

THE RESURRECTION DAY – THE SOUNDING OF THE TRUMPET

I Cor. 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death *till he come*.

J.C. Ryle wrote, "I believe that the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is the great event which will wind up the present dispensation, and for which we ought daily to long and pray ... We look backward, if we have saving faith, to Christ dying on the cross, and we ought to look forward no less, if we have hope, to Christ coming again. ... Till then our redemption is not perfectly enjoyed; as Paul tells the Ephesians, "We are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Eph. 4:30). ... In short, our best things are yet to come." ... It is like how we were thinking this morning, **I Peter 5:6** *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*

As we consider the resurrection day, we know all too well these bodies we presently have, - because of the effects of sin, - decay. We won't have these bodies in Heaven because they are not suitable for they are corrupted and fit only for this earth. ... So, when we die, our body does not enter Heaven, - it remains in the grave, - but it is our soul which immediately is taken into Heaven, the spirits of just men *[and women]* made perfect (Heb. 12:23).

Therefore, it is at the return of Jesus the saints of God will experience the greatest event, **I Cor. 15:52** *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound ...* **I Thess. 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 ...* **I Cor. 15:52** *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. ...* And so, in that new *resurrection* body we shall be prepared for eternity.

When Lazarus died Jesus assured Martha, **Jn. 11:23** *Thy brother shall rise again.* Yes, she knew that for that is what the Jews were taught in the synagogue, **24** *Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day ...* The Jews believed their Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah and introduce a Messianic Age. At His coming the Jews scattered abroad would return to the land, and the bodies of the dead would be brought back to life and reunited to their souls. ... Yes, Martha knew about the resurrection.

But then Jesus explained to her something more intimate, **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:* **26** *And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. ...* He was giving her a very special personal hope that since He is the Resurrection, the promise for every believer is that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6:23) ... *That* is what we are witnessing to each time we eat this bread and drink this cup, as we shew *[announcing, proclaiming]* the Lord's death till he comes *[again]* (I Cor. 11:26).

Something else J.C. Ryle wrote ... He wrote that sometimes we evangelicals spend all our time looking back to the cross, - which is absolutely and altogether correct, - but often we do not spend sufficient time looking forward to the day of our redemption (Eph. 4:30). ... And he is right for not enough time is spent on this subject ... It is by faith we look back to the cross ... but when Jesus comes back, we shall actually be there to witness it for ourselves ... and it will be in the present tense forever! It's like what Job said, **Job. 19:25** *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 ...* The worms destroyed the old body, but when he witnesses Christ's return, Job will be in the new and incorruptible body!

So, what exactly will happen on this resurrection day to the saints who have died in Christ? When we die, our earthly life is over and our present bodies are discontinued, - there is no longer any need for them ... and they are corruptible. At the very moment we die, the soul enters Heaven, - 'absent from the body, and present with the Lord', - there is no 'soul sleep', neither does the soul remain in the grave, and neither is there any intermediary state ... the soul of the child of God immediately enters the presence of God, Heaven. At the resurrection, - when Christ returns, - the souls of all the believers throughout every age return with Him ... and, - all at the same time, - receive the new incorruptible and immortal body, as Paul describes, **II Cor. 5:1** *For we know that if [Paul lived in the daily hope of Christ's imminent return] our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved [i.e. our bodies], we have a building of God [a new incorruptible body], an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens [a new incorruptible and everlasting body]. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven [the incorruptible body].*

While we all lived at different times, we all came to faith at different times, and we all died at different times (except for those who lived until Christ returns), we shall all *collectively* and *corporately* be changed in an instant together, **Jn. 6:40** *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. ...* The souls will be clothed in new bodies which will never decay for they will be raised incorruptible ... changed (I Cor.15:52). ... The resurrection, - when Jesus returns, - deals with *the body* ... not the soul because the soul has already been alive in Heaven.

Those who will be alive on earth on that day when Jesus returns will have no need to die, ... that is why Paul explains, **I Thess. 4:16** *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. On that day, all the saints will meet together in the clouds, - we shall rise to meet the Lord and He shall descend with the Redeemed who have been in Heaven and together we shall be glorified at His coming ... That is when we all shall be changed ... In an instant, - in the twinkling of an eye (I Cor. 15:52), ... as quick as you can blink, - all of God's Redeemed will be clothed with the new resurrection body, I Cor. 15:51 we shall all be changed ... Isaiah prophesied about it too, Is. 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness. And writing to the Ephesians, Paul gives further detail, we shall be presented as a glorious Church, the most beautiful Bride, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but ... holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:27).*

We'll not only put on new clothes ... we'll put on new bodies to wear them ... The psalmist wrote, **15** *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. ... But even more precious will be the day when He receives His Bride in all her beauty! ... But the glory will all be His for He will be at the centre of that day. Every eye will be upon Him. Every song of praise will reverberate through Heaven and earth and Hell as He calls His saints onto Himself.*

Will we have hands and feet and all the features we have in this present body? Yes, of course we will ... What will we look like? I'm not sure Scripture tells us the answer but we shall be looking perfect! Some would suggest we have the same body. – only glorified, - as the one they left ... and they would base their theory on how Jesus was instantly recognised after His resurrection, - He had the same body, only glorified. ... However, Moses and Elijah were instantly recognised on the Mount of Transfiguration ... so therefore, beyond any shadow of a doubt, we shall be altogether recognisable! We shall be known by all, and we shall know them too. ... Whatever way we shall look ... we shall be ourselves for our bodies will be raised incorruptible.

... And there will be nothing lingering over from this present body, for it will be all gone! ... There will be no tears (Rev. 21:4), nor death, nor pain. There will be no 'wearing away' and becoming old. We will have a new body, perfect like those of our first parents in the Garden of Eden before the Fall ... Shall we know each other in Heaven? Yes, ... for what kind of a family would it be if we didn't know each other!

The greatest proof of the resurrection of the body, - of course, - is the fact Christ rose from the dead, - His soul and His body ... and since He is the firstfruits (I

Cor. 15:20), we shall rise soul and body also. ... By the way, did Jesus have a soul? Yes, because He was both human and divine.

What a wonderful practical truth the subject of the Resurrection Day is for the believer! Paul wrote *the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death (I Cor. 15:26)* ... When we look into the coffin and see the body of the believer who has departed into Heaven, ... we have loved them, and we have many precious memories, and we shed tears ... but not concerning their soul's eternal destiny because we are rejoicing in the knowledge they are already and forever with the Lord. We wouldn't wish them back, - where they are now and how they are now is far better than anything here on earth. They have been safely brought into God's Heavenly presence ... the immortality of the soul, *Ps. 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

Then, at the time appointed and known only to the Father, the body that has been deposited in the grave will one day form again and rise to meet Christ in the air as He descends ... and it will have been changed in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye. It will be a new body, - from head to toe. It won't matter what the years of time have done to it in the grave ... *When the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (I Cor. 15:52)* ... a miracle guaranteed by God Himself!

And again, here at the Lord's Table, we eat this bread, and drink this cup in remembrance of our Saviour Who died for us and in anticipation of His coming again ... In Glory there will be no need for the Lord's Table for it will be replaced by another great feast, *Rev. 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.*

I'm living on the mountain, underneath a cloudless sky,

I'm drinking at the fountain that never shall run dry;

O yes, I'm feasting on the manna from a bountiful supply,

For I am dwelling in Beulah Land.

... *I Cor. 11:26* For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.