

“He Is Risen But What Does That Mean?” John 20 Introduction

There are two possible returns from the dead;

1. Resuscitation means someone returns from the dead in a body of corruption and eventually dies again; like Lazarus in John 11, Paul in 1st Cor 15 and two men in the Old Testament, Elijah and Moses during the Tribulation and 2. Resurrection means a person returns from the dead in a body of incorruption and never dies again.

And in case you’re wondering, anyone who dies during the Church Age has an interim body in Heaven until the resurrection of the Church at the Rapture takes place.

So, always remember; the manner of our physical death is determined by the wisdom of God, period and this is the reason why, regarding our loved ones who die, “we do not mourn as those who have no hope.”

No matter how “accidental” a death may appear or no matter who was negligent or at fault, the death of a loved one was all in God’s timing from His wisdom.

The fact of resurrection is based upon the existence of the empty tomb, along with the competency of reliable witnesses who knew Jesus Christ well and therefore, could not be deceived and even beyond that, they would die rather than change their testimony about the resurrection!

Before Jesus’ death, the disciples were afraid and scattered and after His death, that continued but after His resurrection all bets were off, they were joyous and fearless in the face of extreme danger!

The angel who came to roll away the stone, rolled it away from an empty tomb as the stone was not moved to let our Lord out because He could walk thru solid material in His resurrection body; the stone was rolled away to let the world in to see for themselves.

Yes, people came to verify the fact of His resurrection and they certainly did.

The only resurrection which has taken place so far is that of Jesus Christ, the First Fruits.

Today, He is resurrected and seated at the right Hand of the Father and prophetically, the next resurrection is the Rapture of the Church followed by the resurrection of the Old Testament saints and Tribulational martyrs who will be raised at the end of the Tribulation.

The fourth and final group of believers is made up of Millennial saints and those who survived the Tribulation to enter the Millennium in physical bodies.

And the second resurrection, that of all unbelievers, occurs at one time at the end of the Millennium.

Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is impossible for Him to be glorified; He has to have a human body for His glorification.

The glorification of Jesus Christ depends upon His resurrection, His ascension as a man and His being seated at the right Hand of His Father as a man and it’s the humanity of Christ at that point that became superior to all angelic creation, even though the angels were initially created superior to mankind.

To live with God forever, we must have His life, eternal life; our sins must be completely judged and we must have His righteousness and no one could have the righteousness of God if the Lord Jesus is NOT seated at the right Hand of His Father and by the way, even in His humanity, He has perfect righteousness.

We must not forget that there were 17 appearances of the resurrected Christ so in other words, a resurrection body does not destroy the image by which a person is remembered!