

# Resurrection and eternal life

## Key verses

- “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an arch-angel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

1 Thess.4:16

See also Luke 14:14; John 6:39,40,44,54; Acts 24:14-15,21.

- “Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

Isa.26:19

See 1 Sam.2:6; Psa.17:15; Ezek.37:12-14; Dan.12:2,13; Hos.13:14

The resurrection chapter is 1 Corinthians ch15.

## The dead are sleeping

- “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame, and everlasting contempt.”

Dan.12:2.

Why the need for resurrection? The answer to this can be arrived at by looking at where the dead are situated after death. After Adam sinned, God said, “**For dust you are, and to dust you shall return**” (Gen.3:19), hence the following Bible descriptions of the place of the dead.

- “...who dwell in the dust” Isa.26:19
- “...who go down into silence” Psa.115:17
- “...fell asleep, was buried” Acts 13:36
- “...who have fallen asleep” 1 Cor.15:20
- “...who have fallen asleep” 1 Thess.4:13-16
- “...who are in the graves” John 5:28-29

If the grave is the dwelling place of the **sleeping dead**, then the Bible promise of resurrection is certainly **good news**.

## The human soul is mortal

- “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.”

Ezek.18:4 See also Psa.146:4.

God uses the word soul in the Bible connected with many of the activities that we associate with **normal everyday mortal living** (hunger, joy, eating, weeping, death and corruption).

See Psa.30:3, ch69:10, ch107:9; Isa.38:17, ch53:12, ch61:10; Jer.13:17.

The words “immortal” and “soul” never occur together in Scripture. The **fable of the immortality of the soul** had its beginnings in Babylon, passing on to Egypt and thence to Greek mythology, which later influenced Christianity.

## When will the dead rise?

- “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order; Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.”

1 Cor.15:22-23 See also 2 Cor.4:14

As we can see in the verses above, the resurrection is described in the Bible as taking place at the time of Jesus' return. In fact it is the **first great and powerful act that Jesus will perform with the power that God has given Him** (John 5:26), **as soon as He returns** (1 Thess.4:13-16).

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

## Jesus' voice calls the dead

- “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves (Greek: memorial graves) will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

John 5:28-29

- “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.”

John 5:26

The verses above speak of **Jesus' God given power to raise the dead**. When Jesus resurrected Lazarus, “He cried with a loud voice, **Lazarus, come forth**” (John 11:43). Those who are resurrected when Jesus returns will also **hear Jesus' voice summoning them from the grave**. What an amazing beginning for our new life in God's Kingdom, to be actually raised from the grave by the voice of the man who died for us some two thousand years ago.

## Eternal life and a glorious body

- “And this is the promise that He has promised us – eternal life.”
- “...who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...”
- “...eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we are saved in this hope”
- “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality”
- “...for you shall rest, and will rise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”

1 John 2:25

Phil.3:20-21

Rom.8:23-25

1 Cor.15:53

Dan.12:13

Those who are acceptable to Jesus when He returns will be given **eternal life and a body like Jesus' glorified body**. The Apostle Peter describes this change as, “**divine nature**”. Immortality is a gift given to God's people **after the resurrection** (Dan.12:2; 1 Cor.15:22-23).

## Two forms of existence

- “As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.”
- “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

Psa.17:15

2 Cor.5:8

The above verse from 2Cor.5:8 is regularly misrepresented at funeral services by those who teach that the soul is immortal, despite overwhelming Bible evidence to the contrary. The Bible teaches two forms of existence. Firstly a **mortal body** (corruptible), and secondly, an **immortal body** (incorruptible, 1Cor.15:44-54). The resurrection will be our **next conscious moment** after we have died, when we will then be absent from our **original mortal body** (our old corruptible home) and present with our newly returned Lord from heaven who will give us an **immortal body** which is our new incorruptible home (Phil.3:20-21).

**Note:** Not all people are resurrected. Dan.12:2 says, that “**many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake**”. Psa.49:19-20 says, “He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall **never see light**. A man who is in honour, yet does not understand, is like the beasts that perish.” See also Psa. 88:5; Isa.26:14; Jer.51:57.