

## Five Minute Foundation Series



### 7. THE RESURRECTION

We have been looking at the truths that are important to build a strong foundation and one of those mentioned in Hebrews 6 is:- 'the resurrection of the dead.'

In the Old Testament there are a number of stories of the dead being raised by the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Of course during the ministry of Jesus, many were raised from the dead. The greatest miracle was the resurrection of Jesus himself.

#### 1. RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Those who were raised from the dead, by Elisha and Elijah, and even by Jesus eventually died again. However when Jesus rose from the dead, he received a new body, the resurrection body and never died again. When Jesus appeared to John long after he had ascended into heaven, he said:

**Revelation 1:18** "I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever."

The resurrection of Jesus tells us two important things:-

##### a.) Jesus is the Son of God

**Romans 1:4** "declared to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead."

The resurrection of Jesus proves that he is who he says he is! This backs up his claims. But not only that, it also assures us that we too will be raised from the dead, just as Jesus promised.

##### b.) Just as Jesus was raised, so we will

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

The day the church calls 'Resurrection Sunday' is the Feast of First Fruits in the Jewish calendar. This is the day the people of Israel were to offer to God the first fruits of their spring harvest, which would have been wheat or barley. So they would bring a sheaf of one of these grains, along with a lamb and a drink offering of wine, to thank God for the beginning of harvest. What a beautiful picture of Jesus' resurrection! Paul says in:

**1 Corinthians 15:20-21** "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man."

## **2. RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS**

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26)

This is the wonderful hope we have in Christ. Yes we will all die, but those of us who believe will have the hope that we will be raised from the dead and receive a new body.

Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15 that this body will perish, but we will be raised again with a body that won't perish, a glorious body, a spiritual body, just as Jesus was, and live with him forever more.

When will this take place? We are told in 1 Thessalonians that this will occur when the Lord comes, at the trumpet call.

- Those who have died as believers will be raised first
- Then all those who are alive and have put their trust in him, will be caught up, and changed to become like him.

We don't need to fear death – death opens the door to a glorious hope for eternity.

But knowing this also encourages us to live fully for the Lord now. This is how the chapter on the resurrection in Corinthians ends:-

**1 Corinthians 15:58** "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 labour in the Lord is not in vain."