

THE *FIRST* TO RISE FROM THE DEAD



Jesus our Master, our Saviour, Leader and Bridegroom - was also *“the first to rise from the dead.”* This Discovery Lesson will investigate the resurrection of Jesus. How was he the ‘first’? Does being ‘the first’ imply that others will follow? Is his resurrection the same or different from what God has promised to us? Was his actual physical body raised, or something new created?

Below are other passages that speak of Jesus being the **FIRST** to rise. List any helpful details.

PASSAGE	COMMENTS & DETAILS
“... so I stand here... saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass : that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead , he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.” (Acts 26:22-23 NIV)	
“... Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead , and the ruler of kings on earth.” (Revelation 1:5)	
“And to the angel of the church in Laodicean write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. ’” (Revelation 3:14)	
“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead , that in everything he might be preeminent.” (Colossians 1:18)	

IMPORTANT DIGRESSION - THE NEW CREATION

Does ‘beginning’ mean the start of the Genesis creation? Or something before that? Or something new that happened after Genesis? _____

Look up the word **‘beginning’** from Col. 1:18 (Rev. 3:14 is the same word)

“BEGINNING”- *“He is the beginning”*

746 - arche - a commencement, or (concretely) chief (in various applications of order, time, place, or rank);-- beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule.

What is the Greek word? _____ What is the meaning? _____

How else has ‘arche’ been translated (look for all the words following the ‘;--’)

If you have a Computer Bible program, see how else 746 has been used in the N.T.. Does the word always refer to the Genesis creation?

In the passages below what helpful details can you find about the ‘**NEW CREATION**’ in Christ?

PASSAGES	COMMENTS & DETAILS
<p><i>“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself...”</i> (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)</p>	
<p><i>“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.”</i> (Galatians 6:14-15)</p>	
<p><i>“Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”</i> (John 3:3-6)</p>	
<p><i>“... to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”</i> (Ephesians 4:22-24)</p>	

What is the “**New Creation**” in Christ? How can believers be a part of this creation?

THE FIRST TO RISE FROM THE DEAD

How was Jesus the FIRST to rise from the dead? There were several miraculous resurrections in the Old Testament, and Jesus himself raised 2 men and a young lady. Was there a way in which his resurrection to life was different than all those that came before?

The following passage from Romans 6 helps to answers these questions.

*“**For one who has died has been set free from sin.** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, **will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.** For the death he died **he died to sin**, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.”* (Romans 6:7-10)

Record any details that you find helpful:

How was Jesus’ resurrection different from any that had occurred before?

THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BROTHERS

Will our resurrection be like the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

PASSAGE	COMMENTS & DETAILS
<p><i>"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ."</i> (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)</p>	
<p><i>"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."</i> (1 John 3:2)</p>	
<p><i>"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... For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."</i> (Romans 8:11,29)</p>	
<p><i>"... knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence... So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,"</i> (2 Corinthians 4:14-17)</p>	
<p><i>"... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead... But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."</i> (Philippians 3:10, 20-21)</p>	

In what way will our resurrection be like Jesus Christ's?

SOME WORDS TO CONSIDER:

What were the **"firstfruits"** in the Old Testament? The following two passages will be helpful:

Numbers 18:12,13 _____

Nehemiah 10:35 _____

How was Jesus the 'firstfruits' of the resurrection? _____

"RAISED" - *"he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus"* 2 Cor. 4:17

1453 - egeiro - probably akin to the base of 58 (through the idea of collecting one's faculties); to waken (transitively or intransitively), i.e. rouse (literally, from sleep, from sitting or lying, from disease, from death; or figuratively, from obscurity, inactivity, ruins, nonexistence):--awake, lift (up), raise (again, up), rear up, (a)-rise (again, up), stand, take up.

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

What picture does this present in your mind? _____

How does this word relate to the way in which Jesus spoke of death and resurrection? (John 11:11) _____

"TRANSFORM" - *"will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body"* Phil.3:21

3345 - metaschematizo - to transfigure or disguise; figuratively, to apply (by accommodation):--transfer, transform (self).

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

“**LIKE**” - “*will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body*” Philippians 3:21

4832 - summorphos - jointly formed, i.e. (figuratively) similar:--conformed to, fashioned like unto.

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

DIGRESSION TWO - HOW IMPORTANT IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST?

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was a crucial sacrifice required by God for the sins of mankind, but how often do we think about the importance of the resurrection? Yet Paul says, “*For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if **Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.***” (1 Corinthians 15:16-18)

“**PERISHED**” - “*those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*”

622 - apollumi - to destroy fully (reflexively, to perish, or lose), literally or figuratively:--destroy, die, lose, mar, perish.

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

If you have a Bible Program you may find it interesting to investigate where else this word has been used. Four passages are given below. Record any interesting points:

Matthew 10:28 (KJV *destroy = apollumi*) _____

Luke 15:4 (KJV *lose = apollumi*) _____

John 3:16 (KJV *perish = apollumi*) _____

2 Thessalonians 2:10 (KJV *perish = apollumi*) _____

If, without Christ’s resurrection, “*those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished*” what does this tell us about the state of the dead, and the importance of resurrection in the future?

WHAT PART OF JESUS WAS RAISED?

If we are to be raised like Jesus was, it is helpful to understand his resurrection. Was his literal earthly body raised? Or was there a part of him that was raised? Or did some part of him leave his dead body? The following verses specifically answer these questions:

PASSAGE	COMMENTS & DETAILS
<p>"So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. (John 2:18-22)</p>	
<p>"... this Jesus... God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption." "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses."(Acts 2:22-32 - QUOTE FROM PSALM 16:9-10) (FOR 'witnesses' see Acts 1:1-4)</p>	
<p>"And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way... "You will not let your Holy One see corruption." For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, but he whom God raised up did not see corruption." (Acts 13:34-37)</p>	

SOME WORDS TO CONSIDER:

"FLESH" - "*my flesh also will dwell in hope.*"

"Flesh" 4561 - sarx - flesh (as stripped of the skin), i.e. (strictly) the meat of an animal (as food), or (by extension) the body (as opposed to the soul (or spirit), or as the symbol of what is external, or as the means of kindred), or (by implication) human nature (with its frailties (physically or morally) and passions), or (specially), a human being (as such):--carnal(-ly, + -ly minded), flesh(-ly).

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

"ABANDON" - "*you will not abandon my soul to Hades*"

"Abandon" - 1459 egkatalaipo - to leave behind in some place, i.e. (in a good sense) let remain over, or (in a bad sense) to desert:--forsake, leave.

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

"SOUL" - "*you will not abandon my soul to Hades*"

"Soul" 5590 - psuche - breath, ie. (by implication) spirit, abstractly or concretely (the animal sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from 4151, which is the rational and immortal soul; and on the other form 2222, which is mere vitality, even of plants: these terms thus exactly correspond respectively to the Hebrew 5315, 7307 and 2416):--heart(+ily), life, mind, soul, +us, +you.

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

“HADES” - “*you will not abandon my soul to Hades*”

“Hades” - 86 - hades - properly, unseen, i.e. “hades” or the place (state) of departed souls:--grave, hell.

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

“CORRUPTION” - “*nor did his flesh see corruption*”

“Corruption” - 1312 - decay:--corruption. From 1311 diaphtheiro - to rot thoroughly, i.e. (by implication) to ruin (passively, decay utterly, figuratively, pervert):--corrupt, destroy, perish.

Greek word _____ Meaning _____

How is it translated? _____

Was Jesus’ earthly body raised? Or was something new created? Or was just a part of him resurrected?

THE LINEAGE OF CHRIST

Is there any special significance to whether or not Jesus’ earthly body was raised? What connections are there between his earthly body and his lineage?

PASSAGE	COMMENTS & DETAILS
“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel ” (2 Timothy 2:8)	
“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ” (Matthew 1:1; Luke 3:23-38)	
“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,” (Romans 1:1-3)	
“The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.” (Psalm 132:11-12)	
“When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body , and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever . I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. ” (2 Samuel 7:12-14)	
“And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High . And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David , and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. ” (Luke 1:30-33)	

In SUMMARY:

Was Jesus earthly body raised? _____

What significance does Scripture put on his earthly lineage? _____

In what way will our resurrection be like his? _____

