

190529-4 Doctrine Series, The Two Resurrections—CThurman

Our article rightly states that there are two resurrections.

21. The Two Resurrections*

There are two resurrections. The first resurrection shall take place at the coming of Christ for his faithful, but the rest of the dead shall not be raised until the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth shall have been completed. At the last resurrection both the just and unjust shall give an account of themselves to God, that every one may receive the things done in their bodies, according to that they have done, whether it be good or bad.

Jn.5:28, 29; Ac.24:15; 1Co.5:10; Ro.14:12; Mt.25; Re.20:4-6, 11-15; 22:11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

**Formerly Article 52 of 1644 COF*

Defining the Word Resurrection

First to define the word *resurrection*. The word resurrection in our KJV Bible is only found in the N.T. It is translated from three Greek words: ἀνάστασις (39), ἔγερσις, Mt.27.53 (1), and ἐξανάστασις, Phl.3.11(1).

ἔγερσις, is a noun. The verb is ἐγείρω, and tss. *to arise, to raise* (Eph.1.20, *when he raised from the dead*), *to awake* (Eph.5.14, *Awake thou that sleepest*), *lift out, raise again, lift up, to stand*.

ἔγερσις, Mt 27:53 *And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

ἐξανάστασις, is a noun. The verb is ἐξανίστημι, and tss. *to raise up*, twice with reference to raising up seed in the place of the dead (Mk.12.19; Lk.20.28), and once to the fact that a certain sect of the Pharisees *rose up* (Ac.15.5). Both the noun and verb are compound Greek words: ἐκ from, of, out, out of, forth + ἀνά again, up + ἵστημι to stand, set, establish, appoint; so lit., to stand forth again or to stand out again.

ἀνάστασις is a noun. The verb is ἀνίστημι, and tss. *to rise , to rise again*. It is a compound like the word directly above except it lacks the preposition, ἐκ, and so lit. means to stand again.

Examples of the Resurrection

Though the word *resurrection* is not found in the Old Testament the truth of it is there.

Job 19:25 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.

Ps 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Da 12:1 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.

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

That God has the power to raise men from the dead has been demonstrated many times in the Bible. First note those which were raised from the dead to live in their natural bodies. There are three in the O.T., three that our Lord Jesus raised, and three that were raised subsequent to our Lord's resurrection.

In the O.T. three were *restored* to life (to live out their natural life):

1Ki.17.17-24, Elijah & the widow of Zarapheth's son.

2Ki.4.18-37, Elisha & the son of a great woman of Shunem.

2Ki.13.20-21, the dead body cast into Elishah's tomb touched his bones.

Christ *restored* three to life:

Mk.5.22, 23, 35-43, Jairus' daughter

Lk.7.11-15, the son of the widow of Nain

Jn.11.1-45, Mary & Martha's brother Lazarus

Post-Christ's resurrection, three were *restored* to life:

Mt.27.52, 53, many came out of the graves

Ac.9.36-41, Peter & Tabitha

Ac.20.9-12, Paul & Eutychus

To date only Jesus Christ has been raised glorified.

Mt.28.1-10; 1Co.15. 20, 23, Jesus Christ

There are yet three instances in which the dead shall be raised:

Re.11.3-12, the two witnesses the Antichrist kills

1Co.15.52; Re.20.5, 6, the first resurrection

Re.20.11, 12; Jn.11.24, the last resurrection

Our Lord Jesus defended the resurrection of the dead against those that made a denial of it.

Mt.22.31 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

There is no such thing as annihilation or soul sleep. Those that have died do exist in another state of consciousness.

Mt.17.3, ... there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him;

Lk.16.19-31, the beggar (Lazarus) died, and was carried by the angels into Abrahams bosom ... the rich man ... was buried ... and in hell he lift up his

eyes; 23.43, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise; 1Pe.3.19, the spirits in prison [Gr. φυλακή, phulakē]; Jude 7, Sodom & Gomorrah ... suffering the vengeance of eternal fire; Re.6.9, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain ...

Man, even after dying, will be reunited to a physical form of existence, and this is the matter of the resurrection. Those without Christ shall be raised in their previous physical corruptible, weak, sorrowful form of existence to suffer the

punishment of God's eternal vengeance. For the people of God the resurrection is a time when they receive a physical form of existence which is like unto the form of their Lord Jesus Christ. For those which have believed on Jesus Christ to the saving of the soul, dying is no obstacle to living forever with the Lord.

Joh 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live ...

Only Christ is in His Glorified, Resurrected Body

At this time only our Lord Jesus Christ has been raised in His glorified form. He alone has received that new resurrected, eternal, glorified form.

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

...

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Some great brethren believe that we receive our new bodies, our glorified forms at death, but that is simply not true. (He.11.40, *God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*) For the children of God that is the purpose for the resurrection, or else, what else is the resurrection about for us?

The Resurrection is the Time of our Glorification

The most important point to be made at this place is, that in order to be fit subjects of *that world* to come (cf. Lk.20.35 above), which I understand the phrase *that world* to mean the new heaven and new earth, there must be a change in a man's present natural state to a future spiritual state. It is a change in the physical existence of the sons of God. In effect our old shell of a body is shed along with its old nature, and our new nature is finally clothed with a new body.

It is like planting a seed in the ground from which a new plant rises in its place:

1Co 15:35 ¶ 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: (Only after the grain of seed is planted in the ground does a new plant spring up.)*

bare, γυμνός, tss. naked

grain, κόκκος, Jn.12.24, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone,: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit

38 *But God giveth it (to that grain) a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. (God gives a body to it [that grain], and to every seed a body of its own.)*

...

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

It is like transitioning from living in a tent to living in a house:

2Co.5.1 ¶ For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this [tent] we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

It is to be changed from existing in a *vile* body to existing in a *glorious* one:
Phl.3.21 Who (the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, v.20) 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.

vile, ταπείνωσις, tss. low estate, humiliation, vile, low; the verb, ταπεινώω, to humble, low, abased.

There Are Two Resurrections

There are two times marked in human history, each of which are called *resurrection*, when the people of God shall be changed into the glorious form of Jesus Christ. The first time is at the first resurrection, and the second at the resurrection that is at the *last day*. (Jn.11.24)

The First Resurrection

The first resurrection takes place at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

2Th.2.1 ¶ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him ...

1Th 4:13 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 (1Co.11.30, a temporal state of death) 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.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Many call this the rapture. The truth is, this is the first resurrection, of which I hope to say a little in a moment.

I'm of the opinion that the first resurrection was unrevealed until the New Testament era. (1Co.15.51) The O.T. Scriptures, best that I can tell only mention the resurrection as if it were one. So, the Bible speaks of a first resurrection. This resurrection precedes the millennial reign Jesus Christ on this present earth. Then is the time when some of the saints of God shall be changed into the glorious image of Jesus Christ, and shall rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

1Jo 3:2 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.

Re.20.4 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.

...

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.

resurrection, ἀνάστασις, ἀνά up, again + ἵστημι, to stand, be set, establish, bring; KJV, resurrection (39), to raise (1, Ac.26.23), to raise again (Lk.2.34), to raise to life again (1, He.11.35).

The Resurrection Relative to the Millennial kingdom:

As I understand these things, there is no unbelieving that shall enter into the millennial kingdom of Christ. All of the unbelieving die at the coming of the Son of man. The believing which come into that kingdom are of both natural and glorified bodies.

All unbelievers are removed from the earth at Christ's second coming:

2Th 1:7 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.

Believers in Natural Bodies in The Millennial Kingdom

Though the millennial kingdom is the best time that the earth has seen since the fall of man into sin, the believers which come into this kingdom in their natural bodies certainly repopulate the earth, marry, give in marriage, bear children, go

through the process of aging, etc., and all of the things of life continue; even being deceived, rebelling (Zec.14.17) against the Lord (He rules them, and the glorified saints, with a rod of iron. [Ps.2.9; Re.12.5; 19.15, of Christ; Re.2.27, of the saints]), being in unbelief, and dying.

Isa 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

Re.20.7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The Saints Glorified in the Millennial Kingdom

And it is certainly true that there are those saints that enter into the millennial kingdom in a glorified state. To these the former things of life are past.

Lu 20:35 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.

1Co 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

...

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.*

...

50 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

51 ¶ *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (a reference to the saints in a temporal state of death. [1Co.11.30]), 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.*

The Resurrection at The Last Day

After the first resurrection there is a resurrection at the last day. This takes place at the *end* of the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ. It is when ALL of the people of God shall be changed. This is a necessary change that fits the rest of Christ's seed with their eternal houses for their eternal home that is in a new heaven and on a new earth.

Joh 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Re.20.5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. ...

rest, a noun tss. remnant, rest, other, residue; the verb form of this is λείπω, and tss. to lack, to want, to be destitute.

Da 12:2 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.

Who They Are at That Last Resurrection

This last text, Re.20.5, and the statement *But rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished*, is significant. This refers to the dead which were not raised at the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ. All of these are

raised at the *last resurrection*. This last resurrection is also known as a general resurrection because ALL that had died are raised up from the graves.

*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.*

1. The believers that were not raised at the second coming of Christ (deemed unworthy, Lk.20.35; Phl.3.12), and,
2. The believers that came into the millennium in their natural bodies. And,
3. ALL of the unbelieving throughout all of human history.

It Is the Time of the Great White Throne Judgment

This resurrection is the time of the Great White Throne judgment.

Re.20.11 ¶ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away (both natural and spiritual beings); and there was found no place for them (to flee away).

The first resurrection was very much like this. (cf. Re.6.9-17)

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. (The righteous standard of judgment is this Bible.)

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.

Now, at this last resurrection many will be raised to stand in their natural, corrupted, weak, human bodies to bear the judgment of God.

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished ...

*Mt.13.49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,
50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

Da 12:2 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.

*Jn.5.28 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.*

Ac 24:15 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.

In the first resurrection only the dead & the living *in Christ* shall receive their change in that glorious moment.

1Th 4:16 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.

At that last resurrection so many shall then receive their eternal sentence.

Mt.25.46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

There are two resurrections. For the people of God, there are two glorious moments in which they shall be changed to bear glorified image of the Son of God. All of God's people must be changed at some point in order to come to *that world*.

However, for the unbelieving there is but one general moment when the sentence of God will ring in their ears for all of eternity ...

Mt 25:41 ... Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

...

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Those who continue in unbelief, this is their end.

Conclusion

We considered that our article rightly states that there are two resurrections. We looked at the definition of the word resurrection, which basically means *to stand again*, ἀνάστασις. We saw the many examples of those that were raised back to their *natural state of existence*. We know that at this present time only our Lord Jesus Christ is in His eternal and glorified form. We know that the resurrection is for us that moment when the believing are glorified. We considered that there are two resurrections: a first resurrection and the resurrection at the last day. We considered the resurrection as it relates to the millennial kingdom; that some believers will come into this in their natural bodies, and some will come into it in their glorified bodies. We considered who they are that are of this last resurrection; and, that it is the time of the Great White Throne judgment of God.

Christ died to save sinners. Have you acknowledged that He died for you. Have you come to Him confessing your sins and receiving His forgiveness? Have you repented and believed on Jesus Christ to the saving of the soul? *Ac 2:38 ... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ... Come to Him today!*