

The Resurrection and Christian Experience

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Acts 2:26-37

The RESURRECTION has ushered in the AGE of the FUTURE.

- *“The ALREADY but not YET”*
- In I Corinthians 15:20 – Paul says [20] *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*
 - The FIRST FRUITS were the very first fruits of the HARVEST.
 - The HARVEST is the END of the AGE, and CHRIST returns and believers RECEIVE RESURRECTION bodies suited for the NEW HEAVENS and the NEW EARTH.
 - We Now live in the ALREADY, but NOT YET.

At PENTECOST, the RESURRECTION and ASSENSION ushered in a New Christian Experience.

- Timeline. You have EASTER SUNDAY. The day of the bodily RESURRECTION.
- Then you have 40 days of JESUS meeting and teaching His disciples...
 - Acts 1:3 – [3] *He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*
 - Before he ascended... Just as JESUS had promised. Acts 1:5 – [5] *For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.*
 - Acts 1:8 – [8] *But you will receive power when the Holy spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

The HOLY SPIRIT was sent at Pentecost (50 days after the Resurrection) by the RISEN LORD from HEAVEN... Inaugurating His REIGN.

- Acts 2:4 – [4] *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
- Acts 2:9-11 – *Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, [10] Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and Rome, [11] both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.*
- What was the POINT of TONGUES?
 - it was the undoing of BABEL. SOME Mocked... “They are filled with new wine”

The RESURRECTION of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The Resurrection Event

Acts 2:22 – [22] *Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know*

- There is no doubt that JESUS of NAZARETH was and is a historical figure.
- GOD DEMONSTRATED that He was the Son of God through miracles. ... and signs.

PETER says something fascinating: [23] *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,*

- Greek WORK for “definite” is *horizo*... it means a predetermined boundary or point.

- In other words.. the CROSS was the predetermined horizon of history.
- Christ came into the WORLD on a FOREORDAINED MISSION to die for SINNERS.
- The eternal Son of God must become a MAN... And he must be crucified in the place of MAN... in order to SATISFY the JUSTICE of GOD.

God's sovereignty does not negate man's responsibility. [23b] *you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*

- Many of the JEWS who were present had yelled "Crucify Him at Jesus's trial.
- Even though God is sovereign, these men and women were responsible.
- God is SOVEREIGN. Man is RESPONSIBLE.

Here's the REASON for the CROSS [24] *God raised him,*

loosing the pangs of death,

- Luo – To Loose something that has constrained us...
 - Let something go....
 - Hebrews 2:15 – [15] *release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

- The GOD-MAN went into the GRAVE and He was raised out of it.
 - Why? The JUSTICE of God could not keep him in the GRAVE.
 - Romans 6:23 – The wage of sin is death.
 - SIN and DEATH dominates everyone...
- Christ went through DEATH... so that He might DEFEAT DEATH.
- All UNITED to HIM... have the PANGS of DEATH loosened.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:51 - [51] *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. [54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*

The Resurrection Prophecy

Acts 2:25 – [25] *For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;*

[26] therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. [27] For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

- God will not abandon the Holy One to Hades (the Place of the DEAD).
- Or allow the BODY of the HOLY ONE to see CORRUPTION.

[28] You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

Here's PETER's POINT. Acts 2:29 – [29] *"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.*

- Tradition locates David's Tomb on the Southside of Jerusalem, not far from where Peter was speaking... remember this is the CITY of DAVID.
- DAVID could NOT have been SPEAKING about HIMSELF.
- Because David did die. His body underwent corruption.

Acts 2:30 – [30] *Being there a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, [31] he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.*

- Thus DAVID was speaking about the HOPE of RESURRECTION for one of HIS DISCENDANTS.
- Psalm 30:3 – [3] *O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.*
- Psalm 41:10 – [10] *But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!*

The Resurrection Witnesses

[32] *This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.*

- The APOSTLES believed in a BODILY RESURRECTION.
- Peter declares that he and all the APOSTLES were WITNESSES.
- Fascinating... the word witness – Simply means one who testifies.
 - It's the GREEK word *Martus*.
 - Where we get the word MARTYR.
- Simon Greenleaf – Royal Professor of Law at Harvard University. Established Harvard Law School and put it on the MAP. He investigated the four gospels and the claims of the Apostles.
- “The great truths which the apostles declared, were that Christ had risen from the dead, and that only through repentance from sin, and faith in Him, could men hope for salvation. This doctrine they asserted with one voice, everywhere, not only under the greatest discouragements, but in the face of the most appalling horrors that can be presented to the mind of man. Their master had recently perished as a malefactor, by the sentence of a public tribunal. His religion sought to overthrow the religions of the whole world. The laws of every country were against the teachings of His disciples. The interests and passions of all the rulers and great men in the world were against them. The fashion of the world was against them. Propagating this new faith, even in the most inoffensive and peaceful manner, they could expect nothing but contempt, opposition, revilings, bitter persecutions, stripes, imprisonments, torments, and cruel deaths. Yet this faith they zealously did propagate; and all these miseries they endured undismayed, nay, rejoicing. As one after another was put to a miserable death, the survivors only prosecuted their work with increased vigor and resolution. The annals of military warfare afford scarcely an example of the like heroic constancy, patience, and unflinching courage. They had every possible motive to review carefully the grounds of their faith, and the evidences of the great facts and truths which they asserted; and these motives were pressed upon their attention with the most melancholy and terrific frequency. It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead.”

The Resurrection Spirit

[33] *Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.*

- In a RESURRECTION BODY, JESUS has returned to the RIGHT Hand of GOD.
- Of course God is a SPIRIT, he doesn't have a HAND. Or a BODY.
- The RIGHT HAND means the place of POWER.

- The SPIRIT worked through JESUS throughout HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY... and now because of the RESURRECTION, He has ASCENDED to DAVID's THRONE.
- At a CORONATION... KINGS would give GIFTS.
- JESUS had promised that HE would give the HOLY SPIRIT to HIS PEOPLE.
 - John 14:16 – [16] *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*
- That's what HAPPENS at PENTECOST. The gift is the Holy Spirit.
 - 1 Cor 6:19 – [19] *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?*
 - The SPIRIT brings the presence of CHRIST to you wherever you are.

The Resurrection Reign

[34] *For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."*

- David calls his ancestor Lord.
- Christ BEING in a BODY is necessary for CHRIST to fulfill the DAVIDIC COVENANT.
- Peter quotes Psalm 110... and says, look Christ is reigning now... In Heaven.

Acts 2:36 – [36] *Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."*

- The MESSAGE... is that HE is KURIOS. He is the CHRIST. He is REIGNING.

Acts 2:37 – [37] *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

- Believe in JESUS CHRIST as your LORD and SAVIOR.
- Surrender your LIFE to Him as LORD.
- God promises you will receive the forgiveness of sins.