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Introduction:

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Good Morning Arising Church,

It has been one week since our celebration of the Resurrection of Christ! Our God is not dead, He is very much alive. It is truly remarkable how God has orchestrated the last several weeks.

We just finished the final chapter of Genesis, which ended with the hope of the resurrection!

- **Genesis 50:24–25 (NIV)**

²⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” ²⁵ And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, “God will surely come to your aid, **and then you must carry my bones up from this place.**”

While we taught this chapter on Wednesday, the day prior Life Changing Ministries taught on Exodus 13, the very chapter Israel fulfilled this oath.

- **Exodus 13:18–19 (NIV)**

¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath.

The family of Israel was continuing in the hope the patriarchs had concerning the resurrection by carrying with them the bones of Joseph over a century later.

All of this is deepening our understanding of the Full Gospel; the sovereignty of God to align our churches and our calendar this way should not be overlooked. God is among us and has something for you to learn by His Spirit and Word.

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We hope the realization of the Full Gospel produced greater confidence and vision in your family this week. We were inspired by the kind of confidence Christ showed in the face of death knowing he would be raised. Take a look at Luke 13.

- **Luke 13:31–34 (NIV)**

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

³² He replied, “**Go tell that fox**, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’” ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you.

When the resurrection of the dead becomes a sure conviction in your faith, nothing can stop you or slow you down. Charles Finney put it this way.

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We are going to take a moment and review some of the major impacts from last week, let's go to 1 Corinthians 15.

- **1 Corinthians 15:2–3 (NIV)**

² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance

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As the Word was engaging us last week, we were struck with this verse.

The faith that we have, MUST be proactive in nature.

- **If we passively believe, our belief is in vain.**
 - This starts with us **holding firmly** to the word that has been preached to us, which is the gospel hope of resurrection, that is saving us - every day without tiring!
 - **Anything that does not include the resurrection hope as the central aim of the Gospel is another gospel.**
- **This is of first importance!**

- We cannot afford to take lightly the Resurrection Power of the Gospel and just merely believe it is real, but we must labor in it as of **first importance**.
- The message last week challenged us to live lives that place the Resurrection as first importance in our lives!
 - As you have taken serious assessment of your life, have you found that the Resurrection is of FIRST IMPORTANCE IN YOUR LIFE? The way you live today, will show whether this is true about you...
 - And we will continue to help you all gain clarity on this today!

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• **1 Corinthians 15:17–19 (NIV)**

For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

What was hitting all of us last week was the very strong language Paul uses concerning the resurrection. As Asa just said, "of first importance" and "lest you believe in vein." What struck me was this verse which also uses very strong language. "of all people most to be pitied." If it was just in this life we had hope (read verse from screen). Now we love and know the benefits of Christ resurrection and triumph over death. Paul says earlier, If we miss this, our preaching is futile, we are found to be misrepresenting God, and our hope would be limited. This is true, but think about if Paul stopped there. If Christ was not the first fruits of those who would be raised, but instead the last man to be resurrected. That would leave us with hope only in this life, and Paul says we would still be of all people most to be pitied.

Paul is not diminishing the work of Christ's resurrection, but showing its true fullness and power by preaching of our future resurrection along side him! The hope in our future resurrection is crucial to our understanding of the Gospel. Paul is using this strong language to truly convey the importance of our resurrection, because it is what Christ has accomplished through his. We cannot lose sight of this glorious truth. For me this week seeing resurrection as intrinsic to the Gospel has changed my perspective, and different passages have come alive to me in the Word. Our prayer today is that the reality of the gospel, Yes Christ's resurrection, but also our future resurrection from the dead and our destiny to rule and reign with Christ would compel you to live victorious lives.

Let's read another portion of the chapter.

- **1 Corinthians 15:39–41 (NIV)**

³⁹ Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. ⁴¹ The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

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It was quite revelatory to consider the promises of Abraham in light of these verses. Paul is drawing from God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would be like stars. We showed you how Paul and the Apostle John teach us throughout the New Testament that the redeemed of Mankind will form a Glorified Government ON EARTH, to help Jesus rule over all creation. Listen to these verses:

(READ SLIDE)

GLORIFIED GOVERNMENT (HUMANS)

Revelation 22:16

¹“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the **bright Morning Star.**”

Revelation 2:26–29 NLT

26 To **all who are victorious**, who obey me to the very end, **To them** I will give authority over all the nations. **27** They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. **28** They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star!

1 Corinthians 6:3 (NIV)

³Do you not know that **we will judge angels?** How much more the things of this life!

The redeemed will be given a Rod of Iron to rule the Nations and have the same authority the father gave Jesus.

Isn't that a little more purposeful and exciting than a off-world vacation?
Let's keep reading.

- **1 Corinthians 15:52–54 (NIV)**

⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

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- The gospel is completely surrounded in Victory.

- How could we preach a gospel that doesn't include victory and God reigning in all and through all? It's the point of the gospel. **It's the culmination of the Gospel. It's what the Gospel is aiming at.**

It is the work of God and it would be us diminishing his work to preach a gospel that doesn't include victory and God reigning in all and through all.

- **1 Corinthians 15:55–58 (NIV)**

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

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This is what we want to lean into today. The hope of the resurrection taking away the sting of death. It is the foundation in which Paul can confidently exhort us to stand firm, let nothing move you, and always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord. When we properly view the Gospel in light of resurrection, our hearts should be filled with hope and confidence, and fear will be vanquished in our lives. We must continue to preach this message to our very souls until it becomes a reality. Because IF this is true, we have all the reason in the world to stand firm and not be moved. We will have the right perspective on hardship and even death. And we will be effective as we fully give ourselves to the work of the Lord.

Today's Message is titled:

TITLE SLIDE:



Body:

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As we continue the message of Resurrection from last week, we want to set a scriptural framework for you guys concerning the events of our future resurrection. We realize that with all the voices around this subject, it can be confusing what our resurrection will look like. Paul had this same heart and took the time to write to the Thessalonian church two letters clarifying the Resurrection. He did not want them to be uninformed and we do not want you to be either.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NIV)**

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

To make this abundantly clear for you all. When Paul says, "Sleep in death" it does not refer to your spirit, or a state of your spirit from the moment you

die until the resurrection. The Bible makes a difference between your Spirit and your Body. Consider these two passages in light of what Paul is saying:

- **2 Corinthians 5:8 (NIV)**

⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

From the plain reading of this passage, there is a state a believer is in that is away from their body and at the same time present with the Lord. This is the state we enter in death before the resurrection.

- **James 2:26 (NIV)** ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

In light of these two scriptures, we see that Paul is referring to our bodies being asleep, but our spirit is very much alive! That is why Jesus says this:

- **Mark 12:26–27 (NIV)**

²⁶ Now about the dead rising—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?
²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!”

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The body of the patriarchs is buried in Machpelah, but they are very much alive according to Christ!

When we die our spirits are with the Lord. And our bodies are dead, or asleep, waiting to be awakened again at Christ's return. Which we will go into next.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NIV)** 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

So as Jesus is returning to earth, we see he is bringing with him those who have died in Christ because they are with him already in Spirit! They will be reunited with their body on earth except in a resurrected and glorified state. But what about those believers on earth who haven't died? What happens to them? Lets keep reading...

- **1 Thessalonians 4:15–18 (NIV)** 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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Paul proceeds to describe at the moment of Christ's return, those who are alive on the earth will be caught up in the air with Jesus and those who have just been raised from the dead.

Let's summarize it for you:



The Resurrection of the Dead

1. Jesus descends on the earth with the dead in Christ
2. The dead in Christ inhabit their bodies and resurrect and join Christ in the clouds
3. Those alive in Christ join them and Christ in the clouds
4. All in Christ will be with Jesus forever on earth

We hope that you are gathering a better grasp of what the resurrection of the dead looks like. The point in doing this today is so that we make this truth vivid in your minds. The more we understand these texts and familiarize ourselves with the reality of our resurrection from the dead, the better prepared we and the generations can be. You need to deeply ingrain in your mind: if you die one day, your spirit WILL descend on the earth with Christ in victorious procession. Then your spirit in a miraculous moment will inhabit your dead body and be resurrected out of the ground in glorified state. If you are still on earth and in Christ, you will see this happen, and then join Christ and the dead who have been raised in your own glorified body.

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We want to give you one more passage to consider for further study:

- **Hosea 6:1-3 (LSB)**

¹“Come, let us return to Yahweh.

For He has torn *us*, but He will heal us;
He has struck *us*, but He will bandage us.

² He will make us alive after two days;

He will raise us up on the third day,
That we may live before Him.

³ So let us know, let us pursue to know Yahweh.

His going forth is established as the dawn;
And He will come to us like the rain,
Like the late rain watering the earth.”

Day 1: Dead in Christ receive their bodies

Day 2: Alive in Christ join them

Day 3: all together descend on Israel

Even in Paul's day this caused confusion and some who did not understand created some bad theology. So much so, his first letter addresses it and adds to this. Let's go to 2 Thess 2 for a moment.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:1–2 (NIV)**

2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

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Paul emphasizes that no one can miss this event. This day of the Lord will not happen without our knowing.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NIV)**

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for **that day will not come until** the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed,

the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

What Paul goes on to describe in verses 4-13 are all events that **MUST** take place before the resurrection of the dead we just walked through in Paul's **FIRST** letter to the Thessalonians. Do you see how it says "that day will not come until." Without reading it all, what we want to highlight to you is there will be opposition that must take place. The man of lawlessness will set himself up in the temple to be worshiped as God.

Because of the great opposition the Saints will face, this is how Paul encourages the church:

- **2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NIV)**¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, **stand firm and hold fast** to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

Take a minute and consider how important and serious being prepared for these events is... How serious it is that we prepare our families for these events?

- There will be major opposition in the last days.
- There are already many that would like to deceive you and tell you that these things are not so.
- We cannot afford to be passive in holding firmly to this hope.

Can you start to see why we should consider the resurrection as a matter of first importance in our daily lives?

I imagine there will be some who may be shocked at which side of the resurrection they find themselves and their families on. Your actions and faith now, will have repercussions on the day of resurrection. In light of this, it's worth reading this again:

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- **Revelation 2:26–27 (NIV)**

²⁶ **To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I**
will give authority over the nations—²⁷ **that one ‘will rule them with**
an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’ —just as I
have received authority from my Father.

Saying a prayer in this life will not lead to a vacation in heaven, and it will certainly not lead to you ruling the Nations with Christ. Faithfulness over time, faithfulness in the face of opposition, living to DO the WILL of the Father NOW is the only thing that will put the iron rod in your hand to assist in ruling the nations.

The Apostle John in his Prophetic book gives us a picture of this very thing:

- **Revelation 20:4–6 (NIV)**

⁴ I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.

They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.⁵

(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, **but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.**

You will come to life and reign with Christ

You will be a priest of God
IF, you endure to the end....

These are verses you have heard before, and even believed in similar form to our message today, but is not merely an opportunity for greater theology. This should inform and should change the way you live today.

Your minds must transition from:

One day I'll be with Jesus forever in Heaven
-to-

One day I will resurrect and continue to do His work on the earth just as I am now, but in a glorified state.

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So that means, the works God has prepared in advance for you to do, you may not accomplish this side of the resurrection, but you WILL on the other side!

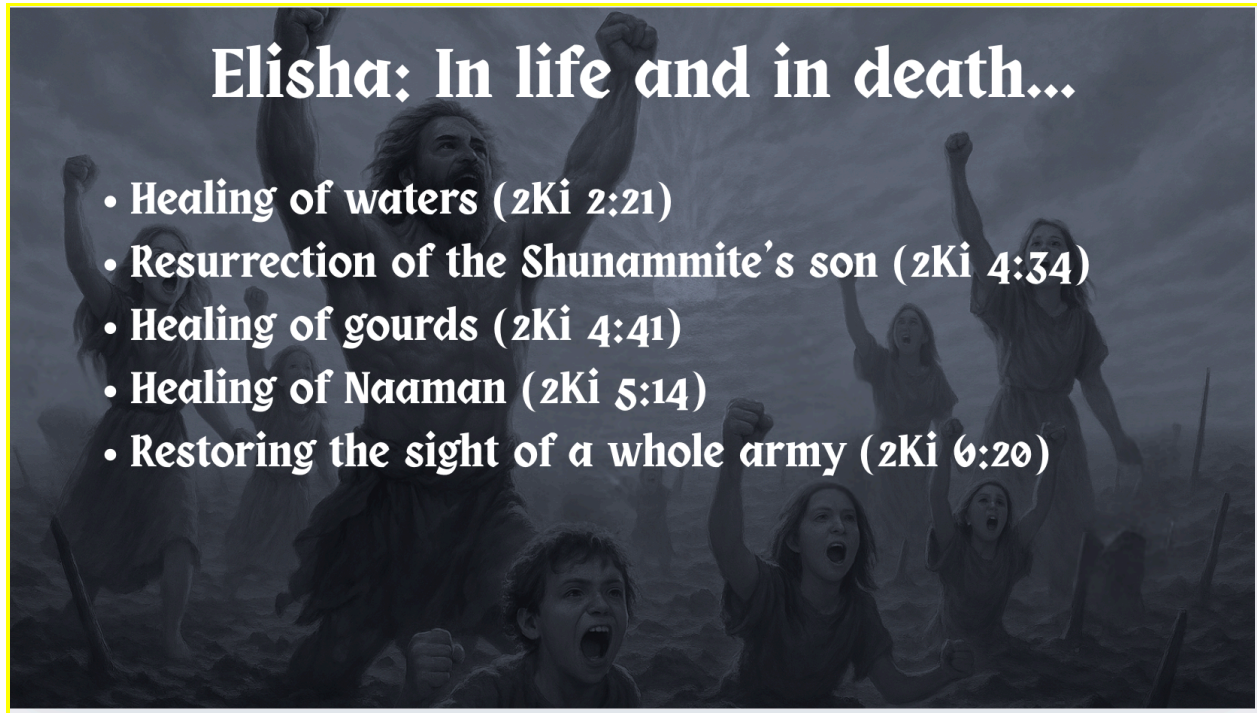
In fact, the idea that the righteous continue to work and serve the Lord after their death is something the Older Testament foreshadowed several times over. We are going to walk through a few passages that may be familiar that we hope you have a greater appreciation for after our recent revelations:

- **2 Kings 13:20–21 (ESV)**

So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen, and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha. And as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

Something pretty spectacular happens here. Elisha is dead and his bones lay in a tomb. Elisha is not resurrected from the dead, but he is still serving the Lord after he is dead.

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Elisha healed and brought to life while he lived, and he did the same thing even after death - a man was brought back to life by just touching his bones.

What do YOU do on this side of resurrection? It's going to have an impact on what you do after resurrection.

- **1 Samuel 28:10–20 (NIV)**

¹¹ Then the woman asked, “Whom shall I bring up for you?”
“Bring up Samuel,” he said.

¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!”

¹³ The king said to her, “Don’t be afraid. What do you see?”
The woman said, “I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth.”

¹⁴ “What does he look like?” he asked.

“An old man wearing a robe is coming up,” she said.
Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.

¹⁵ Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?”

“I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do.”

¹⁶ Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the Lord has departed from you and become your enemy? ¹⁷ The Lord has

done what he predicted through me. The Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your

neighbors—to David. ¹⁸ Because you did not obey the Lord or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has

done this to you today. ¹⁹ The Lord will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.”

This is certainly one of the less preached on passages in the prophets. But again we want you to consider, what did Samuel do during his life?

(READ SLIDE)

Samuel: In life and in death...

- Brought the Word of the Lord to Eli (1 Samuel 3)
- Led the nation to repentance (1 Samuel 7)
- Confronts sin and wickedness (1 Samuel 13)
- Directed Kings to God (1 Samuel 15)
- Led the nation of Israel (1 Samuel 10)

Samuel did the same things in life as he did in death. What do you think he will be doing at the resurrection of the dead?

Are you seeing that even in the Older Testament, even before the resurrection of the dead, the Heroes of Israel and their work to do for Adonai was not stopped by their death. There was more for them to do even after death.

We're not saying that the grave of Ben will one day heal a man, we are also not saying the grave of Ben WONT heal a man one day.

All of this foreshadows and gives us a picture into God's intention for his people. Let's look at one more

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- **Luke 9:28–36 (NIV)**

28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes

became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. 31 They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem...34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." 36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

In this passage we see a wild picture! Jesus is with three of His disciples, He is changed before their eyes, **and Moses and Elijah appear after death before them speaking with Jesus.**

(READ SLIDE)



The disciples who see Jesus transfigured speaking with Moses and Elijah who testify to the words of God which leads them to the revelation of Jesus

as the Son Of God... These men whose bodies had died, but they were very much alive!

Moses and Elijah did the same things in life as they did in death. What do you think they will be doing at the resurrection of the dead?

We want you to think of these three examples in light of Revelation 14

- **Revelation 14:13 (NIV)**

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

Your deeds in this life will follow you, you continuing in the Will of the Lord NOW, means you will reign with him in the resurrection! What you are doing now, you'll be doing when you are resurrected. If you are not serving Him now, what do you think you will be doing at the resurrection?

Death did not stop the will and work of God in these men's lives! It is NO different in you. What fear or obstacle could intimidate a man who knows for certain that even in death he will still serve for the Lord.

Now that we have shown you in the word the events of the Resurrection, how we will come back to the earth with Christ to rule and reign in resurrected bodies. And we have also described how our deeds from this life follow us into eternity, we want to implore you to live this way now!

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We are going to walk through a few scriptures in Romans 8 and read them in light of what we have talked about concerning resurrection from the dead.

- **Romans 8:15-17**

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba*, Father.” **16** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, *if* indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Those who are children are Heirs. Most of us have read this verse and nodded our heads in agreement and kept reading. But let's pause on this for a minute. What does it mean to be an heir? What are we heirs of? Well let's see if we can get some more clarity from the same author, in the same book, describing the same word.

- **Romans 4:11**

"For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that **he would be heir of the world** did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith."

Abraham would be an heir of the world. And in Christ, we to become heirs with Abraham of this present world. Lest you think this is a stretch, let's keep reading to see where Paul goes in verse 18.

- **Romans 8:18-21**

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. **19** For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. **20** For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

First and foremost, in light of last week's message and recent foundations, how much greater and comforting is verse 18? When a man fully has faith

in the resurrection, no suffering in this life could compare to that hope. No suffering is too great because of what is to come even in death!

The next several verses are easily confused and skimmed over. But we encourage you again to think about this in light of the resurrection. The world is awaiting the resurrection of the dead so it too can be redeemed for the Lord. Notice the language of verse 21...

- Creation itself WILL BE liberated
- Brought INTO the freedom and glory..

In the same way that YOU were saved, are being saved, and will be saved. The sons of God will be responsible for restoring the earth! Mankind was entrusted with the earth in Genesis 1 & 2 and will continue that work after the resurrection! Up until all things are made new, including the earth.

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- **Romans 8:22-25** We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **23** Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? **25** But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Christians for centuries have lauded the title of "sons of God", with good reason, we are! But, in light of the resurrection can you see that the adoption into sonship is not complete at this present time? Paul writes that we wait for our adoption which happens when?? The redemption of our bodies! He even writes that "in this hope we were saved."

Everywhere you look, the resurrection is the centerpiece of the gospel and even your sonship in Christ.

You are a son now, but your adoption will be complete at the resurrection. This perspective should not create in you a fear and intimidation of death.

Instead, a joyful expectation because in death, we more closely approach the day of our resurrection where our sonship will be complete.

- **Romans 8:31-35**

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

What is our response to the truth of our resurrection and our future to reign over the earth?

- What illness could possibly be too much?
- What fear could possibly cripple us?
- What petty rivalry with a brother could possibly be important?
- Why would you ever be afraid to empty your bank account to see others bring this Gospel to the world?

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Whatever fear or intimidation is plaguing your life should be shattered in light of this truth. We must preach this to our souls until it becomes real. Because its easy to feel fired up in a sermon, but its another to walk this out when difficulty or death come. But this is the truth! It is our reality in Christ! The world has nothing to threaten us with. Death itself is stripped powerless because of the resurrection of the dead.

- **Romans 8:36-39** As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”[a]

37 No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[b] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Joy testimony

- Nothing can separate you from the Lord...
 - What is too risky to do for the Will of The Lord???
 - Why wouldn't you do everything you can to storm the gates of Hell??
 - We are not called to sit and wait for opposition, we are moving forward for the kingdom and we will face opposition to that! BUT WE DO SO WITH NO FEAR OF DEATH!
 - Church, fear of death should have lost it's grip on us since being in Christ... We are called to be on the offensive for the kingdom even if that means we die in attempting the will of the Lord... or our children die attempting the will of the Lord... or anything else there is to lose in this world is lost in attempting to do the will of the Lord.
 - No amount of sacrifice in this world is too high a price to pay!
 - THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN THREATEN US WHEN WE ARE FIRMLY HOLDING TO THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION!

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We must be a body that is willing to do anything for the Lord knowing that our work here on earth will follow us into the next life.

This is who we will become as a church and the Lord is stirring a unified message across His Church that we have nothing to fear while we walk in the resurrection hope of the Gospel.

You church, in Christ, have nothing to fear! From small hardships to death itself, the believer is never at a disadvantage. The believer is never a victim. But more than conquers destiny to become heirs of the earth, ruling and reigning with our great King.

In light of these things - when the victorious gospel, the resurrection full gospel is fully believed, this truly removes all fear.

Some of you in here live in crippling fear

- Fear of loss
- Fear of hardship
- Fear for your kids
- Fear of death

The solution for fear, we call it - the Apostles Remedy - is faith in the resurrection.

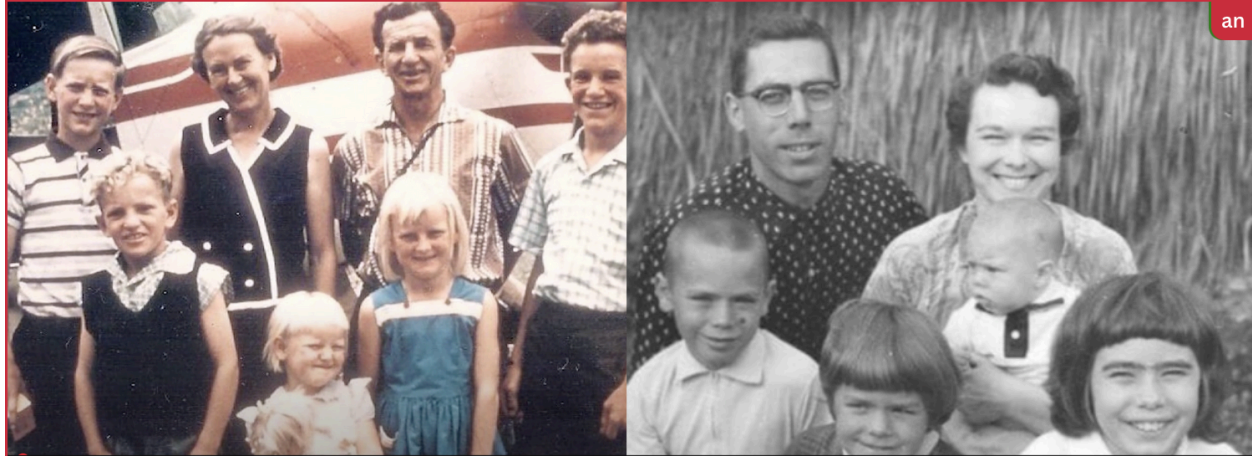
- **Revelation 12:11 (NIV)**

¹¹ They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death.

Adonai is calling this generation, and the men and families in this room not to love your life so much as to shrink from death.

In fact, we MUST face danger head-on so that the works the patriarchs and prophets may be complete:

The world is not worthy of men and women such as these.



Stanley Albert Dale & Phil Masters

Dale was alone as a missionary to the hostile Yali tribe in Western New Guinea when a “miracle disguised as a natural phenomenon” occurred. His Canadian coworkers Bruno de Leeuw and several Dani Christians had departed from the Heluk Valley **on this day, 26 January 1962**, to take one of the Danis home to another area. Local hostility and a long spell of sunless weather had broken the Dani man’s mind and made him out of control.

The team had been building an airstrip to facilitate future mission work in the Heluk Valley. Dale stood in the rain, looking at the muddy sea they had hoped would have been a completed airfield by then. As the lone worker left to complete the airstrip, discouragement welled within him and he asked the Lord “What next?”

Then he shouted “Get thee behind me, Satan. I have already claimed this valley and its people for Christ.” Despite the torrential rain, he lifted a shovel to attack the work anew. Then to his amazement he saw hillsides disintegrating and sliding down to fill the low middle section of the airstrip. Wherever sod had been removed from the surrounding slopes, a “controlled landslide” was taking place. It was as if God himself was replacing the lost workers and moving dirt and gravel into position.

Eventually the airstrip was finished and planes brought Dale's wife, children, and new workers. From that airstrip in 1966, Dale was airlifted for emergency surgery. Hostile Yalis to the south had requested someone to teach them the gospel. Bingguok and Jeikwaragu, local Christian leaders, walked into a trap. Both died bravely. When Dale went to see if he could recover their remains, the murderers shot five arrows into him. Hungry, weak from loss of blood, and suffering excruciating pain, he struggled homeward. Yali converts assisted him. At his darkest moment, while he struggled not to slip into unconsciousness, he cried out to God, asking if he would live. The Lord brought Psalm 118:17 to his mind: "I will not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord." Despite his agony, he toiled up another 1,500 foot mountain to reach a village where friendly Yalis made a stretcher and carried him to the airstrip.

When Dale recovered from surgery and returned to the Heluk Valley, awe filled his enemies. How many arrows would it take to kill this man? They were impressed by the Spirit in Dale.

Two years later, in nearby Seng Valley, hostile Yalis attacked Stan Dale and Phil Masters. Remembering that Dale had survived five arrows, they riddled each missionary with about a hundred. The two men stood as long as they could,

ASA



Graham Staines was an Australian missionary who spent over three decades serving in Odisha, India, working primarily among leprosy patients and tribal communities. His ministry was one of compassion, focused on care for the suffering and neglected.

On the night of **January 22, 1999**, after attending a meeting in a rural village, Graham and his two young sons — **Philip (10)** and **Timothy (6)** — had to sleep in their car before traveling home, station wagon.

During the night, a mob surrounded the vehicle, preventing any chance of escape, and set it on fire. All three died inside.

As one account records:

"Even in death they were inseparable. Charred beyond recognition and reduced to fragile frames of ashes, the three bodies lay clinging to each other:

Following the tragedy, Graham's widow, Gladys Staines, publicly forgave those responsible for the attack and expressed her desire that all people would come to know the love of Christ. She chose to remain in India for

several years afterward, continuing the work among the communities her husband had served.

PETER

- **Hebrews 11:32–40 (NIV)**

³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; **who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.** ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ **Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.** ³⁷ **They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—** ³⁸ **the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.** ³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ **since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.**

The world is not worthy of men and families such as these.

How about you?

Will our generation raise men who the world is not worthy of?

Teach your families these truths

Dedicate your sons to God

