

THE RESURRECTION AS NEW CREATION

WHAT IS THE THEOLOGICAL MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST?

I. THE FIRST OR “OLD” CREATION IN ITS ENTIRETY HAS SUFFERED THE EFFECTS OF SIN.

A. Particularly through disease, decay and death. Rom. 8:18-23

II. THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW CREATION.

A. The glorification of the resurrected body of Jesus Christ is the beginning of the new creation.

B. This is probably the meaning of the verse:

Revelation 3:14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: (NASB)

C. It seems that Jesus was begotten twice -- once at His incarnation and once at His resurrection.

Hebrews 1:6 And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, " And let all the angels of God worship Him." (NASB)

D. He was “Born-Again” from the grave as we are from the “Watery-Grave.”

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born 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, (NASB)

E. He is more than pre-eminent; He is first in time. His resurrection is the first event of its kind!!!!

Colossians 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. (NASB)

F. Jesus, alone, was raised from the dead never to die again.

Romans 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. (NASB)

Acts 13:34 "[And as for the fact] that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy [and] sure [blessings] of David.' (NASB)

III. THIS STUPENDOUS EVENT IS PARALLELED ONLY BY CREATION ITSELF.

A. By virtue of His glorified body, He was raised into a new dimension of creation.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (NASB)

Romans 4:17 as it is written, "A father of many nations have I made you" in the sight of Him whom he believed, [even] God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. (NASB)

B. This may be in the mind of Peter: Christ is the very beginning of the new creation of all things.

2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. (NASB)

C. The new creation will have a complete absence of death.

Revelation 21:4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be [any] death; there shall no longer be [any] mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. " (NASB)

D. Why? Christ wrung the power out of death.

Hebrews 2:14 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of

the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; (NASB)

Acts 2:24 "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. (NASB)

2 Timothy 1:10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, (NASB)

1 Timothy 6:16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him [be] honor and eternal dominion! Amen. (NASB)

E. Our very last enemy is death, itself.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. (NASB)

F. When Jesus rose from the dead, he broke the power of death forever.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel. " (NASB)

G. Then came the victory cry!

Revelation 1:17-18 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. (NASB)

H. He is the resurrection and the life.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, (NASB)

I. All life now depends on the unshakable foundation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 7:15-16 And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become [such] not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life. [(NASB) "...indissoluble life"- DARBY]

Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; (NASB)

IV. THE GUARANTEE OF THE NEW CREATION

A. First fruits promises a further harvest in the future! It implies a second fruit.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man [came] death, by a man also [came] the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, (NASB)

B. The figure of the "First Born" implies a second and still yet more.

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to become] conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; (NASB)

Colossians 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. (NASB)

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born 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, (NASB)

C. Our entire hope is settled in the resurrection of the Christ.

1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always [being] ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; (NASB)

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (NASB)

V. THE BELIEVERS PART IN THE NEW CREATION

- A. The results of the resurrection is redemption of the believer. The Spirit is sent as a guarantee.
Acts 2:38 And Peter [said] to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (NASB)
- B. The immediate result of the presence of the Spirit in the New Testament goes by many names.
John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (NASB)
Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, (NASB)
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, [he is] a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (NASB)
Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (NASB)
John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (NASB)