

# The Resurrection

## Part Four: Resurrection Hope

**“In the wizard's face he saw at first only lines of care and sorrow; though as he looked more intently he perceived that under all there was a great joy: a fountain of mirth enough to set a kingdom laughing, were it to gush forth.” J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King***

### INTRODUCTION

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky.  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh....

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there

Philippians 3: 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

### A. WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

#### 1. Creation

Genesis 1

**Five forward pointing features**

1. The harmony of heaven and earth
2. Purpose
3. Man's rule
4. The seventh day
5. Seed

## 2. De-creation

Isaiah. 7:23 In that day, in every place where there were a thousand vines worth a thousand silver shekels, there will be only briars and thorns. 24 Men will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered with briars and thorns. 25 As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briars and thorns; they will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run.

## 3. Re-creation

# B. CHRIST THE MEANS AND MODEL OF RE-CREATION

## 1. The harmony of heaven and earth

Isa 57:15

For this is what the high and lofty One says—  
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:  
“I live in a high and holy place,  
but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the lowly  
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Genesis 28

Isa 64:1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would tremble before you!  
2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze  
and causes water to boil,  
come down to make your name known to your enemies  
and cause the nations to quake before you!  
3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,  
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

### **The temple sanctuary**

1. The point of contact between heaven and earth.

**2 Chronicles 5**

## 2. The place of atonement

Lev 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

## 3. A model of God's plans for the whole world.

Isa 51

3 The LORD will surely comfort Zion  
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;  
he will make her deserts like Eden,  
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.

Isa 65

17 "Behold, I will create  
new heavens and a new earth.  
The former things will not be remembered,  
nor will they come to mind.  
18 But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I will create,  
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight  
and its people a joy.  
19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem  
and take delight in my people;  
the sound of weeping and of crying  
will be heard in it no more

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling – literally tabernacle - among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 21

## 2. Purpose

Psalms 98

7 Let the sea resound, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it.  
8 Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;  
9 let them sing before the LORD,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

Isaiah 11

4 .... He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

The wolf will live with the lamb,

the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

7 The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,  
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.

Isaiah 55

12 You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
This will be for the LORD'S renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
which will not be destroyed."

2 Cor 5:17 ... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

### 3. Man's rule

Psalm 8

4 what is man that you are mindful of him,  
the son of man that you care for him?

5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under his feet:

7 all flocks and herds,  
and the beasts of the field,

8 the birds of the air,  
and the fish of the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

Exodus 19: 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

Eph 1: 20... raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Heb 2: 8 Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

2Tim. 2

11 Here is a trustworthy saying:  
If we died with him,  
we will also live with him;  
12 if we endure,  
we will also reign with him.

Rev. 5

10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth.”

#### **4. The seventh day**

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Deut 5:15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

#### **5. Seed**

Gen. 8

21 And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.  
22 “As long as the earth endures,  
seedtime and harvest,  
cold and heat,  
summer and winter,  
day and night  
will never cease

1 Cor. 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

#### **Summary**

## C. CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY

### Continuity (Romans 8)

### Discontinuity (2 Peter 3)

Matt. 22:29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.

## D. WHAT LASTS?

### Option 1: "Everything we do for God"

"It's not right to think of our 'secular work' in our office or laboratory as having no eternal consequences, whereas our 'sacred work' in our Sunday school class has."

"We need to combine the First Great Commission and the Second Great Commission with the Two Great Commandments to get a vision of life in which every moment is charged with meaning and every day is a glory day. Julian Hardyman

"If Christ is the firstborn from the grave, then all work has eternal consequences, whether homemaking or being a stockbroker...[W]e are cooperating with what Christ wants to do in renewal all creation." Paul Stevens

"What you *do* in the present – by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour as yourself – all these things *will last into God's future*....They are part of what we may call *building for God's kingdom*." Tom Wright

### Problems with this view

1.

2.

## **Option 2: Gospel work.**

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Col. 1:6....All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

1 Corinthians 3

1 Corinthians 9

1 Corinthians 15:58

1 Thessalonians 2

Revelation 21:26-27

## **CONCLUSION: THE PRIORITY OF GOSPEL WORK**

### **1. Real expectations about the present time.**

1Cor. 9:27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

2 Cor 11: 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

## 2. Radical investment for the future.

Mark 8:34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Matt. 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### RESPONSE

Something I've been reminded of:

Something new I've learned:

Something I need to do, or change as a result: