

# ALL MEN WILL BE RAISED

The resurrection of the dead is a fundamental tenet of Christianity. Its reality is both revealed and defended in the New Testament. Believers in Jesus Christ are assured that the resurrection is true because the Lord Himself was raised up on the third day after being brutally executed by Roman crucifixion (Luke 24:6-7; I Corinthians 15:4).

Worldly people mock the resurrection of the dead. Some men in New Testament times, like today, refused to believe the truth. For example, Sadducees claimed that there was no such thing as a resurrection (Luke 20:27). Jesus argued that the dead are raised based upon the fact that Moses “*called the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’*” (20:37). All Jews did not agree with the Sadducees because the sect of Pharisees confessed the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:7-8). Martha confessed to Jesus the resurrection to occur at the last day (John 11:24).

Jesus Christ taught that there will be a resurrection of ALL the dead one day. The authority He possesses as the Son of God includes the power to call forth the dead from the grave, from the realm of departed spirits. “*Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. . . . Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth*” (John 5:25, 28-29). Jesus explained to Martha, “*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*” (John 11:25). Jesus shortly confirmed this revelation by raising her brother Lazarus from the dead (11:43-44).

“*But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*” (I Corinthians 15:20). The firstfruits of a harvest are the precursor to what is to follow – that is more fruit to come. If by the resurrection from the dead Jesus is the firstfruits of the dead, then others will likewise be raised up from the dead. Jesus is described as the forerunner, too (Hebrews 6:19-20). He has run on before us and entered the heavenly presence of God the Father, waiting for the day when saints will be raised and ascend to heaven to be forever with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

The apostle Paul compared the resurrection of the body from the dead to sowing seed. “*What you sow is not made alive unless it dies.*” (I Corinthians 15:36). “*The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.*” (42) “*It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.*” (44) “*The spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.*” (46) “*So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’*” (54) “*Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” (57)