

BGM BIBLE COLLEGE

Eschatology Lecture 5

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Concerning the resurrection, we learned:

- Both the Old and New Testaments bear witness thereof.
- The resurrection shall be bodily; for as the body goeth down into the grave, so shall the body come forth.
- Both the righteous and the wicked shall rise: the righteous unto reward, and the wicked unto condemnation.
- The resurrection is the work of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Why the Resurrection is Needful

We also learned why the doctrine of the resurrection is necessary:

1. **For the deity of Christ:** If Christ be not risen, His divinity is doubted. But because He is risen, His Sonship and Godhead are confirmed.
2. **For our faith:** If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain (**1 Corinthians 15:14**).
3. **For our discipleship:** His rising again is a pattern and model that we should also die unto sin and rise unto newness of life.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive? The first Adam brought death by disobedience; the second Adam, which is Christ, brought life by obedience.

Of the Second Coming of Christ

Beloved, the third matter in the doctrine of last things is **the Second Coming of Christ**. The next week, by the grace of God, we shall also study **the Millennial Kingdom** of Christ, and afterward **the Final Judgment**. These things are not small, but weighty; yea, they are the pillars of Christian Eschatology.

If a man cover not these four matters, he fulfilled not the demands of Christian doctrine concerning the last things. Even as a stool with four legs standeth firm, so likewise Eschatology rested upon four foundations:

1. The resurrection of the dead.
2. The Second Coming of Christ.
3. The Millennial Kingdom.
4. The Final Judgment.

If one be lacking, the whole falleth. One hath already been taught with proofs, and two more we shall consider next week. But now let us proceed unto the study of the **Second Coming of Christ**.

The Nature of His Coming

What saith the Scripture? The Coming of Christ shall be:

- **Visible:** Every eye shall see Him.
- **Personal:** He Himself shall come, and not another in His stead.
- **Sudden:** At an hour when men think not, He shall appear.
- **Glorious:** He shall come in His glorified body.

Even as the angels said unto the men of Galilee, *“This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven”* ([Acts 1:11](#)).

Proofs are found in the Gospel according to Matthew 24:44, in the Gospel according to [John 14:3](#), in the First Epistle to the [Thessalonians 4:16](#), and in the Epistle to the [Hebrews 9:28](#).

The Signs of His Coming

Though the day and the hour none knoweth, yet the Word of God declared signs that show forth the nearness of His appearing.

The first of these is the **Preaching of the Gospel among all nations**. For it is written: *“And the gospel must first be published among all nations”* ([Mark 13:10](#)).

And again, *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”* ([Matthew 24:14](#)).

Thus it behoveth that the good news be declared in every tongue and to every people, both to the Jews, God’s chosen nation, and also to the Gentiles, that all may hear the message of salvation. For the promise made unto Abraham was this: *“In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed”* ([Genesis 12:3](#)).

Therefore salvation, though it began among the Jews, is now proclaimed also unto the Gentiles; for as many as received Him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God.

The Gospel Must Be Preached Unto All Ethne

The Lord Jesus said: *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations (ethne); and then shall the end come”* ([Matthew 24:14](#)).

Beloved, the Greek word rendered *nations* is **ethne**, signifying not political states only, but every race, tribe, and tongue. The Gospel must therefore reach **every ethnicity, every tribe, every people-group**, ere the end be revealed.

Many yet remain without the Word of God in their tongue. Yea, unto this day countless tribes have no Scripture in their language. Let us remember, the Bible came not unto us on some mighty ship, but through the blood of martyrs. William Tyndale was burned alive, only

because he translated the Scriptures. The Bible we now hold came floating upon their sacrifice.

Therefore the charge of Christ remained: *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”* (**Mark 16:15**). And what is this Gospel? It is the **good news**: *“That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”* (**1 Corinthians 15:3–4**).

The Great Tribulation

The second sign before His Coming is the time of **Great Tribulation**.

The prophets declare that there shall be a season of great distress, a seven-year period, divided into two parts of three years and a half.

Two divine purposes shall be accomplished therein:

1. **The purification of Israel** — Daniel wrote: *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy”* (**Daniel 9:24**). This time is for Israel’s discipline and sanctification.
2. **The judgment of the ungodly** — From Revelation 6 unto 18 we read of plagues, judgments, and woes poured out upon the nations that believe not.

Thus the prophet Jeremiah testified: *“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it”* (**Jeremiah 30:7**).

False Prophets and False Teachers

The third sign before His Coming is the rise of **false prophets** and **false teachers**. For it is written:

“For false Christ’s and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect” (**Mark 13:22**).

How shall we discern them? Their teaching shall appear fair, yet it shall contradict the Word of God. It may stir the emotions, yet it shall not accord with the truth of Scripture. Every glittering word is not gold; every message called ‘gospel’ is not the Gospel of Christ.

The Apostle Paul warned: *“If he that cometh preached another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him”* (**2 Corinthians 11:4**).

Thus a true teacher exalts the Christ of Scripture, and not another; a false one turned men away from Him.

The Marks of False Teachers

1. They Contradict the Holy Scriptures

Beloved, every teaching must be weighed by the Word of God. If any man teaches contrary to the doctrine of Christ, he is a deceiver. For the Apostle warned:

“Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8).

Therefore, the true meaning of every verse must be according to the mind of the inspired author, and not according to the imagination of men. The Prophet wrote by the Spirit; the interpreter must discover the author’s intent, not invent his own.

2. They Add Unto or Take Away From the Word

The false teacher shall either add to the Word or diminish from it. Yet it is written:

“If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life” (Revelation 22:18–19).

Thus we must speak that which is written, neither more nor less.

3. They Claim Secret Revelation beyond Scripture

Another mark of a false prophet is this: he boasted of a special knowledge or new revelation, which is not found in the Holy Scriptures. But the Spirit of God cannot contradict Himself. For the same Spirit who gave the written Word shall not deliver a prophecy contrary to it.

The Scripture commanded: *“Despise not prophesying’s. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:20–21).*

Every prophecy must be tested by the written Word, even as cotton is tested by the hand that knoweth true cloth from false.

4. They Confuse Emotions with the Truth of God

Beloved, God indeed used emotions; for it is written: *“Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God” (Ephesians 4:30).* Yet emotions alone are not the measure of truth. Many are carried away by zeal, tears, or joy, yet stand not in sound doctrine.

The false teacher stirred the feelings, but led not unto truth. The Word of God is the foundation, emotions are but the handmaids.

5. They Preach a Prosperity Gospel

Finally, beware the preaching of worldly prosperity as the Gospel. For the Gospel, according to the Scriptures, is this:

“That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day” (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

The message of the cross included suffering. The Apostle saith: *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).*

Therefore, the Gospel bringeth eternal life, but not the promise of a life without trial. For God is more concerned with the shaping of our character than the removal of our troubles.

