

The Hope of Heaven and the Resurrection

I. THE GLORY OF THE GOSPEL

- A. The good news of gospel is that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead; thus, all who believe in Him will be raised from the dead and given a resurrected body similar to Jesus's body.

¹I declare to you the gospel...²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast...³I delivered to you first of all that...Christ died for our sins...⁴and that He rose again the third day...²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits [guarantee] of those who have fallen asleep [died]...⁴⁹We shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man [Jesus]... (1 Cor. 15:1-4, 49)

- B. God will give us a resurrected body that will be conformed to the glory of Jesus' resurrected body.

²¹...will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body... (Phil. 3:21)

²...we shall be like Him...³Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself... (1 Jn. 3:2-3)

- C. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His kingdom rule over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together. **Heaven** speaks of the supernatural realm where God's presence is openly manifested. **Earth** speaks of the physical realm as the place where natural process, human emotion, and physical sensation reach full expression.

⁹Having made known to us the mystery of His will [plan]...¹⁰that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. (Eph. 1:9-10)

- D. God's purpose has always been to live together with His people *face to face* on this earth. The New Jerusalem will descend to earth, and it will be our dwelling place on the earth (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10). Jesus and His people will rule the earth with the *natural processes, not suspended, but enhanced* by the Spirit's supernatural dimension— as when Jesus appeared after His resurrection (Jn. 20-21).

- E. John gave us an internal view of the New Jerusalem as the ultimate **Garden of Eden** (Rev. 21-22). He described its beauty (21:22-27) and close communion with Jesus (22:1-5) who illuminates the City (21:23; 22:5). This city of splendor (21:9-11) is almost 1,500 miles in length, height, and width with walls over 200 feet thick (21:15-17) that are made of precious stones (21:18-20).

¹⁰...the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God ¹¹having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹²Also she had a great and high wall...²¹The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass...²³The city had no need of the sun...for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb [Jesus] is its light. (Rev. 21:10-23)

- F. Life inside the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1-5) includes the *river of life* (22:1) and the *tree of life* (22:2) and face-to-face communion with God (22:4) that points back to life in the garden of Eden.

¹And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal...²In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits...³And there shall be no

more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴They shall see His face...⁵and they shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:1-5)

II. THE GLORY OF JESUS' RESURRECTED BODY

- A. Jesus' resurrected body radiates glory (Isa. 24:23; Acts 26:13-14; Rev. 1:16; 21:24; 22:3-5). The saints are filled with God's light, glory, and the perfection of beauty (Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43).
²He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun... (Mt. 17:2)
⁴³The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:43)
- B. Jesus could veil His glory—fully or partially. At times, Jesus was not recognized as He veiled His resurrection glory (Lk. 24:16, 31; Jn. 20:14-15; 21:4). He could suddenly appear or vanish from sight. Jesus' resurrected body has "supernatural flesh" with bones and has the capacity to eat food.
¹⁵...Jesus Himself drew near and went with them [to Emmaus]. ¹⁶Their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him...³¹Their eyes were opened and they knew Him; He vanished from their sight...³³They...returned to Jerusalem...³⁵They told about the things that had happened...³⁶As they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them...³⁸He said... ³⁹"Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones..." ⁴¹He said to them, "Have you any food here?" ⁴²So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish...⁴³He ate in their presence. (Lk. 24:15-43)
- C. Believers will have the pleasure of eating and drinking with Jesus in the New Jerusalem.
¹⁶I will no longer eat of it [Passover meal] ...¹⁸until the kingdom of God comes...²⁹I bestow upon you a kingdom...³⁰that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom... (Lk. 22:16-30)
- D. Our history with people will be cherished (2 Cor. 4:14; 1 Thes. 2:19; cf. Phil. 2:16; Lk. 16:9).
¹⁹What is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? (1 Thes. 2:19)
- E. Paul outlined five qualities of our resurrected body that will affect all of our abilities. There is continuity between someone's physical body that dies and their physical resurrected body which includes each person's unique personality, genetics, and appearance brought to full perfection.
⁴²The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body...⁵³For...this mortal must put on immortality. (1 Cor. 15:42-53)
1. **Corruption, but raised in incorruption:** Vitality and strength replace sickness and decay.
 2. **Dishonor, but raised in glory:** Purity and honor replace failure, shame, and dishonor.
 3. **Weakness, but raised in power:** Safety and strength replace pain, vulnerability, and addiction.
 4. **Natural body, but raised a spiritual body:** Supernatural capacities replace natural limitations.
 5. **Mortality puts on immortality:** Unending life and love replace physical death and loss.

F. Each believer will receive a different measure of glory in their resurrected body (Mt. 5:19).

⁴¹*For one star differs from another star in glory.* ⁴²*So also is the resurrection of the dead.*
(1 Cor. 15:41-42)

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