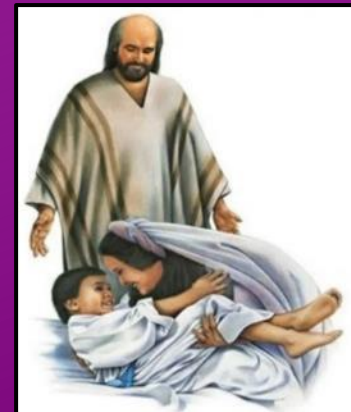


RESURRECTIONS BEFORE THE CROSS



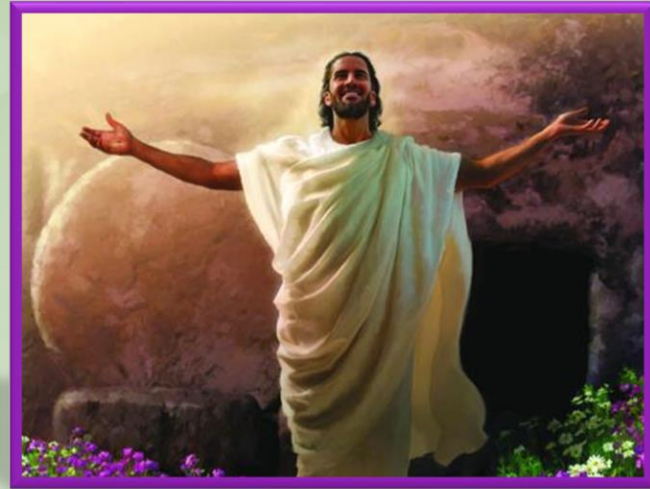
Lesson 5 for October 29, 2022



“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die forever. Do you believe this?’” (John 11:25, 26 LEB)



The resurrection of Jesus guarantees our future resurrection (1Co. 15:20 NIV). That's the reason He's considered "the first to rise from the dead" (Acts 26:23). However, other people were resurrected before He was. Those stories can be found both in the Old and New testaments. Nevertheless, all of them (except Moses) died again.



- ➡ The first resurrection: Moses
- ➡ Two similar cases: at Zarephath and at Shunam
- ➡ An interrupted burial: at Nain
- ➡ The girl who was sleeping: Jairus' daughter
- ➡ An extreme case: Lazarus

THE FIRST RESURRECTION: MOSES

"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" (Jude 1:9)

The resurrection of Moses was peculiar:



He was 120 years old when he died. Other people who were resurrected were young when they died (Dt. 34:7)



Nobody saw Moses after his resurrection. We know about it from prophetic revelation (Jude 9)



Moses was resurrected like we will be, with an incorruptible body (1Co. 15:52)



He didn't die again because he appeared before Jesus during His ministry (Lk. 9:28-36)

Jesus had not died at the cross yet. Therefore, Satan believed he owned Moses' body and fought for it. Note that he didn't fight for Moses' spirit or soul, but for his physical transformed body. Moses ascended to Heaven with a corporeal body, not as an ethereal being.

E. G. W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 46, p. 421)

“Moses upon the mount of transfiguration was a witness to Christ's victory over sin and death. He represented those who shall come forth from the grave at the resurrection of the just. Elijah, who had been translated to heaven without seeing death, represented those who will be living upon the earth at Christ's second coming, and who will be ‘changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;’ when ‘this mortal must put on immortality,’ and ‘this corruptible must put on incorruption.’ 1 Corinthians 15:51-53”

TWO SIMILAR CASES: AT ZAREPHATH AND AT SHUNAM

"Women received their dead raised to life again." (Hebrews 11:35)

Zarephath was located in Phoenicia, and Sunem was located in Israel. A child was resurrected in each city by Elijah and Elisha, respectively. These miracles were possible thanks to the faith of the mothers.

They hosted the prophet because he was a prophet (1K. 17:9; 2K. 4:9-10; Mt. 10:41)

They sought help from the prophet when death struck (1K. 17:17-18; 2K. 4:27-28)

The prophet got involved and made the miracle in the room that had been prepared for him (1K. 17:19-22; 2K. 4:32-35)

Finally, they received their children back alive (1K. 17:23; 2K. 4:36)

One woman was widow and poor. The other was married and rich. Death strikes everyone, but God's grace is available for everyone too. No matter who we are, God always hears a cry full of faith.



“So was the faith of this woman [the Shunammite] rewarded. Christ, the great Life-giver, restored her son to her. In like manner will His faithful ones be rewarded, when, at His coming, death loses its sting and the grave is robbed of the victory it has claimed. Then will He restore to His servants the children that have been taken from them by death.”

E. G. W. (Prophets and Kings, cp. 19, p. 239)

AN INTERRUPTED BURIAL: AT NAIN



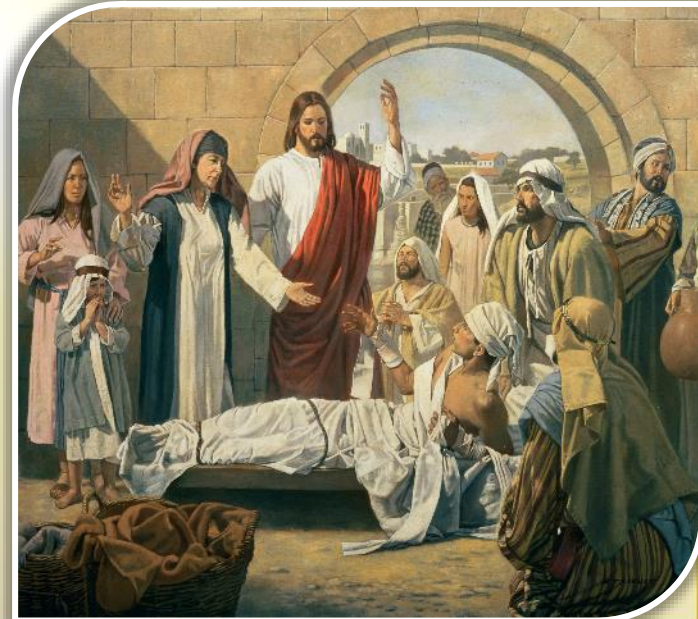
“Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’” (Luke 7:14)

Jesus made a miracle although nobody asked for it. The mother didn’t show a sign of faith. Jesus just resurrected the young man and gave him back to his mother (Lk. 7:11-15).

Death was incompatible with Life (Jn. 14:6). Jesus put an end to the weeping and transformed it into joy.

People were astonished: “They were all filled with awe and praised God. ‘A great prophet has appeared among us,’ they said. ‘God has come to help his people.’” (Luke 7:16 NIV)

God makes miracles even in favor of those who don’t ask for help or feel undeserving. He does it because He loves us.



“He who stood beside the sorrowing mother at the gate of Nain, watches with every mourning one beside the bier. He is touched with sympathy for our grief. His heart, that loved and pitied, is a heart of unchangeable tenderness. His word, that called the dead to life, is no less efficacious now than when spoken to the young man of Nain.”

THE GIRL WHO WAS SLEEPING: JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

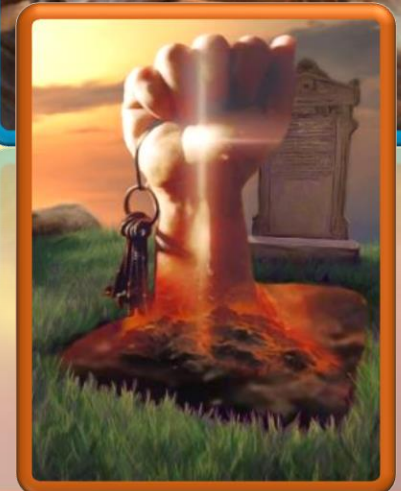
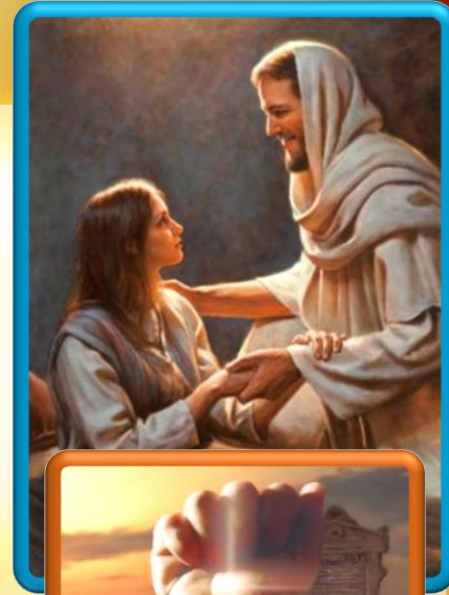
"When He came in, He said to them, 'Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.'" (Mark 5:39)

Everyone was sure that the girl was dead (Mr. 5:35, 38), but Jesus said she was just sleeping (Mr. 5:39). He just asked her to wake up: "Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, 'Talitha, cumi,' which is translated, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.'" (Mr. 5:41)



Death looks like the end from our perspective. We cannot do anything to get out of it. From God's perspective, death is just like sleeping. He just needs to wake us up so we can live again.

Jesus has the keys of death (Rev. 1:18). Everyone lives to Him because everyone will be resurrected (Lk. 20:38). He will keep us alive forever if we accept Him as our Savior today.



“Instantly a tremor passed through the unconscious form. The pulses of life beat again. The lips unclosed with a smile. The eyes opened widely as if from sleep, and the maiden gazed with wonder on the group beside her. She arose, and her parents clasped her in their arms, and wept for joy.”

E. G. W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 36, p. 343)

AN EXTREME CASE: LAZARUS

"Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, 'Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.'" (John 11:39)

All the resurrections before Lazarus' took place hours after the person died. However, Lazarus' body was already rotting.

Despite Lazarus' state, Jesus still considered he was sleeping so He was going to wake him up (Jn. 11:11-14).

The resurrection of Lazarus is indubitable proof that Jesus has power to give life: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11:25)



Martha was asked about the resurrection, and she expressed her faith in our future resurrection (Jn. 11:23-24). She didn't think she would see her brother again before that moment. She didn't think her brother was already in Heaven either.

“Had Christ been in the sick-room, Lazarus would not have died; for Satan would have had no power over him. In the presence of the Lifegiver, death could not have aimed his dart at Lazarus.... He permitted Lazarus to pass under the dominion of death, and the suffering sisters saw their brother laid in the grave. Christ knew that as they looked on the face of their dead brother, their faith in their Redeemer would be severely tried. Thus He was pruning the branches, that they might bring forth more fruit. He knew that because of the struggle through which they were now passing, their faith would shine forth with far greater power.”

E. G. W. (Sons and Daughters of God, March 26)

“God's chosen ones may fall at their post of duty, but they have only fallen asleep, to rest till Jesus awakes them to share with Him an eternal weight of glory.”

E. G. W. (The Upward Look, September 15)