

# What Does the Bible Say About the Resurrection?

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To the eye, death looks like the end. The body is laid in the ground, and that seems to be that. But the Bible holds out a hope that runs straight against what the eye can see. It promises a resurrection, a raising of the dead, and it stakes the whole Christian faith on it. If there is no resurrection, we have believed in vain. If there is, then death is not the end at all, but a doorway. Let us see what the Scriptures say.

## Christ Rose, and That Changes Everything

The resurrection is not first of all a hope about us. It is a fact about Christ. The gospel itself is that He *"died for our sins... and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"* (1 [Corinthians 15:3-4](#)). And His rising is the pledge of ours, for He is *"become the firstfruits of them that slept"* (1 [Corinthians 15:20](#)). The firstfruits are the promise of the whole harvest to come. Paul was blunt about how much hangs on it. *"if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins"* (1 [Corinthians 15:17](#)). But He is raised, and so the harvest will follow.

## All the Dead Will Be Raised

The resurrection is not only for the faithful. Every person who has ever died will be raised. Jesus said the hour is coming *"in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation"* ([John 5:28-29](#)). Paul confessed the same hope, *"that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust"* ([Acts 24:15](#)). Daniel saw it long before, that those who sleep in the dust shall awake, *"some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt"* ([Daniel 12:2](#)). No grave will be left shut.

## What Kind of Body

The body that is raised is not the same weak and dying body laid down. It is changed. *"It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption... it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body"* (1 [Corinthians 15:42-44](#)). *"this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality"* (1 [Corinthians 15:53](#)). The Lord *"shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body"* ([Philippians 3:21](#)). What rises is truly us, but free at last from decay and death.

## When It Will Happen

This will come at the last day, when the Lord returns. Jesus promised to raise His own *"up at the last day"* ([John 6:40](#)). Paul described it: the Lord shall descend with a shout, *"and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air"* ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#)). It will be sudden, *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump"* ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#)). No one will sleep through it.

## The Victory Over Death

The resurrection is the death of death. When the corruptible has put on incorruption, then the old word will come true, *"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"* ([1 Corinthians 15:54-55](#)). For the Christian, the grave is not a prison but a bed, and the enemy that has terrified every generation is already defeated. *"thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* ([1 Corinthians 15:57](#)).

## Why the Resurrection Matters Now

This is not a truth to keep for a funeral. It changes how we live today. Paul drew the lesson himself. If the dead do not rise, he said, then we may as well *"eat and drink; for to morrow we die"* ([1 Corinthians 15:32](#)), and Christians who suffer for their faith are *"of all men most miserable"* ([1 Corinthians 15:19](#)). But because the dead do rise, none of it is wasted. So he ends the great chapter with a charge: *"be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord"* ([1 Corinthians 15:58](#)). Every act of faithfulness, every sorrow borne for Christ, every quiet obedience no one saw, all of it will be raised with us. The resurrection turns a life that looks like loss into a life that cannot lose.

So stand at the graveside of a faithful saint and do not grieve as those who have no hope. The same power that raised Jesus will raise His people. But remember that all are raised, some to life and some to judgment, and prepare for the one you would rather meet. Because He lives, you too shall live. The only question is how you will rise.

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*Every Scripture reference in this study links to the King James Version. Open it and read for yourself.*