct source text. There were less mature English bibles before the KJB; there have been none after it.

You have the freedom to use a corrupt bible. I started my Christian life using one. I wish I hadn’t wasted those years. If you use the wrong bible, you may not properly understand many topics as you study. There are several examples below.

A.1 The Prophets or Isaiah?

The simplest example of showing that other bibles have errors is to look at:

Mark 1:2-3	KJB
2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.	
3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.	

This passage quotes two prophets. Verse 2 quotes Malachi 3:1. Verse 3 quotes Isaiah 40:3. However, the *New International Version* (NIV), like many bad bibles, says:

Mark 1:2-3	NIV
2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” [a]__	
3 “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” [b]	
footnotes: [a] Malachi 3:1, [b] Isaiah 40:3	



This is a glaring error. The original Greek text is wrong because it has been corrupted. You may feel that you are smart enough to look past problems like this, but there will be other things that you don't know to look past.

A.2 Easter or Passover?

A common problem with many corrupt bible translations is the desire to have a uniform translation. That means that a word should be translated the same way every time. Even though there are a myriad of examples where the translators do not do this, they try to do it in a few places in order to tote that their translations are superior. But we will look at one particular case where this mindset corrupts the translation.

Acts 12:3-4	KJB
3	And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)
4	And when he had apprehended him, he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

However, the NIV says:

Acts 12:3-4	NIV
3	When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.
4	After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

We will look at the word for "Easter" in the concordance before deciding anything (see Appendix B for more information on the concordance):

pascha (G3957)

Of Chaldee origin (compare H6453); the Passover (the meal, the day, the festival or the special sacrifices connected with it):—Easter, Passover.

The same word is translated "passover" and "Easter". The word is translated as the former 28 times; it is translated as the latter only 1 time. But, this is the right time to do that.

Passover is always on Abib 14 and the feast of unleavened bread always spans Abib 15 through Abib 21.¹ If Peter is in prison during the days of unleavened bread, then the passover is already past. If Herod is waiting for "after the passover", then either he is waiting for nothing, or waiting for almost a year to pass for next passover to come. Either one obviously makes no sense. Easter often coincides with the day of firstfruits, which is after passover and should fall during the days of unleavened bread.

A.3 The Need to Rightly Divide

Even if you have a KJB, you need to know how to rightly divide God's word:

2 Timothy 2:15
15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Most bibles do not even translate the end of the verse this way. We're not talking about dividing *truth* from *error*. We're talking about dividing *truth* from *truth*. What does that mean? It is about dividing *prophecy* from *mystery*. Most babes in Christ have never even heard of that before.

The *mystery* part of the bible comes solely through Paul (in the books *Romans* through *Philemon*). The *prophecy* part of the bible is everything else. Most Christians have never heard of such a thing and will refuse to hear it!

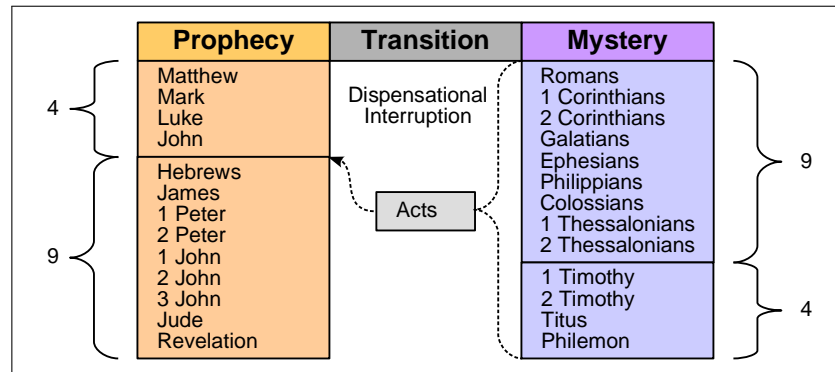
Figure A.1 demonstrates right division and additional aspects of further maturity. The figure references this verse:

¹Keep in mind that Acts 12 is many years after Jesus' resurrection. The principle is the same, even though the days of the week may be different for that year.

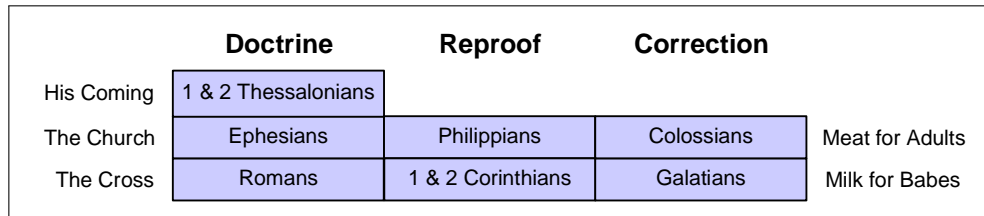


2 Timothy 3:16

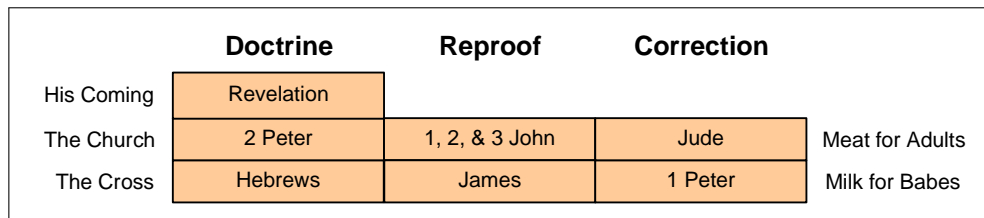
16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:



(a) Structure of the New Testament



(b) Structure of Paul's Church Epistles



(c) Structure of the Hebrew Church Epistles

Figure A.1: (a) This diagram shows how the new testament books are rightly divided. The book of Acts explains what happened to Israel during the transition to the dispensation of grace. Paul's books are divided into 9 church epistles and 4 pastoral epistles. The Jewish books are divided into 4 gospel accounts (or, leadership books) and 9 church epistles. (b) This diagram shows how Paul's church epistles are organized according to 2 Timothy 3:16. There is structure to the pastoral epistles, although it is not shown. (c) This diagram shows how the Hebrew epistles are similarly organized. The gospel accounts have a chronological structure, which is also not shown.

I hope you will look into these matters if they are unknown to you. Chances are that you won't hear about them in your church. You can still read this book, but you may struggle with the content.

A.4 Studying Advanced Bible Topics

Once you have the right bible and you know how to rightly divide, you need to learn how to study and not just read. I'm going to be more helpful here since we will be doing that in this book. I will demonstrate how to study in a few areas of trying to understand an advanced topic.

Ecclesiastes 12:12-13

12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [there is] no end; and much study [is] a weariness of the flesh.



13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.

Verse 12 tells you that studying is a lot of work; it will wear you out. Verse 13 says that you need to read this whole book and not quit part way through. Next, the bible is going to tell you how to study!

Isaiah 28:9-10

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts.
10 For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little:

In order to grow up (and not be a babe drinking milk), you need to learn how to study topics where the verses are scattered.

1 Corinthians 2:11-14

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

This confirms what *Isaiah* said: we compare spiritual things with spiritual. The bible defines what words mean by context. Sometimes you find the definition of a word elsewhere or by reading a group of verses. The Holy Ghost doesn't give you understanding by simply reading. It gives understanding by reading, re-reading, and further studying. Then the "aha!" moment might come. My explanations might "click in place" for you or they might not. If not, then you have work to do (rather than concluding that I am wrong).

2 Timothy 4:3-4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
4 And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Babes in Christ have itching ears. They want to be told what to believe and they want those things to be miraculous! They want to be part of the big crowd. But God's word often brings you into isolation from the larger group.

Proverbs 29:1

1 He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth [his] neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

As you hear the truth and reject it, you harden your heart. You will see a lot of scriptures in this book. They might not make much sense at first. Studying will cause you to look at the verses in your bible and pondering them over time.

B

Using a Concordance While Studying

A concordance is a great study aid if it is used correctly. A concordance is essentially an index of words in the Hebrew or Greek languages. For each word, there is

- a simplistic definition,
- an optional and possibly incomplete list of English words or phrases that are translated from the word, and
- a list of scripture references for each translated word or phrase.

Examples will be demonstrated here using *Strong's Concordance* [6], but there are also other concordances. In the concordance numbering, the Hebrew words begin with the letter "H" and the Greek words with "G". Learn how to use an on-line concordance since flipping around an actual book may be too tedious to be productive. You should learn how to view words in a concordance and see the verses that each word occurs in.

Like the dictionary, a concordance is not a source of truth. The bible is **the** source of truth, and seeing how else a word is translated in the bible is often a good way to gain understanding. If you are using a concordance to correct the bible, you are seriously off course. This is what some people with corrupt bibles do. If you have a *King James Bible*, you have a book that needs no correcting (assuming the publisher didn't introduce typographical mistakes).

You don't need to know Hebrew or Greek to use a concordance effectively. If you think learning those languages is going to give you better understanding of the bible, you are wasting your time. You could spend all of that time studying the English bible instead. If you learn from someone who goes to the Hebrew or Greek regularly, then you need a different teacher. That teacher doesn't understand the bible issue and doesn't trust his bible.

B.1 Resurrection

The word resurrection is only translated from Greek words. They are presented with little discussion. Only *anastasis* is translated in other ways.

***anastasis* (G386)**

From G450; a standing up again, i.e., (literally) a resurrection from death (individual, genitive case or by implication, (its author)), or (figuratively) a (moral) recovery (of spiritual truth):—raised to life again, resurrection, rise from the dead, that should rise, rising again.

The fact that this word is translated in other ways helps us understand that other words or phrases can mean "resurrection". We will look at those words too.

***egersis* (G1454)**

From G1453; a resurgence (from death):—resurrection.

***exanastasis* (G1815)**

From G1817; a rising from death:—resurrection.

B.2 Raise/Rise

These words occur frequently concerning resurrection. The word "again" might follow. Here are a few examples.



1 Corinthians 15:4

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1 Corinthians 15:12

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Both of those verses translate *egeiro* slightly differently. One has “rose again” and the other has only “rose”.

***egeirō* (G1453)**

Probably akin to the base of G58 (through the idea of collecting one’s faculties); to waken (transitively or intransitively), i.e., rouse (literally, from sleep, from sitting or lying, from disease, from death; or figuratively, from obscurity, inactivity, ruins, nonexistence):—awake, lift (up), raise (again, up), rear up, (a-)rise (again, up), stand, take up.

Some of the translated words do not imply resurrection.
Here is another example.

Mark 9:31

31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

***anistēmi* (G450)**

From G303 and G2476; to stand up (literal or figurative, transitive or intransitive):—arise, lift up, raise up (again), rise (again), stand up(-right).

A few of other Greek words fall into this category, but they do not apply to resurrection: G305, G393, G1881, and G1817.

B.3 Live Again

This phrase doesn’t occur often with respect to resurrection. Only a couple of examples are provided with no discussion.

Job 14:14

14 If a man die, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

***châyâh* (H2421)**

A primitive root (compare H2331, H2424); to live, whether literally or figuratively; causatively, to revive; keep (leave, make) alive, X certainly, give (promise) life, (let, suffer to) live, nourish up, preserve (alive), quicken, recover, repair, restore (to life), revive, (X God) save (alive, life, lives), X surely, be whole.

Revelation 20:5

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection.

***anazaō* (G326)**

From G303 and G2198; to recover life (literally or figuratively):—(be a-)live again, revive.

C

Israel's National Resurrection

After the resurrection of the body of Christ, God will make Israel a nation again. This must occur before the kingdom begins. Figure 5.1 shows this as the period between the secret resurrection and the first resurrection part A. Of course, immature Christians don't understand that the Israel that exists today was not made a nation by God. We will understand this when we see that the prophecy of Israel's resurrection has not happened.

The latter chapters of *Ezekiel* describe a timeline of end time events. Chapter 37 describes Israel's national resurrection. Chapter 38 and 39 describe the invasion by Gog. Chapters 40 and on describe the temple and the allocation of the land during the kingdom.

Ezekiel 37:1-10

- 1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which [was] full of bones,
- 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, [there were] very many in the open valley; and, lo, [they were] very dry.
- 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.
- 4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:
- 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.
- 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.
- 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but [there was] no breath in them.
- 9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.
- 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

When God resurrects the nation, they will be a great army. This nation will be used to wipe out Islam, which is the confederacy of nations spoken of in Psalms 83. If you read Ezekiel 38 and 39, you will not find any from these nations mentioned.

Ezekiel 37:11-14

- 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.
- 12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; 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.
- 13 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,



14 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], saith the LORD.

You can understand that this prophecy has not been fulfilled because the Jews are still scattered today. Some Jews have returned (just as in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah), but not all of them.

Israel's national resurrection will happen sometime before the tribulation. But it isn't a resurrection of any people that are dead. It is simply symbolic.



D

Are There Other Raptures?

Many believers earnestly look for other raptures besides ours. Whether or not they find any is partly based on the definition of *rapture*. The rapture, as defined for the body of Christ, consists of the following elements: The person...

1. avoids wrath,
2. does not die,
3. gets an immortal body, and
4. goes to heaven.

I should probably highlight that no single person is raptured, but **all** that are saved who are alive. We'll look at many supposed raptures and see if any are valid.

But first, let's see a few important scriptures that justify some of those elements:

John 3:13

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, [even] the Son of man which is in heaven.

That verse says that no one had gone to heaven in the old testament.

1 Timothy 6:16

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] honour and power everlasting. Amen.

That verse says that no one has an immortal body besides Jesus as the dispensation of grace was under way. Since the body of Christ will have the first rapture, no one previously has had one. This detail will eliminate many of the candidates.

Enoch

Genesis 5:24

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he [was] not; for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch did not die, and he didn't go to heaven. Some people assume that he would have gone to paradise in the heart of the earth. However, the problem with that idea is that paradise is part of hell, and hell is the place of the dead. Since he didn't die, he wouldn't have gone there.

It is a more advanced study to understand that Enoch was translated from the time that he lived to the time of the kingdom. Only God can accomplish that! See the *Biblical Time* study guide [2] for a discussion of this.



He may not have an immortal body (although that change could happen). He may have escaped a judgment (i.e., the flood), but he would have died before the flood came anyway.¹

Elijah

2 Kings 2:1

1 And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

2 Kings 2:11

11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, [there appeared] a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Refer to “Where Did Elijah Go?” in the study guide *How to Study the Bible – Volume 2: Intermediate Topics* [3] for a detailed study. The conclusion is that Elijah only went to the first heaven and came back to the earth. He later died. He didn’t avoid a judgment.

Jesus’ First Ascension

Most people do not understand the Jesus had two ascensions. They might overlook this one:

John 20:16-17

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.
17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and [to] my God, and your God.

Matthew 28:8-9

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.
9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

In the first passage, Mary was told not to touch him. In the second passage, they (the women) touched his feet. So, Jesus had ascended and returned.

As far as an assessment as a rapture, Jesus already died and was resurrected to an immortal body. He did go to heaven (apparently the 3rd) and came back to the earth. He experienced judgment on the cross; he didn’t avoid it.

This passage explains what this ascension was about:

Hebrews 9:24

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, [which are] the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Jesus’ Second Ascension

Mark 16:19

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Luke 24:51

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

¹ Enoch would have had to live over 1000 years to have lived to the flood. No one lived that long.

Acts 1:9-11

- 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
- 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
- 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The rapture analysis is the same as the first ascension. He has not returned to the earth from this ascension yet.

Philip**Acts 8:39-40**

- 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.
- 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

Philip experienced something like Elijah, who was discussed earlier. He only went to the first heaven and came back to the earth. He later died. He didn't avoid a judgment.

Many beginners and those who do not study properly think that this is like a rapture because the Greek word (G726: harpazō) translated "caught away" is also translated "caught up" in 2 Corinthians 12:2, 2 Corinthians 12:4, and 1 Thessalonians 4:17. It is not translated the same way because it is not the same thing. Our rapture is not described as the Spirit catching us up.

Paul**2 Corinthians 12:1-4**

- 1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.
- 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.
- 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)
- 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

What Paul described was a vision (it says so in verse 1). He went to heaven in the vision, but never really left the earth.

Nonetheless, some think Paul died in one of his stonings. If so, he had a natural resurrection. He went to 3rd heaven, but returned. He didn't avoid God's wrath because he died (again) before it has come.

John**Revelation 4:1-2**

- 1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
- 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne.

Like Paul, John experienced a vision (see Revelation 9:17). He went to heaven in the vision, but never left the earth. He later died. His vision describes God's wrath, and he didn't have to avoid it.

The 144,000

Revelation 12:5

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and [to] his throne.

This group is discussed in Subsection 5.4.1 in greater detail. The summary is that the 144,000 will experience a rapture in that they do go to heaven while alive. They will be protected from God's wrath during the first half of the tribulation, but will escape the second half. It may be that they have spiritual bodies. This one is close to a rapture.

The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:11-12

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.
12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

These two are discussed in Subsection 5.4.2 in greater detail. The summary is that they will not experience a rapture. They will be protected from God's wrath during the first half of the tribulation, but will be killed by the antichrist. They are resurrected before going to heaven. They may have spiritual bodies.

Jews During the Tribulation

Matthew 24:37-42

37 But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
41 Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Many think that "taken" means "taken to heaven". The parallel passage in *Luke* rejects that idea:

Luke 17:26-27

26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.
27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:33-37

33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.
34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two [men] in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.
35 Two [women] shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
36 Two [men] shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body [is], thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Poor teaching explains these passages as applying to the body of Christ. But these describe Jews during the tribulation (we will already be gone by then). Those that are "left" survive until the end of the tribulation. Those that are "taken" are killed. *Luke* makes it clear that those taken in the flood are destroyed. The last verse is furthered by these:

Matthew 24:28

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.



Revelation 19:17-18

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;
 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all [men, both] free and bond, both small and great.

So, this is God's wrath not a rapture.

Lot**Genesis 19:15-16**

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.
 16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

2 Peter 2:7-9

7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:
 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;)
 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Some like to compare Lot to an event like the rapture since he avoided a judgment. But he didn't go to heaven, he didn't have an immortal body, and he eventually died.

Some like to view Abraham as a type of "rapture" since he escaped the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. But, he just wasn't present where it occurred. He didn't go to heaven, didn't get an immortal body, and eventually died.

Daniel**Daniel 3:26-29**

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, [and] spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come [hither]. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.
 27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.
 28 [Then] Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed [be] the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.
 29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

This is simply the end of the story (you'll need to read the whole chapter). Daniel's three friends are delivered through judgment; they don't really avoid it. What people note is that Daniel is not present in this story. Some teach that he is a type of the rapture because of that. However, Daniel did not go to heaven, he did not receive an immortal body, and he later died. Perhaps it is a weak type, but why would there be a type of something kept secret?

Side Study D.1: Other Bad Rapture Models

Like the bad Daniel rapture model, there are others that are supposed to exist. The first one involves Joseph, whose story is told in Genesis 37–50. He is a type of Jesus in that he is rejected by his brethren in Genesis 37:28. He is given a Gentile bride in Genesis 41:45. Of course, that leads to a very bad conclusion because the body of Christ is not the bride of Christ (we are likened to a chaste virgin because we are already joined as his body [see 2 Corinthians 11:2]). But, the type suggests that Joseph has wed the Gentile bride before the 7 years of

famine in Genesis 41:50, which is a type of the tribulation. The famine drives his brethren to him in Genesis 42:2, but the Egyptians (i.e., the Gentiles) are dismissed first. Of course, the problem with that is that the “tribulation” has already begun and has not ended before he is revealed to his brethren. So, there are so many flaws in the model. Many force a view into scripture when it is not really there.

The second one involves Moses. Part of his story is told in Exodus 2–4. He is rejected by his brethren in Exodus 2:14. He takes a Gentile bride in Exodus 2:21. His brethren suffer in bondage in Exodus 2:22. The Gentiles (his wife and sons) seem to disappear after Exodus 4:25-25 (but they reappear in Exodus 18:2). He is received by the brethren after great signs in Exodus 4:29-31. It is another weak (and really wrong) model.

Conclusion

When it comes to other raptures, there is only one that is close and that is the 144,000 Jews during the tribulation. They don't avoid judgment, but are preserved through it. They do go to heaven while alive. It can only be assumed that they will have an immortal body. So, it really matters what the definition of “rapture” is.

E

The Book of Life

The topic of the book of life is an interesting little puzzle. There are some bad traditions which are taught concerning it. So you need to be ready to turn loose of such error. We will start with this passage:

Revelation 20:11-15

- 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
- 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
- 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The book of life is looked into at the end of time when sin, death, and hell will be done away with. For those not in the book, there is everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. For those in the book, there is eternal life. But when is someone's name written in it? And can someone's name be removed? Can a name be put back once removed?

Some teach that names are written in the book when someone is saved. Likewise, someone's name is blotted out when he loses his salvation. The former is definitely wrong and the latter is really the exception to the rule. We will see some other possible errors as we study.

E.1 Searching for Verses

Studying the book of life might be somewhat unfruitful if we cannot find all of the relevant verses. First, we will search for the phrase. When we search for "book of life", we get 8 results: 7 of them are in *Revelation* and the other is in *Philippians*. It is interesting that most of the verses are in *Revelation*.¹ Two of the verses were in the passage above (verses 12 and 15).

We will look at the ones in *Revelation* first:

Revelation 3:5

- 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

For Israel, the tribulation is a big decision point. The overcoming Jew is promised that his name would not be blotted out of the book. But, who is the overcomer?

¹It wouldn't be surprising if this helps us understand when *Revelation* was written: It might have been written before *Philippians* was.



1 John 5:4-5

- 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith.
- 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Revelation 3:5 says that Jesus will confess the believer's name:

Luke 12:8-9

- 8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:
- 9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

This is likely to occur when the angels return with Jesus at the 2nd coming. The angels will gather Israel and separate the believers from the unbelievers. If the unbelievers' names are not blotted out already, they will be blotted out when they are killed.

The implication in Revelation 3:5 is that some names are in the book and are blotted out. If they were not believers, why were their names in the book? If they were believers, then they lost their salvation. We will learn that their names were in the book even though they weren't believers.

Now, the next verse that references the book of life:

Revelation 13:8

- 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Here, unbelievers will worship the beast. Revelation 14 says that such will receive God's wrath. Are their names not in the book because they never were written or were they removed? If the latter, then were their names removed before they died.

Now, this verse mentions "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". We should know that Jesus didn't die **before** (nor **at**) the foundation of the world: he died a little more than 4000 years later. While it was God's plan that he would die from the beginning, this language is not declaring that.

We will investigate that language after considering the next verse:

Revelation 17:8

- 8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

This verse also references people who are still alive and their names are not in the book. It too mentions "from the foundation of the world". What some people conclude is that these people were never written in the book because God knew that they wouldn't believe. While God does have such foreknowledge, this contradicts how God works and thinks.²

Side Study E.1: Paying Attention to "Time" Phrases (Advanced Study)

Revelation 13:8 and 17:8 have an important phrase that we need to pay attention to: "from the foundation of the world". The bible can be very meticulous concerning time, particularly with respect to prophecy and mystery. The *Biblical Time* study guide [2] can help you understand such time words and phrases. *Prophecy* has a few phrases associated with it:

- from the beginning
- since the world began
- since/from the foundation of the earth/world

Mystery has other phrases associated with it:

- before the world (began)
- before the foundation of the world

Refer to the aforementioned study guide to see examples and study this further.

Both Revelation 13:8 and 17:8 have the same prophecy time phrase. Neither one suggests that something happened before, or even during, the creation week. "From the foundation. . ." suggests a starting point in time. We

²To avoid this Calvinistic thinking, you should better understand God's sovereignty in the scripture: see the *Key Doctrines* study guide [5]



might also use the word *since*. So, there are names written since the beginning and there are names not written. That might be all that it is saying.

An error that can be introduced by these two verses is that God has written the names of all who will ever live before the world began. A worse error is that God wrote the names of all those that will be saved at this same time. Both are wrong since they occur before the world began. The phrase indicates *since* not *before*.

Now, we will see the two verses from the opening passage:

Revelation 20:12

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Those not in the book are condemned and judged accordingly.

Revelation 20:15

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This verse makes it clear what the fate is for those not in the book.

Now, the next verse that references the book of life:

Revelation 21:27

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The wicked are not in the book. Only those in the book of life can enter into the new Jerusalem.

And finally, the last verse. In this case, we will include the one before it:

Revelation 22:18-19

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book.

So, if someone takes away from the book of *Revelation*, his name will be removed from the book of life. He also loses the inheritance in the new Jerusalem.

The last verse seems to imply more than removing the name from the book. "His part" might mean something like "his share", which again relates to inheritance. There might be some kind of information as to lineage (i.e., is the person a covenant Jew?).

And now, the verse that is not in *Revelation*. It was written by Paul:

Philippians 4:3

3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and [with] other my fellowlabourers, whose names [are] in the book of life.

So, what is Paul saying? Surely, all of his fellow-laborers are saved. It would not be saying much to say "... my fellowlaborers, who are saved". Perhaps the key to understanding this verse is that the book of life has meaning in prophecy but not mystery (recall the prophecy time phrases that we already encountered). Therefore, these fellow-laborers are kingdom saints rather than members of the body of Christ.

Paul says something similar here:

Colossians 4:10-11

10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)
11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only [are my] fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

Paul names some fellow-workers which were part of the circumcision. Again, this would refer to kingdom saints. So, we might conclude that being in the book of life is not a notable detail for the body of Christ. We will address some subtleties of this later.

E.2 Looking at the Cross References

The next thing to do is to look at the cross references for the verses that were found when searching. Looking at cross references can be tedious when there are many references that are not what we are after. Of course, cross references can vary across bibles and on-line applications since the references are determined by the publishers.

I will only look at the cross references for Philippians 4:3, but you should really look at them all. For me, it turned out to have the most useful cross references. There are 4 groups of references for this verse; the last group corresponds to the phrase “whose names are in the book of life”. We have seen some of the cross references already: Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 20:15, and 21:27. The other verses are Exodus 32:32, Psalms 69:28, Isaiah 4:3, Ezekiel 13:9, Daniel 12:1, and Luke 10:20. We will look at these in turn, but will add other verses that we are prompted to find.³

For the first cross reference, we will add the next verse:

Exodus 32:32-33
32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.
33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

This obviously speaks of judgment. Moses asked to be blotted out of the LORD’s book. If the LORD did that, it would have probably meant that Moses would have died at that time as well. But, the LORD said he would blot out those that had sinned against him.

Let’s see this idea confirmed:

Deuteronomy 9:14
14 Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

Is “blotting out their name from under heaven” the same as blotting out one’s name from the book of life? The verse tells us that the phrase means to destroy them. Is this a collective name (i.e., Israel) or imply the individuals’ names? It would be the LORD’s judgment to wipe out the rebellious people and make a new nation from Moses.

That leads us to this verse:

2 Kings 14:27
27 And the LORD said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

God was saying that he would not let Israel be destroyed. This refers to the whole nation.

Let’s continue with the idea of blotting out a name from under heaven:

Deuteronomy 29:20
20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.

Again, this was going to be the LORD’s judgment. The curses of the law will be the judgment. It appears that blotting out the person’s name results in both the first and second deaths.

For the next cross reference, we will again add a verse to it:

Psalms 69:27-28
27 Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness.
28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

Here we have the “book of the living”. Is that the same as the book of life? I think it is and that it tells us two things. The names of people that are alive are written in it. This would indicate when their names are written in the book when they have life. Also, names that are blotted out are the wicked since they are not written with the righteous.

Here we have a similar passage although no book is mentioned:

³Each cross-referenced verse will be highlighted by a pointing finger in the margin.

Psalms 109:13-15

- 13 Let his posterity be cut off; [and] in the generation following let their name be blotted out.
 14 Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.
 15 Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.

This passage makes a connection between sins being blotted out and names being blotted out. It also mentions “the memory of them”.

Side Study E.2: Blotting Out Sins

There are also verses that refer to “blotting out sins”. These will help us understand blotting out names. Obviously, these are contrary to one another: if your sins are blotted out, your name won’t be.

Isaiah 43:25

- 25 I, [even] I, [am] he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Notice that *remembrance* is associated with “blotting out”: “blot out” means “don’t remember”.

Psalms 51:1

- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Psalms 51:9

- 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Acts 3:19

- 19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

The notable thing here is that the blotting out was to occur in the Israel’s future.

Isaiah 44:22

- 22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Let’s see another cross referenced verse that might give us some insight:

Isaiah 4:3

- 3 And it shall come to pass, [that he that is] left in Zion, and [he that] remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, [even] every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

Again, we have the word “living”. This should be referring to people that were alive at the time.

The next cross reference is:

Ezekiel 13:9

- 9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I [am] the Lord GOD.

As we speculated before, there may be more information than names. There may be information about who belongs to the house of Israel.

The next cross reference is:

Daniel 12:1

- 1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy 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.

The righteous are in the book. This obviously concerns Israel during the time of the tribulation. Michael and other angels will be rescuing those that are saved. Those going through the tribulation will enter into the kingdom. Those not in the book will be killed.

The last cross reference is:

Luke 10:20

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

So is "written in heaven" a reference to the book of life (which should be in heaven)? Here is a related verse:

Hebrews 12:22-23

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Kingdom believers are written in heaven. This supports the conclusion drawn for Philippians 4:3 earlier.

Side Study E.3: Names Written in the Earth

For those whose names are not written in heaven, they are written in the earth:

Jeremiah 17:13

13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, [and] they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

This shows up in the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-11. Here is the relevant excerpt:

John 8:6-9

6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with [his] finger wrote on the ground, [as though he heard them not].
7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.
8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.
9 And they which heard [it], being convicted by [their own] conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, [even] unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

It is quite likely that Jesus was writing on the ground (i.e., in the earth) a reference to the law the first time and their names the second time.

In Side Study E.2, we saw an opposite relationship between blotting and remembering. With respect to the book of life, those that are blotted out are not remembered. Those that are not blotted out are remembered. So, consider this passage:

Malachi 3:16-18

16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard [it], and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.
17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.
18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

The book of remembrance should be the book of life (i.e., those not in it are not remembered). Verse 17 sounds like it corresponds to the great white throne of Revelation 20:11.

Side Study E.4: Names Blotted Out in the Bible [Advanced]

If you compare 1 Chronicles 3:9-17 and Matthew 1:6-12, you will notice that the latter does not contain some of the names of the former. These names have been blotted out. Matthew 1:17 says that there are 14 generations from David until the carrying away into Babylon. So, the names in 1 Chronicles are remembered no more! In fact, we cannot tell that they were there (unless we go to 1 Chronicles). Refer to “The Genealogy of Jesus Christ” in the study guide *How to Study the Bible – Volume 3: Advanced Topics* [4] for more information.

Finally, there is one additional verse that tells us something important:

Deuteronomy 25:19

19 Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance to possess it, [that] thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget [it].

This has some key concepts that we have seen before. But, it also references Amalek, which are not the people of Israel. So, we would expect to find people from other nations in the book. Unfortunately, the large majority of them will have been blotted out.

Here are two more verses without discussion:

Psalms 56:8

8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: [are they] not in thy book?

Psalms 139:16

16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all [my members] were written, [which] in continuance were fashioned, when [as yet there was] none of them.

E.3 Putting It All Together

We saw 8 verses that mentioned the book of life. But then we saw many more that seem to be related to it. I will give my summary of what they appear to be teaching.

The book of life is a record of all of the people who ever lived who have put their faith in God. Of course, that faith culminates in Jesus dying for the sins of all mankind. There are no verses that mention writing someone’s name in the book. But, because the book is also called the “book of the living”, a person’s name is written in the book when he is conceived (or created, in the case of Adam and Eve). When someone dies, a judgment is made:

Hebrews 9:27

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

At death, those that had faith remain in the book. Those that did not have faith would be removed from, or blotted out of, the book. Then at the great white throne judgment, most of the dead would not be in the book of life. There is no recourse to have the name rewritten.

To me, it makes sense that people names are written in the book when they become alive. This wouldn’t be at birth, but at conception. A number of verse mention God knowing someone in the womb: Psalms 71:6, Isaiah 49:1, Isaiah 49:5, Jeremiah 1:5, and Galatians 1:15. So, each person gets written in the book at his life-giving moment in history. It doesn’t matter what they will do in the future. No foreknowledge is needed and certainly no Calvinistic predestination can occur. This is particularly important for children: they are in the book before the know to choose between good and evil. See the *Biblical Time* study guide [2] to understand the age of accountability.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

3 For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

It is God’s will that all men be saved. Obviously, many will not be.

Acts 13:46

46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Most choose not to be saved!

The book of life is predominately a book that is relevant to prophecy. It is not looked into during the mystery as far as I can tell. No one in the body of Christ will be among the dead at the great white throne judgment. I would expect our names to still be written among the living at conception. Those unsaved would be blotted out at death. We need to consider what happens at the beginning and end of the dispensation of grace with respect to people who are already alive. Finally, additional information might be kept with respect to the people of Israel.



Conclusion

We completed an in-depth study of the topic of resurrection. Resurrection means to “rise again”. A person rises the first time when he is born; he rises again from the dead. Some people were resurrected and died again: these were natural resurrections. These were signs of the spiritual resurrection. Jesus is the only one to have a spiritual resurrection. The spiritual resurrection will make us equal to the angels, who are simply immortal men.

The body of Christ will have a resurrection to the heavens. When that occurs, those that are alive will also be changed. Everyone else will have a resurrection to the earth. That will come in two parts. The second part coincides with the resurrection of the condemned. They will go into the lake of fire—the second death.

We learned that some people experienced natural resurrections, which would be followed by another death. Conversely, there has been one and there will be many that do not experience death at all. We should be reminded of this verse:

Hebrews 9:27

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

That verse simply means that it is expected that mortal people will die. Any choice of salvation must be made before that time. It is a general principle rather than a universal truth.

Hopefully, the scriptures have been opened up to you, so that you can be better positioned to understand other topics in which resurrection is involved.



Reference Materials

Completed and draft e-books are available via <https://thechurchoforlando.org>.

- [1] *American Dictionary of the English Language*, Noah Webster, 1828; this dictionary is in the *e-Sword X* application; see also <https://webstersdictionary1828.com>
- [2] *Biblical Time*, Tom Wilson, e-book; First Edition, 9/7/25
- [3] *How to Study the Bible – Volume 2: Intermediate Topics*, Tom Wilson, e-book; partial Draft Edition, 2/25/26
- [4] *How to Study the Bible – Volume 3: Advanced Topics*, Tom Wilson, e-book; partial Draft Edition, 2/3/26
- [5] *Key Doctrines*, Tom Wilson, e-book; planned
- [6] *Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries*, J. Strong, 1890; this concordance is in the *e-Sword X* application
- [7] *The Biblical Angels*, Tom Wilson, e-book; First Edition, Revision A, 9/11/24
- [8] *The Biblical Creation*, Tom Wilson, e-book; First Edition, 1/1/24
- [9] *The English Bible*, Tom Wilson, e-book; First Edition, 6/3/25

Index of Bible Verses

This index of bible verses is provided so that you can quickly find where passages appear. The index is organized by book name. Each book name is followed by an ordered list of chapters, followed by the verse(s) cited. Each reference is followed by the page(s) on which it appears. In the soft copy, the page numbers are hyperlinks. Boldface page numbers, if any, refer to references to verses rather than quoted verses.

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Tom Wilson has assembled numerous scriptures that explain resurrection in the bible. Some that were resurrected died again, but there is a better resurrection. You can understand the signs and types, and the differences between prophecy's resurrection and ours.

There is also an extensive index of scripture references so that you can find where certain passages are discussed in the presentation of the topic. All this information is put at your fingertips because God wants his people to know and understand him.

Do you have faith to believe what God says? Or will you be faint and bow to common traditions? Prove yourself today!

Look for other books in the "Understanding the Bible" series.