

## The Claims of Christ Part 2 “Resurrection” - John 5:24–30 - Jn 15

In our last study, we started with the Pharisees deciding they must kill Jesus, and John 5:18 told us why:

### John 5:18

**“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”**

In response to the Pharisees in verse 19, Jesus started this great discourse stating exactly who He is. He started in our last study by making it clear that He and the Father are perfectly 100% equal – so equal that if you don’t honor Jesus, you can’t honor the Father because they are One God in two persons, and He hasn’t even gotten into the Holy Spirit yet.

Today, Jesus continues His discourse on who He is by explaining His authority in Resurrection and Judgment. The Gospel of John addresses the subject of “eternal life” far more than any of the other gospels. It is the theme of this gospel. But today’s text is one of the few places in John “the resurrection” is clearly taught. So I’d like to take the opportunity to study the resurrections a little bit. Resurrections – plural?? How many did you think there were?

You may say “ONE.” You may even say “TWO.” And generally speaking, there are TWO, but I want to show you today that the first resurrection is not a single event in time. It’s actually a category of people. It’s a category of people that represents at least 4 separate events in time. And here’s the shocker. There’s actually another resurrection that, for you, is the most important resurrection of all because, without this most important resurrection, you can’t take part at all in the “first Resurrection.”

You are in only one of two places today. Either you have already experienced this most important resurrection or you can experience it today, and if you choose to NOT take part in this most important resurrection, then you WILL certainly take part in the second resurrection.

### The first 2 words of John 5:24 are

**“Most assuredly . . .”**

“Most assuredly” or “Verily, Verily” is the same Greek word translated *Amen* at the end of a sentence. *Amen* is a very powerful word. It comes from the Hebrew word “believe,” and it expresses *absolute trust and confidence*. Jesus uses it as the double barrel of “verily, verily” 25 times in John. It means **“Wake up and pay attention – this is BIG!”** It puts extra emphasis on what He’s about to say.

### The next 4 words of John 5:24

**“ . . . I say to you . . .”**

A personal and intimate address from Jesus Christ, straight to you. He’s doing everything He can to get us to “pay attention.” This is a “critically important statement” delivered by Jesus in the most personal and intimate way possible, and the subject matter is where you will spend eternity.

### **John 5:24**

**“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word” – Jesus doesn’t mean “He who listens to My Word” because scores of the unsaved listen. That’s why just coming to church won’t get you to heaven. This word “hear” means *to personally receive*. It means *to observe and keep* the word of Christ in your own life.

Then verse 24 says “and believes in Him who sent Me.” Don’t we all know someone who says, “I believe in God. I just don’t go in for all that Jesus stuff. I believe in the “Higher Power” God. Let’s set that straight. In the previous verse, John 5:23, it says, “He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.” Then, in verse 24, it says, “he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life.”

Can I ask you, “Is your “higher power” god the one who sent Jesus? If he’s not, then he’s not the God of the Bible, and the Bible is the most supernatural, miraculous, scientifically-proven book on earth. So unless your “higher power” god has more supernatural and scientific proof than the Bible’s God, I’d strongly encourage you NOT to rest your eternity on some vague and intangible “higher power.” And why should you when the God of the Bible is so great, so powerful, so awesome, and so unbelievably loving and merciful. Why not take the real thing?

So He who “receives the word of Jesus Christ and believes in the God who sent Him . . . HAS everlasting life.” What an incredible word Jesus uses here – “HAS.” It means *to presently and actively possess something*. He who “receives and believes” HAS everlasting life. You have it the moment you believe. It is finished business, and it just keeps getting better. Let’s re-read verse 24:

### **John 5:24**

**“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”**

Not only HAS everlasting life, but shall escape judgment. And the last words say, “HAS PASSED from death into life” – *has actively and presently passed from death into life*. Guys, THIS is the most important resurrection for you because it’s talking about your personal resurrection. John 5:25 drives it home:

### **John 5:25**

**“Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”**

What’s He talking about – “when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live?” We just dealt with the word “hear” in verse 24 – “he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life.” And we said the word “hear” means *to receive and believe*. Now Jesus says the hour has come “when the dead will hear His voice and those who hear will live.” The “dead” that He’s talking about – it’s YOU and it’s ME !!

We are Spiritual beings – the real you, as far as God is concerned, is your spirit, your soul – that part of you that is uniquely able to commune with God, and that part of you that was created for

eternity, whether you're a believer or not. And for each of us, there was a time when, because of sin, the most important part of you, your spirit, was dead. YOU WERE PART OF THE LIVING DEAD !

Colossians 2:13 says *“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses”*

Though you looked alive, you were really part of the LIVING DEAD !! You may still be part of the “Living Dead” today. Your body may be living (even too much), but your spirit is dead. Even though you are dead in your sin, today you can hear the voice of the Son of God, and the moment you receive and believe His Word, you have been resurrected from death into life.

Verse 24 says that at that very moment, you have passed from death into life. At that very moment, you presently and actively possess everlasting life. THAT is what makes you part of the first Resurrection.

The first Resurrection is all of us who were “spiritually dead” becoming “spiritually alive.” It is a category of people. Revelation calls them “those who have part in the First Resurrection.” Now I said earlier that the first Resurrection includes at least 4 major events in time, so let's list those 4:

- 1) First, in 1Corinthians 15:23, Jesus Christ is the “First-Fruits” of the resurrection, and His “first” resurrection made all others possible;
- 2) Second, in 1Thessalonians 4:16-17, we find the “Rapture” where all believers who've experienced their personal resurrection are “caught up” to meet Jesus Christ in the air;
- 3) Third, in Revelation 20:4, we see the “Tribulation Saints” – those who believe and receive during the tribulation. They are resurrected before the beginning of the Millennium;
- 4) Fourth, in Job 19:25, Isaiah 26:19, and Hosea 13:14 are the “Old Testament saints.” It seems to be not exactly clear at what time they're coming, but believe me, they will be there.

There are at least 4 separate major events that all make up “the first Resurrection.” Turn to Revelation 19, and we'll get a picture of some of this. At this point, the raptured church is already in heaven (we went there in Revelation chapter 4), and in Revelation 19:7-8, we see a great picture of us:

#### **Revelation 19:7-8**

**“<sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”**

**<sup>8</sup> And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”**

Then, in Revelation 19:11-13 is the beginning of the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the Tribulation:

#### **Revelation 19:11-13**

**“<sup>11</sup> Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.**

<sup>12</sup> **His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.**

<sup>13</sup> **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”**

Then, in verse 14, we see something really incredible:

#### **Revelation 19:14**

**“And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.”**

Those armies who are already in heaven and return with Jesus – there’s plenty of evidence that’s us !! That’s pretty cool. Now in Revelation 20:1, Satan is bound at the end of the Tribulation, and then, in Revelation 20:4-5, we see ourselves again:

#### **Revelation 20:4-5**

**“<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them [that’s us]. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands [trib saints]. And they [all of us/ and O.T saints] lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

**<sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”**

Now the literal translation of the end of verse 5 is “This is the first rising again.” What a great picture of the “accumulation” of those who take part in the first Resurrection. And Revelation 20:6 brings it all home for us:

#### **Revelation 20:6**

**“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”**

There’s only one thing that matters today. WILL YOU TAKE PART IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION? There’s a day coming when nothing else will matter. Turn back to John 5:26. How can we be so sure that receiving and believing what Jesus Christ says guarantees us a place in that first Resurrection? Well, the next 2 verses tell us:

#### **John 5:26-27**

**“<sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,  
<sup>27</sup> and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.”**

There’s a great double picture here. Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, has eternal life in Himself and has the authority to give eternal life to us. And Jesus Christ, as the Son of Man, has perfect authority to execute judgment over man.

We’ve talked a lot about “the first Resurrection,” but before we’re done, we need to look at the second resurrection and Jesus Christ’s authority to judge every person that’s ever lived.

### **John 5:28-29**

**“<sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice  
<sup>29</sup> and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”**

First, let's deal with the words “those who have done good” and “those who have done evil.” Putting these words into the context of the book of John, they are clearly and obviously not talking about “salvation by works.” Those who have done good are those who have received and believed Jesus Christ. Those who have done evil are those who have rejected Jesus Christ. But it's the 2 Resurrections we really want to look at today. We've already looked at the “First Resurrection.” Now we need to look at the “Second Resurrection.” This is the resurrection reserved for those who have rejected Christ. I said before that the “Real You” is spirit, and God created your spirit to live forever. So whether or not you “receive and believe” Jesus Christ, you will still live forever. Turn back to Revelation 20:11-15. This is the second Resurrection.

### **Revelation 20:11-15**

**“<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.  
<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.  
<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.  
<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.  
<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

It is VERY IMPORTANT to understand that believers who take part in the First Resurrection DO NOT GO to the this Judgment. This is ONLY for those who are NOT part of the First Resurrection. If you choose to reject the resurrection available through “receiving and believing” Jesus Christ, then you will get your fair and just day in court, and it is here at the Great White Throne Judgment that you'll have your chance to prove to God that you lived a sinless life. And if indeed you lived a perfectly sinless life, You will pass through this judgment into heaven. But if you take just one sin with you to this judgment, then you will spend eternity with the devil and the beast in the Lake of Fire.

If you'll glance over at Revelation 20:10, you'll see it says that the Lake of Fire is a place where there is torment day and night, forever and ever – torment for eternity. Now if we had time, I'd tell you about the Bema Seat of Christ where we believers get to go instead of the Great White Throne. The Bema Seat is where believers receive reward, or lose reward, based on their faithfulness to Christ. But it has nothing to do with salvation or where we'll spend eternity. That work was perfectly completed the day we “received and believed.” Turn back to John chapter 5, and we'll wrap it up. The important thing for us to see today is that Jesus Christ is at the center of the Resurrections and the Judgment. Read with me back up in verses 21-22:

### **John 5:21-22**

**“<sup>21</sup> For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.  
<sup>22</sup> For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son”**

As the Son of God, Jesus Christ resurrects us to life. As the Son of Man, Jesus Christ rightly judges each one of us. And back down in verse 30, we see the beauty of how this works:

**John 5:30**

**“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”**

Jesus Christ is in charge of the resurrections and all judgment, but He does it all in perfect unity with the Father because they are one in every way. He has made a way for you to take part in the glorious first Resurrection, and He has made a way for you to escape the eternal torment of the second Resurrection. He has made the way clear, and now, He allows you to choose.