

# EASTER SPECIAL

16 April 2017

## THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

### Definition:

1. Resurrection is rising from the dead in a perfect human body and never again being subject to physical death.
2. Resurrections occur at the close of the dispensations of the Incarnation, the Church, the Tribulation, and the Millennium.
3. Some resurrection bodies of believers will be adorned with devices contained in their escrow account, many of which are itemized in documentation of the Nike Awards in Revelation 2 and 3.
4. Spiritual growth is a basic principle that believers must understand and is part of grace orientation as a problem-solving device.

**Hebrews 6:1** Therefore having graduated from the elementary teaching about the Christ [ **basic doctrines** ], let us press on to maturity [ **advanced doctrines** ], not laying again the foundation [ **basic must be understood to advance** ] of changing your mind regarding dead works [ **human good** ] instead of faith toward God, (EXT)

5. Resurrection is really a New Testament doctrine. While it is mentioned in the Tanakh, it did not occur historically until the Christocentric dispensations.
6. The dispensation of the Incarnation terminated with the resurrection, ascension, and session of the true humanity of Christ.
7. The dispensation of the church terminates with the resurrection of believers and often referred to as the “rapture,” a term taken from the Latin *raptio*, “a carrying off.”

04/16/2017

ES17Original Document: 01 / 2

### The Resurrection of Christ: the Pattern:

1. There are four events associated with the First Resurrection. It may be illustrated as a battalion pass-in-review and each is described as a company,
2. **Alpha Company** represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is called, “the first fruits of them that slept”:  
**1 Corinthians 15:20** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits<sup>1</sup> of those who are asleep.
3. The resurrection of Christ is found in Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6; John 20:1–18; Acts 2:31–34.
4. **Bravo Company** refers to the resurrection of the royal family of God which occurs at the end of the Church Age.  
**1 Thessalonians 4:16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a voice command, followed by a voice command of the archangel, and with a command by the trumpet of God for the formation of the angelic army, and the dead in Christ [ refers to those who are physically dead ] will rise first in resurrection bodies.  
**v. 17** Then we [ Paul indicates that he expected the Rapture to occur in his lifetime<sup>2</sup> ] which are alive and remain on the earth shall be caught up with them [ those that preceded them in verse 16 ] in the clouds [ the second heaven ] to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall be with the Lord forever.
5. Other passages that describe the Rapture of the Church include John 14:1–3; Philippians 3:20–21; 1 Corinthians 15:51–57; 1 Thessalonians 2:1–12; 1 John 3:1–2.
6. **Charlie Company** looks forward to an event that occurs at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. In dispensational theology, the Tribulation is regarded as the continuation of the dispensation of Israel or Daniel’s 70th heptad.

<sup>1</sup> In the feast of first fruits, the Jews believed it guaranteed a good harvest and by analogy this means that Christ’s resurrection is a guarantee of resurrection for all Christians including those dead (sleeping) or alive at the Rapture. See Leviticus 23:10–11.

<sup>2</sup> This is one among several passages that establishes the doctrine of the imminency of the Rapture.

04/16/2017

ES17Original Document: 01 / 3

7. Daniel in the Book of Daniel prophesied that the Jewish Diaspora under King Nebuchadnezzar of Chaldea would last 490 years. This period consists of seventy heptads, each heptad referring to an increment of seven years. Seventy heptads amount to 490 years.
8. However, after the Jews returned to the land only 69 of these heptads had lapsed when the resurrection of the Lord occurred, followed shortly thereafter by the inauguration of the Church Age.
9. Consequently, there remains one more heptad that must transpire before Old Testament saints can be resurrected. That will occur following the termination of the Tribulation at the Second Advent of Christ.
10. Other references to these events include Daniel 12:13 which inform us that following the Second Advent, forty-five days will transpire until the Millennium begins:  
**Daniel 12:11** “From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.  
**v. 12** “How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!  
**v. 13** “But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.
11. Other passages that refer to Charlie Company’s resurrection include Isaiah 26:19–20; Matthew 24:31; Revelation 20:4.
12. **Delta Company** denotes those believers who live to the end of the millennial kingdom, some dead and some alive. The first generation of the Millennium will be made up of believers who survived the Tribulation and entered the dispensation in human bodies.
13. Over the course of the 1,000 years, their offspring will consist of numerous believers. Those who will die and those who are alive at the conclusion of the Millennium receive resurrection bodies.

14. It must be understood that all those who were resurrected in companies Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie entered into the Millennium in resurrection bodies which possess eternal life and thus never encounter physical death.
15. Those entering the dispensation in human bodies of corruption will die physically, but be resurrected at the end of the 1,000 years.

### Two Destinies of General Resurrections

1. There are two general resurrections. The First Resurrection is for believers only. The resurrection body possesses eternal life.
2. Since the soul never dies, neither does the resurrection body. Believers live with the Lord forever, beginning at the Rapture, continuing through the Millennium, and ultimately in the new heavens and the new earth:  
**2 Peter 3:13**      According to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. (NASB)
3. The Second Resurrection occurs after human history is over. It is only for unbelievers following the destruction of the universe, noted in 2 Peter 3:10–13.
4. Unbelievers are then resurrected, still in status quo spiritual death. They are transferred from the Hades compartment of Torments to appear before the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11–15).
5. There before this divine tribunal, they will be judged for their failure to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation and for their futile efforts to acquire salvation by means of human viewpoint, human good, and evil.
6. Found guilty they will be transferred to the lake of fire:  
**Revelation 20:14**      Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
7. Regarding the lake of fire, a question arises about the degree of suffering that lost Homo sapiens and fallen angels will encounter.

04/16/2017

ES17Original Document: 01 / 5

8. An interesting article on the subject of the afterlife of unbelievers appears in the current issue of *Grace in Focus* magazine, published by the Grace Evangelical Society.
9. In the article, its writer, Bob Wilkin, has commentary on the Lord's denunciation of the cities in which most of His miracles were done, but who did not believe Jesus was the Messiah:

**Matthew 11: 21**            “Woe to you, **Chorazin**  
 [ Χοραζίν (*Chorazín*) ]! Woe to you, **Bethsaida**  
 [ Βηθσαιδά (*Bēthsaidá*): **cities near the Sea of Galilee** ]! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

**v. 22**            Nevertheless I say to you, it will be **more tolerable** [ ἀνεκτότερος (*anektótepos*) **less severe** ] for Tyre and Sidon in the **day of judgment** [ **Great White Throne's verdict and sentence to the lake of fire** ] **than for you.**”

10. Wilkin made these observations about the type of environment inhabitants in the lake of fire will endure:

(T)he torment in the lake of fire will be physical, mental, and spiritual torment, but ... all of it will be tolerable. None of it will be unbearable. (See Matthew 11:22, 24).

God is not going to give unbelievers an eternal experience that is unbearable. He could. He could set it up so people had level 10 suffering 24/7/365, with no breaks and no escape. But He will not do that. Such suffering could not be described as tolerable or more tolerable.

Which unbelievers get the more tolerable torment may surprise us. Those of Sodom and Gomorrah and Tyre and Sidon were notorious sinners. Yet their torment will be more tolerable than law abiding, legalistic, self-righteous Jews of the first century who rejected the Messiah when they saw and heard Him directly. Degree of torment will be based in great part on how much revelation from God a person rejected.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Bob Wilkin, “Clearing up Confusion about Heaven and Hell,” in *Grace in Focus*, March/April 2017, 10.

04/16/2017

ES17Original Document: 01 / 6

11. Physical death is the prerequisite for resurrection. There are two exceptions: (1) the Rapture generation of the Church Age and (2) the millennial believers alive at the end of human history.

### Significance of Resurrection as the Lord's Victory:

**John 11:24** Martha said to Him [ Jesus ],  
 “I know that he [ Lazarus ] will rise again  
 [ predictive future passive indicative of the verb  
 ἀνίστημι (*anístēmi*): resuscitation from death  
 back to human life ] in the resurrection  
 [ ἀνάστασις (*anástasis*): resurrection body ] on  
 the last day [ Second Advent ].”

v. 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection  
 [ ἀνάστασις (*anástasis*): the resurrection ] and the  
life [ ζωή (*zōē*): eternal life ]; he who believes  
 [ πιστεύω (*pisteúō*): faith alone ] in Me [ Christ  
 alone ] will live [ eternally ] even if he dies  
 [ physically ]. (NASB)

1. Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, was dead and was buried for four days when Jesus arrived at Bethany. Martha told Jesus that if He had been there when her brother was ill, he would not have died.
2. Martha knows some prophecy but does not understand the strict usage of two words in her comment to Jesus. She uses *anístēmi* which refers to resuscitation of someone that is dead but later restored to physical life.
3. This is correct, but she continues to add this resuscitation will occur in “the resurrection on the last day,” which refers to the Second Advent, yet future.
4. Resuscitation is not involved in bodily resurrections. Resurrections occur for believers of the Church Age at the Rapture, of Old Testament believers at the Second Advent, and of millennial believers at the close of the Millennium.
5. On these three occasions, believers that are physically dead or physically alive will be instantly transformed into a resurrection body which has eternal life.

