

The Wonder of Jesus Lesson 11 2Q 2008

The Power of His Resurrection

SABBATH

Read the entire day – thoughts?

Why was the tomb empty? What gave God/Jesus the right to leave the tomb?

What answers have you heard to this in the past? Jesus was sinless? But didn't He become sin who knew no sin? So if He became sin and the legal penalty for sin is eternal death and Jesus took our place so we don't have to die eternally, how can He come out of the grave? Wouldn't that mean as soon as the grave is empty that the payment, eternal death, hasn't been made?

Have you heard Jesus died the second death? What is the second death?

Revelation 20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Did Jesus die in the lake of fire? Is there a resurrection from the second death? Did Jesus rise again? Does the first death destroy a person's individuality, their identity? No, What about the second death?

Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

The Greek word for soul is *psyche* which we still derive the term psyche from which means mind, the study of psychiatry or psychology is the study of the mind. So, the second death is the death which destroys both body and psyche, mind. Did Jesus have His psyche destroyed? Then did He die the second death?

No, Jesus did not die the second death He conquered the second death:

2 Tim 1:9,10 This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

How was Jesus able to leave the tomb and not violate justice? Let's talk about justice for a bit, is it just for an innocent person to be punished for the crimes of the guilty? Would we do such a thing? Does God act in this way?

EZE 18:17 He withholds his hand from sin and takes no usury or excessive interest. He keeps my laws and follows my decrees.

He will not die for his father's sin; he will surely live. ¹⁸ But his father will die for his own sin, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother and did what was wrong among his people.

EZE 18:19 "Yet you ask, 'Why does the son not share the guilt of his father?' Since the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to keep all my decrees, he will surely live. ²⁰ The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to

him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.

What does this mean? Does this have any bearing on our discussion of what God's justice is like? Will God punish the innocent and spare the guilty? Did God inflict punishment upon His Son? How could the Son leave the tomb and still be the source of salvation?

Is it just for someone on death row to be put under anesthesia for three days and then released, is that the same thing as dying? Did Jesus die eternally?

Did God ever require a death payment in order for mankind to be saved? Where does the Bible teach anywhere that God required a death payment?

What is required in order for man to be saved? That the condition which brings death be vanquished, that the sickness be cured, that the infection be purged, that sin be destroyed!

What is the basis of all life? The law of love! Life is created to operate in harmony with this principle, what happens if this principle is violated? Death, why? What happens if you stop breathing, drinking, eating?

So how was Christ able to leave the tomb? He overcame the cause of death, He cured the condition, He fixed the problem, He restored perfectly into humanity God's law of love. He arose because He conquered death, He conquered selfishness with love, He conquered Satan's lies with truth, He conquered sinfulness with holiness. Christ arose because the cause of death He defeated! And now He offers His life, not as a payment to God, but as a Remedy to you and me.

We can connect to the Vine and receive from Him, via the Holy Spirit His perfect life, His character, His Law of Love reproduced in us and then it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me!

The power of the resurrection is the power of Love over selfishness, the power of truth over lies, the power of God's methods over Satan's methods, the power of life over death!

SUNDAY

When Jesus rose from the dead many people who died loyal to God also rose – what impact do you think that would have? Consider today what would happen if graves at the local cemetery opened and many of our loved ones arose and began going throughout the city proclaiming the risen Savior?

Can angels appear in the form of men? What about the angels that went to rescue Lot? Weren't they in the form of men?

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Can Satan's angels also do this? If they can would you be surprised that they influence for evil? One author thinks they can,

"If Thou be the Son of God," they said, "come down from the cross." "Let Him save Himself, if He be Christ, the chosen of God." In the wilderness of temptation Satan had declared, "If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." "If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down" from the pinnacle of the temple. Matt. 4:3, 6. **And Satan with his angels, in human form, was present at the cross.** The archfiend and his hosts were co-operating with the priests and rulers. The teachers of the people had stimulated the ignorant mob to pronounce judgment against One upon whom many of them had never looked, until urged to bear testimony against Him. Priests, rulers, Pharisees, and the hardened rabble were confederated together in a satanic frenzy.

Religious rulers united with Satan and his angels. They were doing his bidding. {DA 746.4}

What do you think would happen if Satan's angels were to appear as men who have died making it look like those men were resurrected? Do you think people could be deceived? If this is possible what can we do to protect ourselves from deception?

MONDAY

In the TQ page 129 it states,

“Of all the doctrines and teachings of Christianity, the idea of the resurrection of the dead has to be one of the most intense and faith-demanding teachings. The dead, rising? Some after having been gone for thousands of years? How could that be? How can anyone really believe this?

The answer, however, is simple—we believe it because the Word of God promises it. We believe it because Jesus promised it. We believe it because without it we would have no hope whatsoever. Indeed, without it, our faith would be meaningless. Without it, Christ's first coming would have been a waste of time, and who among us believes that?”

Thoughts? How could we believe in a resurrection? What do you think about the reasons cited? What reasons do you have?

What about “we believe it because without it we would have no hope whatsoever”? Is this a good reason to believe something, to generate hope?

Do some Muslims believe that if they die in a terrorist attack they will go to paradise to be rewarded? Does that belief give them hope? Is that a good reason to believe it?

What about the idea that God said it therefore I believe it? How does God want us to form our faith or beliefs in Him? What is

the relationship between believing God and evaluating the evidence?

God has provided us evidence of His trustworthiness and reliability, therefore when we trust Him in regards to something we don't fully understand that doesn't mean our trust is not based on evidence. God has also given us the Biblical eye witness accounts of the evidence of His resurrection.

More than this God has given us reasons to understand why the resurrection takes place and why life exists beyond the grave, because the law of life, love, is restored. We also have models that can understand how this can happen with our computer technology, if we have backed up our harddrive on a server and destroy the computer, we can resurrect it by getting new hardware and downloading the previous data to it.

1TH 4:13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

At the resurrection God resurrects the body and downloads our identities which have been kept safe on the heavenly server. Thus the Bible is true when it teaches the dead don't know anything, yet the spirit returns to God and God will bring with Him those who have died and together we all join Jesus in the air. Christ brings the data sets, the heavenly records, the individualities of the righteous back with Him raises new bodies and downloads their identities into the new bodies, we are caught up together with them to meet Christ in the air.

One of the founders of our church saw it this way:

Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him. {6BC 1093.2}

Thoughts?

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph "How could such..." what do you think about the logic of this paragraph? Does it make sense that since they believed it so strongly that they were willing to give their lives for it then it must be true? What about Jim Jones, David Koresh and many other cults – did they believe so

strongly in something they were willing to give their lives for it? Did it make it true?

Conversely, if there are Christians who under threat of death and torture recant and deny Christ does that make the gospel false?

What about using such arguments to promote the veracity of the gospel? Does it make our position stronger or weaker?

Read bottom pink section – thoughts? What is the power of the resurrection? Does this passage on the parable of the Vine shed any light?

"I am the Vine, ye are the branches," Christ said to His disciples. Though He was about to be removed from them, their spiritual union with Him was to be unchanged. The connection of the branch with the vine, He said, represents the relation you are to sustain to Me. The scion is engrafted into the living vine, and fiber by fiber, vein by vein, it grows into the vine stock. The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved. {DA 675.3}

This union with Christ, once formed, must be maintained. Christ said, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me." This is no casual touch, no off-and-on connection. The branch becomes a part of the living vine. The communication of life, strength, and fruitfulness from the root to the

branches is unobstructed and constant. Separated from the vine, the branch cannot live. No more, said Jesus, can you live apart from Me. The life you have received from Me can be preserved only by continual communion. Without Me you cannot overcome one sin, or resist one temptation. {DA 676.1}

"Abide in Me, and I in you." Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character. {DA 676.2}

The root sends its nourishment through the branch to the outermost twig. So Christ communicates the current of spiritual strength to every believer. So long as the soul is united to Christ, there is no danger that it will wither or decay. {DA 676.3}

What is the power of Christ's resurrection? The Remedy to sin, His perfect character of love that, when we are connected to Him, gets reproduced in us by the Holy Spirit. Christ is the source, we are the recipients – other metaphors for this regenerating, recreating process which demonstrate receiving Christ's work in our hearts?

The OT Sanctuary service the High Priest (represents Jesus) trimmed the lamps on the lamp stand every morning and evening – what does this symbolize? Jesus working in the heart to clear away the old, and renew us to burn brightly for Him!

ZEC 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. ² The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD,

who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

ZEC 3:3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."

ZEC 3:5 Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

Who is the Angel of the Lord? Christ (Exodus 3:2,5)
 What do the filthy garments represent? Our sinful character
 What do the rich garments represent? Perfect character
 Where is the character obtained? Who obtained it? Who developed it? Christ!

WEDNESDAY

Read bottom paragraph, "The conviction that Jesus..." What good news do you have to take to the world?

What was the tongues of fire? The fire of what? The Holy Spirit which is the fire of truth and love which equipped them to be effective in combating Satan and his methods of selfishness and fear.

TQ page 133 asks "What if Christ had died for your sins but not risen to life?" thoughts? If it were a penal substitution wouldn't we feel relieved that our penalty was paid?

But would we understand the truth and would we have a remedy?

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph “For us, there is no danger...”
thoughts?

What does the resurrection mean to you? How has this helped you in times of crisis? When you have had a loved one die has the resurrection brought comfort? Has it ever brought fear or distress?

Will everyone be glad there is a resurrection?

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? What does this say about why the wicked die in the end?

Read question 1 and discuss

Read question 2 and discuss