

In our study last week, we started the glorification of Christ, which began with His resurrection from the dead. In studying His resurrection, we started by answering 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?

We were busy with the second question at the end of the lesson last week. The second question was divided into four points: a) He did truly rise from the dead; b) He rose the same person who died; c) He rose by His own power; and d) He rose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

To finalize c), let us read Rom 8:11:

**Rom 8:11** But 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.

Who raised Jesus, then? Was it the Spirit, the Father or did the Son take up his own life again after having laid it down?

We are staring at the mystery of the Trinity, the Godhead, when we ask these questions. In John 2:19 Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days." In addition, in John 10:18, He says, "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." Then Jesus gives the answer to the question, "This command I received from my Father."

Therefore, we may conclude that the Father raised the Son through the Son, not as through an instrument, but as through another Person of the same essence with Himself, and of infinite power, through whom the Father ordinarily works, such as creating everything. The Son was raised by the Father through Himself, for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise.

One of the rules of dealing with the three Persons of the Godhead is to consider the three Persons as one when opposing them to anything in creation and consider the three Persons separate when opposing them to another Person in the Godhead. Because we are opposing the Son to the Father, we may say that the Father raised the Son, but because the Father works through the Son in all things, the Son raised Himself because the Father commanded it so. "This command I received from my Father."

But, the Son works through the Holy Spirit, so one may conclude that the Godhead worked in a divine order to raise Jesus from the dead. We say a divine order because the three Persons are one God and all three Persons are in perfect harmony with one another.

d. He rose on the third day in the manner just described.

i. Because the Scriptures, which contain all the prediction and types relating to the Messiah, declare that, He would rise on the third day, as the type of Jonah.

ii. Because it was proper that his body should rise free from corruption, and yet not so soon after His death as to leave any doubt that He was truly dead.

It is for this reason that He rose on the third day, and not on the first. The circumstance of His rising on the third day is added in the Apostle's Creed that the truth might correspond with the type, and that we might know that Jesus is the Messiah promised to the Fathers, because He rose from the dead on the third day.

### 3. For what purpose did Christ rise?

The following six purposes can be cited:

a) For God's glory; b) Because of the prophecies; c) Because of God's decree; d) Because of His dignity; e) To maintain the office of Mediator; f) For our salvation.

- a. For His own glory and for that of His Father.

Rom 1:4 "And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

John 17:1 "After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."

- b. Because of the prophecies which had been uttered in relation to the death, and resurrection of Christ.

Ps 16:10; Acts 2:27 "Because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay."

Is 53:10, 11 "Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities."

Matt 12: 39, 40 "He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

John 20:9 "They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead."

In view now of these and other prophecies, it was necessary that Christ should die, and rise again, that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

Matt 26:54 "But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

- c. Because of the unchangeable decree of God which He has revealed in the Scriptures. It is said in the Acts of the Apostles ...

Acts 4:27, 28 "Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen."

Christ predicted His own death and resurrection:

Matt 4:26, 27 "When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief."

John 2:19 "Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.""

d. Because of the dignity, and power of the Person that rose.

It was in view of this, that the Apostle Peter declares that it was not possible that Christ should be held under the power of death:

Because he was the beloved, and only begotten Son of God.

John 3:16, 35 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." "The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands."

Because Christ is true God, the author and fountain of life.

John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, "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. Do you believe this?""

John 5:21, 26 "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." "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself."

John 10:28 "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."

## Adult study of Jesus Christ

If Christ now was to give life to men, it is absurd to suppose that He should remain under the power of death and not rise.

Christ was in Himself a righteous man, and has by His death satisfied for our sins which were imputed unto Him. But where there is no sin, there death does no any longer reign.

Heb 10:14 "Because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

Rom 6:10 "The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God."

- e. Christ arose that He might carry on the office of mediator, which He could not have done had He remained under death. Because...
  - i. It became the mediator, who was true God and man, to reign eternally.

Ps. 45:6 "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom."

Ps 89:36 - 38 "That his line will continue forever and his throne endures before me like the sun; it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky." But you have rejected, you have spurned, you have been very angry with your anointed one."

Ez. 37:23 "They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God."

Dan 7:27 "Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."

Is. 9:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

Luk 1:33 "And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

It was necessary, therefore, that the human nature, which was made of the seed of David, should rise from the dead and reign.

- ii. It was necessary that the mediator, who is our brother and very man, should continually make intercessions for us, and appear before God in our behalf as an everlasting priest.

Ps 100:4 "The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Rom 8:34 "Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

- iii. It behoved the Mediator, who is true man, to be mediator by both merit and efficacy.

It was not sufficient for Him merely to die. It became Him also, by His power, to confer upon the church, and upon all of us, the benefits that He had purchased for us by His death.

These benefits are righteousness, the Holy Spirit and eternal life and glory. For it belonged to the office of the Mediator both to merit and to confer these blessings. But if He had remained under the power of death, and had not risen from the dead, He could not have conferred these gifts upon us, because then He would have had no existence, and hence could have effected nothing in our behalf. It is for this reason also, that these blessings are deposited in Christ by the Godhead, that He should make use partakers of them:

John 1:16 "From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another."

Nor can it seem strange that Christ should bestow upon us the same blessings which He has, by His

death, obtained from the Godhead for us: for a man may obtain a certain thing from someone, and may also confer it upon another.

For instance, someone may intercede on behalf of another, with a higher authority. The person in the higher authority may grant the request on behalf of the him who intercedes, and may also confer the gift upon him. The intercessor may now bestow the gift upon him for whom intercession has been made. In this case he obtains the gift and confers it at the same time. So it is in relation to Christ.

Although He could have conferred his benefits upon us by the power of His Godhead, through which He regenerates and justifies us, yet, as God has decreed to raise the dead by man, and to judge the world by man, so He also determined to bestow these same gifts by the man Jesus, that He might be and continue to be Mediator, very God, and very man.

It was on this account also necessary that Christ should forever remain our brother, and our Head and that we, on the other hand, being engrafted into Him by a true faith, might always continue to be His members.

**John 5:4 "Abide in me and I in you"**

Our salvation has its foundation in the seed of David, as it is said

**Ez. 34:23 "My servant David shall feed them forever"**

But if his human nature had remained under the power of death, He would neither have been our brother, nor would we have been His members.

If Christ was, under the Old Testament, no less a mediator to the fathers and conferred upon them the very same blessings which He now bestows upon us in the New Testament, why was it necessary that He should for this cause become man and die?

## Adult study of Jesus Christ

It would not have been possible for Christ to have done the things, which He did under the Old Testament unless He had subsequently become man, and unless He would also remain such forever. Nor could He now do these things if He had not risen from the dead, or if He would not forever retain our nature that He has assumed.

John 5:27 "And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man."