

THE DOCTRINE OF THE APOSTLES

PART TWO

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THE DOCTRINE OF THE APOSTLES (PART 2)

In the last document I mentioned that Paul was standing trial for the hope of the resurrection which the twelve tribes were promised [READ ACTS 26:6, 7; ACTS 24:14, 15; ACTS 23:6]. It was the resurrection of the just and the unjust. In order to understand the resurrection one has to understand the nature of it. Traditional Christianity would say that the resurrection pertains to physical rising up of bodies from the gravesites. This is not what the Apostle Paul taught. It all goes back to the Garden of Eden. When Adam ate of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil he died a spiritual death. Spiritual death is separation from God. We notice that they were put out of the garden away from the presence of God. Paul says in the resurrection discourse that in Adam all die, even so in Christ we are made alive (1COR 15:22). All died a spiritual death because Adam did not die physically 'in that day'.

An interesting statement Paul makes to King Agrippa in the book of Acts. [READ ACTS 26:23]. Christ was not the first to rise from the dead physically in the New Testament because Lazarus rose physically and also there was a woman at Nain whose son dies and Jesus raised him physically from the dead. So what is Paul saying? It is obvious that Paul is saying that Christ was the first to rise from the Adamic death because the Father made Him who knew no sin to become sin for us [2 COR 5:21], [ROM 6:10]. Jesus suffered the separation from the Father for the sins of the people. He cried out on the cross 'MY FATHER, MY FATHER WHY HAVE YOU FORESAKEN ME'. Jesus did not come to restore physical death but spiritual death. [READ ROM 5:12-21]. Sin entered the world and death through sin and death reigned from Adam to Moses and that death was not solved by the Law of Moses. The Law of Moses magnified sin and sin abounded. [ROM 7:8-12].

Paul got his resurrection hope from the Old Covenant Prophets and Moses. The resurrection hope was Gods Old Covenant promises to Old Covenant Israel after the flesh. In the book of Corinthians Paul says that death is swallowed up in victory when the corruptible has put on incorruptible and the mortal has put on immortality. Paul is not talking about physical bodies here, he is talking about our stand before God [1COR 15:54-57]. He is quoting from the prophets Hosea and Isaiah. [READ ISA 25:6-8; HOSEA 13:14]. So when will this death be swallowed up? It will be when the Law of Moses is removed. Notice that Paul says that sin gave death its sting and the law was the strength of sin.[1COR 15:56]. The problem is that traditional Christianity would have us believe that the law was abolished at the cross. It was not. [READ HEB 8:13; MATT 5:17-18; GAL 4:21-31]. The writer to the Hebrews says that the Old Covenant was 'ready to vanish away'. In The book of Galatians Paul says that Ishmael and Isaac were dwelling together in the same house and there would come a time when Ishmael would be cast out.

The Law of Moses was taken away when Jesus returned in the clouds of glory within that same generation which was in AD 70 when the Jewish temple would be destroyed. The law was still in force after the cross because Israel's hope of resurrection was not fulfilled because the resurrection was found in the law and the prophets as Paul said. When the law was taken away spiritual death came to an end and the consummation of these things was at Zion. [READ ISA 25:6-9]. It is in Zion when death will be swallowed up.

The resurrection is putting off the old man and the putting on of the new man. It is from corruptibility to incorruptibility. It is from mortal to immortality. It is coming out of spiritual death to life and receiving eternal life in Christ Jesus. [READ COL 3:1-11; EPH 4:22-24; EPH1:15-2:10]. Notice that it is not about a change in the physical body. One must also realize that just because Jesus was raised physically, it does not mean that bodies will be raised physically from the gravesites. Jesus's physical resurrection was a sign [READ MATT 12:38-40]. A sign is not the actual event. A sign points to the event

Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to life [2TIM1:8-10]. Resurrection in the first century was also the transition from the ministration of death to the ministry of the Spirit, from the ministry of condemnation to the ministry of righteousness [READ 2COR 3:4-18]. It was going from the Old Covenant body of Moses to the body of Jesus Christ. It was all about being in Christ. Paul says in Adam all die, even so in Christ all are made alive. In the Old Covenant God set Ezekiel in the valley full of bones [READ EZEK 37:1-14]. They were dry bones and their hope was lost. God said that He will open their graves and cause them to come up. The word 'graves' here is not physical graves. They were not physically dead. Israel's hope was lost and they were cut off from the presence of God. They were spiritually dead. God said that He will put His Spirit in them. This is a resurrection from the dead. Jesus explained to Nicodemus almost the same thing [JN 3:1-6].

Those that are waiting for physical resurrection of bodies coming out of physical graves in the future will wait in vain. It is not a biblical doctrine and furthermore we are living in a Christian age that has no end. The first century saints were eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of their bodies [ROM 8:23], [PHIL3:20-21] at the return Jesus Christ. What they were hoping for in the first century, we as twenty first century believers have received full possession of it. We are not eagerly waiting for the redemption. Notice that in the Olivet Discourse in the book of Luke, concerning the destruction of the Jewish temple, Jesus makes a very important statement [Lk 21:28]. The destruction of the Jewish temple took place in AD 70. So from the above discussion it is clear that that the redemption of the bodies would be in AD 70 at the return of Jesus. It is important to realize that Jesus died on the cross to restore us from spiritual death and not physical death.

DOCUMENT 02/02

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