

# LIVING Souls

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EXPLORING HOW GOD'S BREATH IN US IMPACTS OUR ETERNAL DESTINY

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

~ Genesis 2:7 ~

## MANY "RESUSCITATIONS"

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Resuscitation? When used in this discussion *resuscitation* refers to those who were genuinely DEAD and actually RAISED to life again, but they do not yet have a GLORIFIED body.

### EXAMPLES OF RESUSCITATION

In each of the following examples the individual was given back their OLD body.

1. Widow of Zarephath's son (1 Kings 17:17-24)
2. Shunammite woman's son (2 Kings 4:18-37)
3. The anonymous Israelite man (2Kgs 13:20-21)
4. The Widow's only son (Luke 7:11-17)
5. Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:52-56)
6. Lazarus (John 11)
7. Various saints (Matthew 27:50-53)
8. Tabitha, or Dorcus (Acts 9:36-43)
9. Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12)

### WHAT ABOUT JESUS?

Jesus' resurrection differs significantly with all these in one dynamic way...

- A GLORIFIED body
- ASCENSION to heaven
- He never died again!

# ONE RAPTURE

Once must consider the topic of a *rapture*. It stands to reason that at the *Second Return of Jesus Christ*, some believers will be living and never actually experience death.

Although theologically the word *rapture* refers a very specific event, for the purpose of our study I will use the term in a general sense to refer to the eventual event of the Lord's return where living believers do not actually experiencing death, but actually are immediately changed.

The word *rapture* comes from the Latin translation of the words "caught up" found in 1 Thessalonians 4:17:

*1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 ~ 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

*1 Corinthians 15:51-54 ~ 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

Death indeed is swallowed up; Paul points out that some will not even see death!

1. In the rapture believers are IMMEDIATELY changed
2. In the rapture believers are given a completely NEW body. Think old Mini, new Mini.

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# FIVE RESURRECTIONS?

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There are perhaps as many as five different resurrection times. Some refer to these as "stages."

## # 1 JESUS CHRIST

First-fruits? Yes! Jesus Christ was the first one to actually die, rise again from the dead, receive a glorified body, and go to the Father. We shall enjoy the same kind of body and experience.

*1 Corinthians 15:20-23 ~ 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

## # 2 BELIEVERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND COMING

First Thessalonians teaches the beginning of the Second Coming of Christ will include a resurrection.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 ~ 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

## # 3 TRIBULATION SAINTS?

Whatever your view of the Tribulation, does Revelation 6 indicate that there are intermittent resurrections during this period of time?

*Revelation 6:9-11 ~ 9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

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## # 4 BELIEVERS AT THE "FIRST" RESURRECTION

This resurrection occurs at the end of Christ's Second Coming, having already endured a great tribulation.

*Revelation 20:4-6 ~ 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

Daniel refers a similar time:

*Daniel 12:1-3 ~ 1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

## # 5 UNBELIEVERS AT THE "SECOND" RESURRECTION?

The second resurrection is implied, and indicated to occur at the end of the thousand years.<sup>1</sup> Because a blessing is mentioned uniquely for the *first* resurrection, one might assume that the *second* is only a negative experience for unbelievers.

*Revelation 20:4-6 ~ 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

# NOBODY WANTS TO BE NAKED!

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Amazing that to both the Corinthians and the Thessalonians the truths of the rapture and resurrection were given to the church for the purpose of comfort.

*2 Corinthians 5:1-8 ~1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.*

*6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

A proper view of the resurrection will provide the believer with two things:

1. COMFORT \_\_\_\_\_, FOR WE WILL BE "CLOTHED."
2. CONFIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_, FOR WE WILL BE WITH GOD.

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<sup>1</sup> There are differing opinions as to whether these *first* and *second* resurrections refer to nature or sequence.