

**\*\* (Note: All Bible Quotes Are Taken From The Original King James Version)**

### **Subject: The First Resurrection:**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was a symbol of how all who have the Spirit of Christ will be resurrected in the last days when the trumpet sounds. Those who have the Spirit of Christ, and are alive will be changed and caught up together with those who will be resurrected from the grave to meet Jesus in the air (I Thessalonians 4:14-18). You have to be born again to be included in this resurrection. This will be the first resurrection.

The hope of rising in the first resurrection can only be built upon Jesus Christ and His righteousness. Those of us who are saved should adore the birth of Jesus, and truly thank God for the hope and privilege to be in the first resurrection.

### **Subject: The Promise Of God:**

God has promised that He shall one day bring an end to this sinful world. Those who have believed in God have looked forward to Jesus' return to execute the plan of God. The promise in God's plan is found in II Peter 3:12-13:

Verse 12 - Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Verse 13 - Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Those who are born again will be looking for a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Those who believe the promises of God will be obeying God's word. Before the foundation of the world, God planned that He would save every person who would repent of his or her sins, and obeys the gospel of Jesus Christ, and God has kept that promise.

## **Subject: A Substantial Hope:**

The hope of the world is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Christian faith is built on the resurrection. If there be no resurrection of the dead, all of the teachings of Christianity are vain. To have hope to live again is the greatest hope that you can have. Nobody loves death, so the hope of the resurrection is a retreat from the terror of death. In order for your hope of the resurrection to be effective, you must be born again of the Spirit of God. This means that you are saved from sin.

When you are under the power of sin, you are also under the power and threat of death. Jesus came to give us hope that though we die, we shall live again forever. Jesus' words to His disciples before He left the earth were to "*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions*", and that He was going to prepare a place for them and that He would return and receive them again to take them to the kingdom of heaven.

The scriptures teach plainly that the Lord shall descend from heaven with the voice of an archangel and the trump of God, and those who are asleep in Christ, shall rise and meet Him in the air. He shall then change their bodies to be like unto His own body, and take them to the place called heaven. So Jesus' admonishment was to "*be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh*".

Jesus teaches that He is coming as quickly as you see lightning that cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. The secret to being ready is to not let Jesus catch you doing anything that God commanded you not to do, because Jesus will not take you if you are disobedient to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Nobody will know the day of Jesus' return, but Jesus used the event of the flood during Noah's time as an example. The people during Noah's day did not know it was their doom until the flood came and took them all away. The scriptures teach that, so shall it be also when the coming of the Lord takes place.

## **Subject: Jesus' Return For The Execution Of Judgment:**

For those who do not get saved, they will be classified by the word of God as being wicked. During this present time, God is extending grace to the world so that those who are not saved will have a chance to change their sinful deeds to righteous deeds, which will allow them to change their classification from being wicked to righteous. They will have a chance to do this until the day of Jesus' return. Upon Jesus' return, the grace period will end.

During the day of Jesus' return, He shall descend upon the earth and every eye shall see Him. Even those who were witnesses of His crucifixion and mocked Him. Listen to Revelation 1:7:

Verse 7 - Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him, Even so, Amen.

Prior to Jesus leaving the earth, He had given commandments to His disciples, and afterwards was taken up into the clouds while they watched. The disciples stood there gazing, and the sight was so marvelous that they were lost from the world by their attention being overwhelmed at Jesus' ascension into the clouds. Listen to Acts 1:9-11:

Verse 9 - And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Verse 10 - And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Verse 11 - Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The two in white apparel were angels sent to call the disciples' minds back to the reality of their earthly situation.

Now when Jesus returns, He is not coming back to save anybody who was not saved before He returned, but to execute judgment. Listen to Jude 1:14-15 that tells about His return:

Verse 14 - And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these sayings, Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints,

Verse 15 - To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of

all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Jesus will not come this time to judge, but to execute judgment. The judgment will take place in heaven, and the execution will take place on the earth. Now is the time for the unsaved to come to the throne of grace to be saved.