

The Gospel of John

Two Resurrections (Part 2)

John 5:21-29

INTRODUCTION:

Open your Bible to the fifth chapter of the gospel of John.

This is the second part of what I have entitled **Two Resurrections**.

The title was taken from a heading of **Two Resurrections** that was placed by man into the NASB scriptures. The New King James Version has **Life and Judgment Are Through the Son** as the heading above this section.

John 5:21-29 (NASB)

²¹ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. ²² For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

²⁴ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

²⁵ Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; ²⁷ and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

Jesus was in front of the Jewish leaders making astonishing claims of equality with God. And in the middle of those verses, verses 21 and 22, are two claims that essentially are the most elevated of all claims. That claim was that He has the **power to give life** and **the power to judge**. That is to say, He brings people into existence and then determines the nature of their eternal existence. This is an act that only God can do, so Jesus is claiming to be God.

Now the Jews are going to be astonished that Jesus claims to be the One Who gives life to all and determines everyone’s eternal destiny. They will consider it blasphemy.

BODY:

I. TWO TYPES OF RESURRECTION.

So in verses 21-22 Jesus claims that He has the **power to give life** and **the power to judge** and in verses 25 to 29, He demonstrates that fact.

According to the comments in the NASB to support their heading, verses 25 to 29 are speaking of two **types** of resurrection. Now we do not accept man's comments as scripture. But I believe they are correct in saying there are two types of resurrection mentioned here.

Jesus claimed He had the **power to give life**. Jesus gave mankind life when He physically created us. He also gave people like Lazarus, who had died, renewed life by resurrecting him from physical death.

But Jesus is also able to give spiritual life. All of mankind are born spiritually dead. We are given new life by Christ when we hear and believe. We die to our sinful self and we are raised (or resurrected, if you will, just as Christ was resurrected from the grave) into a new life in Christ. Our sins are taken away and we are filled with His righteousness. This is a **spiritual** resurrection.

Romans 6:3-11 (NASB)

³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Then there is, of course, a **physical** resurrection when Jesus comes again. Every man who has ever lived, everyone who has lived on this earth and physically died, and everyone who is still alive when Jesus returns will be resurrected. That resurrection will be separated into two groups. The believers will be resurrected to eternal life in Heaven, and the unbelievers will be resurrected to eternal damnation. All this is folded in these brief verses.

As we learned last week verses 25 and 26 are speaking of spiritual resurrection. **“Truly, truly I say to you, an hour is coming and now is”**... ‘and now is’ is the key there...if something **now is**, then He is saying it is happening as He speaks. That means it can’t be the future physical resurrection. The resurrection that was already happening was a spiritual resurrection. So He says **“I say to you, an hour is coming and now is when the dead (this is the spiritually dead) will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live, for just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son to have life in Himself.”**

We know that at the second coming everyone will hear the voice of God. The saved and the unsaved. They will be separated into two groups. So the "dead" in these verses must be the spiritual dead who hear God's voice and is given life.

II. REVISITING THE LAST DAYS AND THE MILLENNIUM.

We spent over a year going through the book of Revelation. It thought it might be good to revisit the last days and the millennium, because our understanding of these time periods will greatly affect how we view the second coming of Christ and our resurrection.

The scriptures tell us that we are living in the last days. Acts 2:17 and several others. The last days are happening now. We are also living in the tribulation period and the millennial period. These are all referring to the same period of time.

What is this about someone reigning with Christ for 1000 years?

Revelation 20:6 (NASB)

⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the **first resurrection**; over these the second death has no power, **but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.**

Jesus is already reigning over His kingdom. You know who this is that reigns with Christ? **That's us!** When we are resurrected from our spiritual death, we become a part of the kingdom of God.

You see, Revelation is filled with symbolic language. A great majority of the book is figurative, not literal. There is no literal 1000 years meant here. Just like most of the other numbers used in Revelation it has a SYMBOLIC meaning.

Ten is a number for completion. One thousand is 10 x 10 x 10. So in symbolic language it is like us taking the word "completion" and putting it in capital letters, making it bold, underlining it, and highlighting it. It is a full, complete period of time.

You see we're living in an ERA described in Revelation 20 – an era symbolized by the "1000 years". Now how can we know that?

1. We can know that because we have shared in the first resurrection. Do you know **when** that happened? **(Walking over to the baptistery)** It happened when you were baptized into Christ. When I baptize someone I put them all the way under the water. They go under the water to die to their sins and they come up out of the water to walk in newness of life. They share in Christ's resurrection. It is their "First Resurrection" from the dead.

2. And, we can know that we are in the era symbolized by the 1000 years because once we rise from that watery grave, the **2nd death** has no power over us. The blood of Jesus covers us.

The **second death** is mentioned on multiple occasions in the book of Revelation and is synonymous with the lake of fire. It is a "death" in that it is a separation from God, the Giver of life. It is called the "**second**" death because it follows physical death (the first death).

Revelation 21:8 explains the second death in the most detail:

Revelation 21:8 (NASB)

⁸But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, **their part will be in the lake that**

burns with fire and brimstone, WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH.”

He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death. The second death is exclusively for those who have rejected Christ. It is not a place believers in Christ should fear.

3. AND we can know that we're in the symbolic 1000 years because we are priests God right now and we reign with Jesus **right now**.

Revelation 1:4-6 (NASB)

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— ⁶ **and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father**—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

That's us... that's now!!!

In Revelation 5 the four living creatures that surrounds the throne of God were heard singing the following song.

Revelation 5:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ And they *sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood **men** from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

¹⁰ “You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

Right now, we are reigning with Christ. That's why...

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NASB)

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions (our sins), made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

You think that you are **physically seated** in a sanctuary with about 20 people right now – **RIGHT? Yes, you are!** But do you also realize that you are spiritually seated with Jesus. Right now? And being seated with Christ means you are ruling with Christ right now!

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (NASB)

⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight— ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. ⁹ Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

III. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

In verses 27 through 29, Jesus speaks of the power of physical resurrection.

“And He gave Him authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man,” and here’s how that judgment will work. “Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming, (not now is, but is coming, this is all future,) in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and will come forth, those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.” Clearly now we’re talking about something that is all future...future. Verse 22, “The Father has given all judgment to the Son.” Verse 27, “He executes that judgment.” The word “execute” appears in verse 27.

The Son of Man is an interesting title. It’s a Messianic title from Daniel 7. It appears as His title in judgment, whereas Son of God back in verse 25 appears as His title in spiritual resurrection. It takes God to raise the dead. Why is He called Son of Man in judgment? Because as Son of Man, He is the Messiah. But as Son of Man He understands perfectly because He lived as a man and being tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. He has perfect knowledge of all human experience and therefore His justice, of course, is secured by experience as well as divine knowledge as just and accurate and perfect judgment. It is not just God judging man, it is not just man judging man. If it was just God, there would be no experience of man’s dilemmas. If it was just man, there would be no divine infinite knowledge. He is the God/Man, His judgment cannot be disputed, either from the side of divine knowledge or the side of human experience.

So God gives Him authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man. “Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice.”

Don’t be shocked by what I’m going to tell you, but an hour is coming when the voice will be heard again and it will empty the graves of this planet, it will empty them. It will draw out of graves bodies no longer there. They will be created for eternity. When He says the tombs are empty, all He means by that is not necessarily that there better be something there or nothing’s coming out. What will that do to all the cremated folks? All He means is that the dead will take on a glorified form. This is not now is, this is future. This is not the effectual heart-hearing that brings salvation. This will awaken physically dead people. And this will bring bodies to join their spirits that have been waiting for this resurrection. The same voice that wakes the spiritually dead, will pierce the clods and the waters of the world and the dirt and dust and find the dead and bring those long-forgotten forms into the world of the visible.

This is astonishing power. mind-boggling power. How do you literally in a moment recreate every human being who has ever lived and join that recreated form suitable for heaven or hell with the spirit of the person already in the presence of God or out of His presence? The power is beyond imagination...beyond comprehension. But that hour will come.

As we said earlier, an hour is a period of time. The hour that **now is** has gone on for two thousand years. The hour that **will come** will occur at the second coming of Christ. The Rapture of the church when believing Christians who are alive will be caught up in the air and they’ll be changed on the way up.

Simply stated, the resurrection can be divided into two parts in verse 29. All will come

forth because they will hear His voice, the power is His, so it will be the same power that He exerted at the grave of Lazarus when He said, “Lazarus, come forth,” only this time He won’t say “Lazarus.” He’ll just say, “Come forth.” And they will come forth. And those who did the good to a resurrection of life, and those who committed the evil to a resurrection of judgment. That’s believers and unbelievers.

It poses an interesting question. Why does it say those who did good to resurrection of life? Is that how you get saved? Is that how you get to the resurrection of life by doing good? Why does He say that? Doesn’t the Bible say, “By the deeds of the Law no flesh will be justified?” Doesn’t the Bible say, “Not by works lest any man should boast?” Why does He say that?

Because the contrast demands it. He can’t compare believer’s **faith** with unbeliever’s **faith** because unbelievers don’t have any faith. He can’t compare believer’s **life** with unbeliever’s life because they don’t have any **life**. They’re dead. But He can compare their works, that’s the only common commodity.

We have faith, they don’t.

We have life, they don’t.

We have works, and so do they. So on the basis of that, He makes the comparison. Believer’s works are the excellent things. Unbeliever’s works are worthless things.. In the end, it’s the same thing Jesus said, “By their fruits you will know them.” Believers whose faith is proven by their good deeds are compared to unbelievers whose good deeds demonstrate they have no faith. So two resurrections are coming. Spiritual resurrection, Jesus says, and it’s already begun and yet it’s coming. And it will hit with a bang on Pentecost and after that, as the church grows by the thousands, and it will go through history and we’re part of it, spiritual resurrection. But there’s also going to be a physical resurrection and every person who has ever lived in the history of the world will be raised to life in a form suited for heavenly blessing, or the punishment of hell.

“What will that body be like?” Well for us, Philippians 3 says it will be like unto His glorious body. That is His resurrection body. It was visible, He walked, He talked, He ate, but at the same time He walked through a wall, rearranging the molecules to pass through a wall. I can’t say any more than that.

CONCLUSION:

What do we learn from this? We want to be resurrected with the right group of people. Back to verse 24. “Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and doesn’t come into judgment but has passed out of death into life,” to hear the Word of Christ, the voice of Christ, and believe Him. It is a work of God, but not apart from faith. What can the sinner do? We’ve said it again and again since the third chapter, “Believe...believe...believe.”

The Family of God.