

We completed our study of Christ's humiliation by determining the benefits of His humiliation for us and in particular Christ's descent into hell where he suffered hellish torments to his soul. His humiliation reached its peak in the torment He suffered to his soul, which was not to last for longer than the three days prophesied and prefigured by Jonah's experience in the stomach of the fish. Christ's sacrifice was sufficient and complete and required no further suffering for the sins of the elect.

The efficacy and power of Christ, in preserving the blessings, which flow from His humiliation, endure forever.

We see then the following degrees of glorification:

1. On the third day, he arose from the dead.
2. He ascended into heaven.
3. He sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
4. He will come to judge the living and the dead.

As we see, the articles of the Apostle's Creed were written with great wisdom and are well arranged in reference to the question of the mediator.

The humiliation, which is the first part of his office, has these grades born, suffered, crucified, dead, buried, and descended into hell. His humiliation descends gradually from one degree to another until we reach the lowest point of his humiliation, which is found in the article of his descent into hell.

The other part of his office, which is his glorification, ascends gradually from the lowest point of the humiliation until it reaches its highest point, in his exaltation at the right hand of the Father.

The office of Christ differs from his benefits as cause and effect, or as action and consequence. The benefits are the things themselves which Christ has purchased for us, and which he bestows upon us, such as remission of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation. His office is the obtaining and bestowing of these things.

From the moment that Christ took up his life again, after having laid it down out of his own volition, his ascent to glory started. It is evident that Jesus had to be God to be able to recall his soul from heaven to rejoin his body and so become alive again in the same body in which He was crucified, with the marks of the nails and the spear.

Starting with His resurrection, on the third day, it is proper that we now determine what really happened to us in Christ's resurrection.

Three things happened to us on that day: 1. We now share in His righteousness. 2. We are now already resurrected into a new life. 3. We now have a guarantee that we will also be raised from the grave. We will let Scripture explain this for us.

1. We now share in the righteousness that He won for us when He overcame death.

Rom 4:25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

1Co 15:16-23 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. ²⁰But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming.

1Peter 1:3-5 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, ⁴to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are protected by the power of God

through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2. We are now already resurrected to a new life by His power.

Rom 6:5-11 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, ⁶knowing 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; ⁷for he who has died is freed from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:4-6 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Col 3:1-11 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. ⁵Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

¹⁰and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him-
-¹¹a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

3. We now have a guarantee of our glorious resurrection that will come.

Rom 8:10-11 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1Co 15:12-16 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

Phil 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

We may consider the resurrection of Christ in two contexts, namely its **history** and **benefits**.

Historically speaking, we may ask:

1. Who was it that rose from the dead? It was Christ, the God-man, who rose in the same body in which He died. This the Word, His Divinity, never laid aside.
2. In what manner did he rise? He, who was truly dead, revived, recalling His soul to His body, and gloriously came forth on the third day from the tomb in which His body was laid, according to the strength and power of His Divinity. For He was raised by the Father through Himself inasmuch as the Father works through the Son.
3. What are the evidences of His resurrection? The evidences of the resurrection of Christ are the following: that He showed Himself openly to many people and disciples; that the angel testified to it, that He allowed them to touch him; He was hungry, and so on.

We looked at what happened to us at Christ's resurrection. His resurrection is, however, such a prominent pillar of the Christian gospel, that it behooves us to investigate this event in very great detail to be absolutely sure that we not only understand its meaning and the benefits we receive from it, but that we have no doubt that it has happened.

Let us answer the following four questions:

1. Did Christ rise from the dead?
2. How did He rise?
3. For what purpose did He rise?
4. What are the benefits or fruits of His resurrection?

1. Did Christ rise from the dead?

Some believe that Christ died, but do not believe that He rose from the dead. That Christ did rise from the dead is proven by

the testimony of angels, women, evangelists, apostles, and other saints, who saw Him, felt Him, and conversed with Him after His resurrection. Those Apostles who did not see him after His resurrection should be believed because of their divine authority.

2. How did Christ rise?

The following four points describe how Christ was resurrected.

- a. He did truly rise, that is, His soul did truly return to His body, from which it was separated by death. He did truly come forth from the tomb in which His body was laid, notwithstanding the vigilance of the guards. Even they were struck with amazement and wonder.

Luk 24:13-45 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ¹⁷And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad.

¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" ¹⁹And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹"But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. ²²"But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.

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²⁴"Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." ²⁵And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶"Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. ²⁸And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. ²⁹But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them.

³⁰When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³²They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" ³³And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, ³⁴saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."

³⁵They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread. ³⁶While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. ³⁸And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹"See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; ⁴³and He took it and ate it before them. ⁴⁴Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are

written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

- b. He rose the same person, the same Jesus Christ, very God and very man, which had died. He rose according to the nature in which He had suffered, which was his human nature, his true human nature, the very same which it was in essence and properties, not deified, but glorified, having laid aside all the infirmities to which it was subject.

Luk 24:39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

And further "Do you have anything here to eat?" Luk 24:41

And truly nothing different from that which had died, could rise again. The very same body, therefore, which had fallen a victim to death rose again; and it is this which affords us such great comfort. For it was necessary that He should be the one, and the same mediator, who would merit for us those blessing which we had lost by sin, and who would restore them unto us, by applying them to each one individually. Had the flesh of Christ not risen, ours could not rise.

- c. He rose by His own power, that is, He vanquished death, throwing it from Himself, quickened by His dead body, reunited it with His soul, and restored to Himself a blessed, heavenly, and glorious life, and that by His own divine virtue and power.

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." (John 2:19)

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father. (John 10:18)

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. (John 5:21)