

## Resurrection

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At resurrection, life and consciousness returns to the body. There are Old and New Testament accounts of life being restored to some who died:

- 1 Kings 17:17-24 Elijah & Widow of Zarephath’s son
- 2 King 4:18-37 Elisha & Shunammite Woman’s Son
- 2 Kings 13:20-21 Israelite in Elisha’s tomb
- Matthew 27:50-56 Godly people at Jesus’ death
- Luke 7:11-17 Widow of Nain’s Son
- Luke 8:49-56 Jairus’ daughter
- John 11:1-44 Lazarus
- Acts 9:36-42 Dorcas (or Tabitha)
- Acts 20:7-12 Eutychus

These people were raised to life only to die again. Only one has been raised to life to never die again: Jesus the Christ. Jesus “was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. . . But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who are asleep [dead]” (1 Cor. 15:4, 20).

When man dies, breath leaves the body, which then returns to the ground (Psa. 104:29). There is no consciousness or activity in death (Job 3:11-19; Psa. 146:4; Eccl. 9:5-6; see Bible Guide: What Happens When We Die). Death is a result of sin entering the world (Rom. 5:12; 6:23). Jesus died on the cross to provide the blood sacrifice for forgiveness of our sin (Heb. 9:26b, 28; 10:12-18; Eph 1:7). He was raised to eternal life to demonstrate God’s plan for those who are united to Jesus Christ through baptism (Rom. 6:3-11, 23; see Bible Guide: Eternal Life).

Those who are in Christ and have died will be resurrected at Jesus’ coming “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we [who are still alive] will be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:13-17). At resurrection, the natural, mortal body of mankind will be “raised a spiritual body” in the “image of the heavenly” man Jesus (1 Cor. 15:44, 49, NKJV).

At resurrection, the body will be raised:

- Imperishable
- In glory
- In power
- Spiritual
- In the image of Christ
- Immortal (1 Cor. 15:42-44, 49, 53)

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The resurrection that occurs at Jesus' return, heralded by the last trumpet, is known as the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5). The faithful "in Christ" will be raised to life at that time and will reign with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:6; 1 Thess. 4:16). At the end of that time, a general resurrection of all the dead will occur for the final judgment of mankind (Rev. 20:7-15). "Anyone not found written in the Book of Life [will be] cast into the lake of fire" and destroyed (Rev. 20:15, 21:8, NKJV; see Bible Guide: Judgment).

After the final judgment, those who have received the imperishable resurrection body will enter the eternal kingdom of God, dwelling with God and Jesus Christ forever.

"Jesus said . . . 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even if he dies; and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:25-26, NASB).

#### **FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Job 19:25-27  
Psalm 16:9-11 (see Acts 2:22-32); 49:15; 71:20-21  
Isaiah 26:19  
Daniel 12:2-3  
Matthew 16:21; 20:18-19; 28:1-15  
Mark 12:18-27; 16:1-14  
Luke 14:12-14; 20:27-40; 24:1-48  
John 2:18-22; 5:19-30; 6:39-59; 11:21-27, 32-45  
John 12:24-26; 20:1-31  
Acts 2:22-39; 4:5-21; 5:27-32; 10:34-43; 26:22-23  
Romans 1:1-4; 6:4-11; 7:4; 8:9-14, 33-34; 10:8-13  
1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:1-58 (Resurrection chapter)  
2 Corinthians 4:13-18; 5:15  
Ephesians 1:18-23; 2:4-7  
Philippians 3:10-11  
Colossians 2:11-15; 3:1-11  
1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-5:11  
2 Timothy 2:8, 15-19  
Hebrews 11:8-19, 39-40 (see also Genesis 22); 13:20-21  
1 Peter 1:3-5, 18-21; 3:21-22  
Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15; 21:1-22:5



The resurrection that occurs at Jesus' return, heralded by the last trumpet, is known as the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5). The faithful "in Christ" will be raised to life at that time and will reign with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:6; 1 Thess. 4:16). At the end of that time, a general resurrection of all the dead will occur for the final judgment of mankind (Rev. 20:7-15). "Anyone not found written in the Book of Life [will be] cast into the lake of fire" and destroyed (Rev. 20:15, 21:8, NKJV; see Bible Guide: Judgment).

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