**The Gospel of John:**

**Two Resurrections**

*John 5:25-29*

**Context**

**Hebrews 9:27** tells us “it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment.” For the believer, there are two resurrections that will occur—spiritual and physical. Believers are resurrected spiritually when God grants them salvation through faith in Christ’s work on their behalf. They are born again (regenerated). The person who was once dead in their sins (Ephesians 2:1) is now made alive in Him (2:5).

**Romans 6:4**—*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

Additionally, we know that this physical body will decay and wear out. But we will receive a new body that will never decay.

**Philippians 3:20-21**—*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;****21****who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*

That is incredible hope for those who are in Christ.

For those who die in their sins (and not in Christ), because they have never experienced spiritual resurrection, they will be raised to face the Lord in eternal judgment at the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-15).

***John 5:25-29****—****Truly, truly****, I say to you, an hour* ***is coming*** *and* ***now is****, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.****26****For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;****27****and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.****28Do not marvel*** *at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,****29****and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

**The truths of 2 resurrections**

1. **Spiritual resurrection for the believer, vv25-26**
2. God is giving life, v25

**Truly, truly** (amen, amen)—this is setting the context for an emphatic declaration

1. **Now is**—Jesus even then giving life to those who believe. **Ephesians 2:1**—*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*

**Ephesians 2:5-6**—*even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),* ***6****and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*

**Colossians 2:13**—*When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions*

1. **Is coming**—There will be a physical resurrection that is yet to come  
    **1 Corinthians 15:53-54**—*For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.****54****But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory.*

The already/not yet sense of the phrase may also be understood in another way. While Christ was present, He offered spiritual life to all who would heed His words (6:37; Matt 7:24-27; John 14:6). Yet the full expression of the new era He inaugurated would not come until the day of Pentecost (John 14:17). Both during Christ’s earthly ministry, and in the fullness of the Spirit’s ministry after Pentecost, the spiritually dead who responded to the voice of the Son of God would live in the Spirit (cf. Romans 8:1-11). [[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Believers were once dead in their sins

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**—*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,****10****nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.****11Such were some of you; but*** *you were washed,* ***but*** *you were sanctified,* ***but*** *you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

**Romans 6:13**—… *and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

**Ephesians 5:14**— *For this reason it says, “Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.”*

**1 John 3:14**—*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.*

1. The Father has life  
     
   You cannot give what you do not have. You can choose to give what you do have.
2. The Father gave the Son also to have life in Himself, v26
   1. The Son can give life (v21)
   2. The Son has life  
        
      **John 1:2, 4**—*He was in the beginning with God. … In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.*
   3. When the Son became incarnate, He did not cease being God. Rather, He voluntarily gave up the independent use of His divine attributes.

**Philippians 2:6-7**—*who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,****7****but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*

Cf. **John 5:19**—Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

**John 5:30**—*I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

**John 8:28**—*So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.*

* 1. The Father granted the Son authority to give life (spiritual and physical)

1. **Physical resurrection for all, vv27-29**
   * 1. All judgment has been given to the Son

**Son of Man**—a term used frequently by Jesus to identify Himself; Messianic in nature

**Daniel 7:13-14**—*I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.* ***14****“And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.*

**Hebrews 4:15**—*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

**Hebrews 2:14-18**—*Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,****15****and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.****16****For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.****17****Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.****18****For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.*

* + 1. All will rise from the dead

**Do not marvel**—the statement that follows was going to be shocking; His truth claims were often shocking in that they we

* + 1. All who are in the tombs is prophetic
       1. For the believer, the souls are with the Lord

**2 Corinthians 5:6-8**—*Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while 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 of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.*

* + - 1. For the unbeliever, the soul is in torment

**Luke 16:22-23**—*Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.****23****In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far a way and Lazarus in his bosom.*

1. Those who hear His voice will come forth

Staggering Power!

**Philippians 3:10**—*that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death*

1. Good deeds to a resurrection of life; Evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment

**John 6:29**—*Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”*

**Romans 4:2-4**—*For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.****3****For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”****4****Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.*

Good works are simply the evidence of true salvation—“fruit”

**Luke 6:43-45**—*For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit.****44****For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush.****45****The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.*

1. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, John 1-11, John MacArthur, p. 196. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)