

The Benefits of Salvation Series

Resurrection, Restoration, and Believing Jesus

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The Redeemer is the seed of Abraham (Genesis 22:18), of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10) and the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12, 13). He is a suffering servant who battles Satan and redeems God's people. (Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:5-7; 52:13-15; 53) Christ, the Messiah, came to make all things new. Sin, death, and the Curse are defeated God's way. True believers have an inheritance.

Matthew 25:34. This inheritance includes the new earth, but it is more than that. We inherit the promises and particularly the Promise of the Father, i.e., the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. God's plan is "to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ." (Ephesians 1:10) God and the new humanity in Christ are reconciled and so are Heaven and Earth, in Christ. Revelation 21:3. There will be no more gulf between the spiritual and physical worlds, no divided loyalties or divided realms.

Who rules? Those having thrones: God the Father (Hebrews 12:2; Revelation 22:1), Christ the Son (Luke 1:32; Hebrews 1:8), God's human children (Revelation 4:4; 11:16), and Satan (Revelation 2:13). Satan's claim to the throne is false and he is eternally dethroned. People rejecting God's will are dethroned. God is permanently enthroned. The Righteous are enthroned by God to reign after having sin and Satan dethroned in their lives. The Elect are delegated rulers. Christ rules the universe. (Ephesians 1:20-22; Revelation 1:5; Revelation 19:16; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Matthew 16:18)

No more curse. This means no longer engaging in painful toil in the task of caregiving; no longer having the earth yield thorns and thistles, defying our dominion and repaying us for corrupting it; no longer returning to the ground from which we were taken. Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer who redeems us from any claims of the earth concerning us. As our K-R, Christ removes the curse of sin and death (Romans 8:2; Romans 5:15-19). With the removal of the Curse, people, culture, the earth, and the universe will be as God intended. In Christ, God will restore His entire creation and do more besides. The Curse is lifted, morally (in terms of sin), psychologically (in terms of sorrow), and physically (in terms of thorns in the ground). As Christians, we believe in the restoration of all things.

As Christians we believe in the resurrection of the body, redeemed spirits in redeemed bodies in a redeemed universe. In Genesis 2:7 man became a living being, *nephesh*, at the point God joined body (dust) and spirit (breath) together such that he had both material (physical) and immaterial (spiritual) components, spirit joined with body. Our bodies do not just house a real us as spirit beings; our body joins with our spirit/soul to make us spirit, soul, body, and life.

Death tears apart what God joined together, but for those who belong to Jesus, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. See 2 Corinthians 5:7, 8.

Other views of the afterlife settle for less than bodily resurrection—Christo-platonism, reincarnation, transmigration of the soul, Gnosticism, Manichaeism. The latter two associate God with a spiritual realm of light and Satan with a physical world of darkness. Yet God called His entire creation very good (Genesis 1:31).

Paul says that if Christ didn't rise from the dead in a bodily resurrection, we are still in our sins. (1 Corinthians 15:17) Job said, "In my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another." (Job 19:26, 27) Conversion is not elimination, but transformation, radical change but redemptive continuity. 1 Corinthians 14:43; 1 Thess. 4:17; Matthew 22:32

In Matthew 22 and in Luke 20, some folks try to trap Jesus, but Jesus believes in getting to the real issue, which here is the Resurrection and marriage. He contrasts this age with the age to come.

- In the resurrection there is no need for marriage.
- In the resurrection there will be no death.
- In the resurrection there will be no need for children to be born to replace or replenish or multiply to fill the earth. The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage.
- In the resurrection people would be like the angels in that people would be sexless and not married or given in marriage. Angels are spirit beings without sexuality. People do not become angels. We also become like angels in our immortality.
- Jesus refers to Moses to make His point. He reminds these Sadducees of Exodus 3:6, where God said to Moses, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." He did not say, "I was the God of Abraham" as if Abraham was no more. Let's also read Exodus 3:15, 16, for Jesus takes this back to the part on "the Bush." So these three patriarchs were at that time alive. God knew them by name and loved them, personally and individually.
- In the resurrection believers are sons of God, sons of the Resurrection. They are not able to die anymore. The proof of their new status as "sons of God" will be their being "sons of the resurrection." (cf. Romans 8:21, 23) **Those however having been considered worthy to the age that which is to obtain, and the resurrection which is out from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; neither indeed are they able to die any more. Indeed they are like angels; and are sons of God, being sons of the Resurrection. Moreover that the dead are raised, even Moses showed in the part on the Bush when he calls the Lord [Kurios] the God of Abraham and God of Isaac and God of Jacob. Moreover He is NOT the God of the dead, but of the living; all indeed to Him live. (Luke 20:35-38)**
- Jesus was proclaimed the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:4). (Craig, Mary. Believe in Jesus, Believe Jesus, Believe What Jesus Believes. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. 2014-2018.)

Jesus demonstrated that His resurrection body was the same body that died on the cross. Luke 24:39.

“The self-same bodies of the dead, which were laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls forever, shall be raised up by the power of Christ...All the dead shall be raised up, with the self-same bodies, and none other.” The Westminster Larger Catechism (1647)

Phil. 3:20, 21; 1 John 3:2, 1 Cor. 15:49; Luke 24:13-39; 1 Thess. 4:14; Revelation 21:1-3; John 20:15, 16; John 21:4, 5, 12; John 20:19-23.

Christ’s resurrection body could be touched, consume food, and yet materialize at will. He communicated, instructed, breathed the Holy Spirit upon His disciples, entrusted a task to them. He interacted (Acts 1:4-8; John 20:10-18; 20:24-29, 21:15-22)

Jesus walked through walls (John 20:26) and vanished into thin air (Luke 24:31). He had flesh and bones (Luke 24:39) with no mention of blood. Why? Some speculate it may be because the life of the soul is in the blood. Men are buried in a soulish state, but raised in a spiritual state.

The soulish body has flesh and blood. The spiritual body has flesh and bones. Ezekiel 44 gives us a little clue. The sons of Zadok represent the Melchizidek Order, those who inherit the first resurrection. They differ from the Levites who minister to the people in the outer court (the flesh). Only the sons of Zadok minister to God as well as to people. They wear linen garments when ministering to God; but change into woolen garments when ministering to the people. These sons of Zadok move from the spiritual dimension into the physical, even as Jesus did. Jesus was sent by the Father to be born as the child of the Holy Ghost and born of a woman.

Jesus is the Firstfruits, a prototype, the forerunner, the captain of our salvation, having pre-eminence.

The earthly body is sown a perishable body, in dishonor, in weakness, as a natural body. The resurrection body is raised an imperishable body, in glory, in power, as a spiritual body. (1 Cor. 15:42-44) The resurrection body will be fitted perfectly for living in the Presence of God forever.

Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure. We will be changed, clothed with the imperishable, with immortality, and death will be swallowed up in victory. The Holy Spirit is Living Spirit. With death defeated, as it is even now in the Atonement, we will be filled with Life, Light, and Love. It is love that overcomes death for the bond of love is stronger than death and pulls us to the Father as surely as Christ could not remain in the grave because of the bond between the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. That love raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11) and Christ raises us from the dead, joining us to the Father through the Son. Even now He gives life to the mortal body; even now we are new creations in Christ Jesus; even now we taste of the powers of the age to come; even now we are seated in heavenly places in Christ; even now we have dominion over devils, disease, and death; even now we tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. As our spirit is joined to be one spirit with Christ, as born-out-of God ones, we die as to our physical bodies, but we live as to our spirit/souls. And we receive a resurrection body.

Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And he that lives and believes in Me, shall never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25

Jesus is the Living Manna, the Living Waters. Believing in Him, we never hunger or thirst. He raises us up at the last day (John 6) Jesus is the Living Bread and the bread He gives is His flesh, given for the life of the cosmos. We take Him into us, filling ourselves with Him, a Person. The Scriptures point to Him, and we must come to Him and so live by means of Him, the Christ. The spirit enlivens. The words Jesus speaks are spirit and life. Eat of the Living Bread and you live forever. Take in the Word of God and ask the Living God to put truth in the inward parts.

Christ's redemptive work is not limited to humanity. Colossians 1:16-20. By means of Christ, God reconciles to Himself all things on Earth and in Heaven (*ta panta*).

*“He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he’s there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the Cross.” Colossians 1:18-20 *The Message**

Creation groans. Romans 8:19-23. A great deliverance will come with our bodily resurrection. Decay and death were not in the original; they came with the Fall, with Adam's sin. All creation suffers in frustration and awaits the manifestation of the sons of God. Yet creation groans in hopeful anticipation. (Romans 8)

Believers are to know about this ministry of restoration, God's plan to restore all things. We call people to repentance (Acts 3:19-21), bear witness to the great Restorer, and prepare people's hearts for God's plan of restoration.

1 Cor. 15:58 – In light of our eventual resurrection, we are to stand firm and not let anything move us. We are to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Cor. 3:12-15 All believers survive the fire of testing and are raised. What we do with our lives will also outlast this world. Revelation 14:13

Psalms 90:17 – Establish or make permanent the work of our hands.

What work will survive in the resurrection? What's done on earth to Christ's glory seems to survive. Works wrought in God, from God's holy heart for God's holy and sovereign purposes, are rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Remember, true believers do not experience the wrath of God and eternal punishment; God looks for what He can bless in our lives. What on earth did we do for heaven's sake?

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Revelation 20:12-13

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15 KJV

God is Creator-Redeemer. True believers are redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb and their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Those who do not repent of sin and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, perish. God is a Restorer, a Repairer of the Breach. Only Jesus satisfies the righteous justice of the true God. We are to tell people so that they don't waste their lives, but number their days and gain wisdom.

From Everlasting to Everlasting

Psalm 90

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place^[a]
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"^[b]

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span^[c] is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

¹² So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

¹³ Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷ Let the favor^[d] of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Footnotes

1. [Psalm 90:1](#) Some Hebrew manuscripts (compare Septuagint) *our refuge*
2. [Psalm 90:3](#) Or *of Adam*
3. [Psalm 90:10](#) Or *pride*
4. [Psalm 90:17](#) Or *beauty*

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%2090&version=ESV#en-ESV-15380>

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