

16. Jesus Taught About the Two Resurrections

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the fact that those who choose to honor Jesus and receive Him while they are here, on this earth receive everlasting life. We also want to help our children learn to explain the way to have that abundant life that Jesus died to provide. In this topic, we will see that Jesus went on to teach that there are two resurrections.

Jesus said that all people will be raised from the grave. John 5:25-27 says, “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. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.” All people who die will be raised from the grave. Those who have placed their faith in Jesus will be raised to eternal life as we saw in the previous topic. Those who have not placed their faith in Jesus will be raised for judgment and will then experience eternal judgment. That judgment is described in Revelation 20:15, where we read, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

These verses focus on those who have heard the Word of God and placed their faith in Jesus. We see that the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. At the moment of physical death, our soul and spirit go immediately to be with the Lord in heaven and our body goes to the grave. When Jesus comes at the Rapture, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 tells us that He will bring our souls and spirits with Him. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” Here, we see that our dead bodies will be raised and rejoined with our souls and spirits. All those who hear the voice of the Lord will live and experience everlasting life.

We read that the Father has life in Himself. We also see that the Father has granted to the Son to have life in Himself. John 1:3-4 says, “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” From these verses we see that Jesus is the One who created all things and gave life to all at the time of creation. We also see that the Son is the One who has been given the authority for all judgment. In His prayer to the Father the night before His crucifixion, Jesus said in John 17:2, “As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.” In this prayer, we see that the Father gave Jesus authority over all flesh. As a result, Jesus is the One who gives eternal life to all those who place their faith in Him. That is why Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” Jesus is the One who has authority in both heaven and earth.

Jesus went on to explain in more detail that some would be raised to eternal life and some would be raised to eternal judgment. John 5:28-30 says, “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—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek

My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” Here, we see that there will be a day when all those who are in the grave will hear the voice of Jesus and be raised from the dead. However, there will be a very different end after they are raised to life.

Jesus said that those who have done good will be raised to the resurrection of life. The word translated “good” means *that which is good in its character and beneficial in its effects*. John 3:21 says, “But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” Here, we see that those who have come to Christ for life will do those works that are according to truth. It will be very clear that the works of such individuals are done through the power of God.

In contrast, John 3:20 says, “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.” Here, we see why those who have not repented of their sin do not come to the light. They realize that their evil works will be exposed by the light. Such individuals realize that their works are evil in their character. They will be raised from the dead to the resurrection of condemnation. The resurrection of condemnation is the judgment of Satan and all those who continue to follow him. John 16:11 says, “Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” Satan has already been judged and is waiting for the sentence to be carried out. Those who continue to follow him will share his judgment with him for all eternity.

We also see that this judgment by Jesus is a righteous judgment. This judgment is also in agreement with the will of the Father. Jesus just said a little while earlier in John 5:19, “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’” Here, we see that the judgment by Jesus is always in agreement with the will of the Father because they are both righteous and both hate evil. In fact, Jesus said that He did not seek His own will. Instead, we see that Jesus always seeks to do the will of the Father. However, their wills are in perfect agreement because they are both righteous.

Jesus did not just depend on His own witness about the fact that He judges according to truth. We see that there are four others witnesses whose testimony is in agreement with Jesus. John 5:31-36 says, “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.” Two of the witnesses are mentioned in these verses and the other two witnesses will be mentioned in the following verses in our next topic.

Jesus said that His witness should not be believed if He was the only One that gave testimony about Himself. Here, we see that Jesus was following the instructions given in the Old Testament. A person could not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Deuteronomy 17:6 says, “Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses;

he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.” Jesus knew that the Jews were trying to accuse Him of blasphemy. Such a judgment carried the death penalty. As a result, that is why Jesus said that there were additional witnesses of the statements that He made about Himself.

The first witness that Jesus mentioned was John the Baptist. Mark 1:6-8 says, “Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, ‘There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’” John said that the One coming after Him was so great that he was not even worthy to loose the sandal of Jesus. Then, John 1:33-34 adds, “I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” Here, we see that John gave verbal testimony of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus said that John had a mighty witness during the time that he was preaching. Many people came to him and were baptized by him. However, his most important ministry was to give witness of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. People enjoyed listening to John during the time that he was preaching. They had recognized that he was a burning and shining light that came from God. They were willing to enjoy that light for as long as John had the opportunity to preach.

However, Jesus said that there was a greater witness than John. Jesus said that the works which that Father gave Jesus to finish on this earth provided a greater witness than even the ministry of John the Baptist. These works were the miracles Jesus did during the time that He was preaching. In fact, we have already seen that seven of the miracles that Jesus did are recorded in the book of John as signs to the people. John 20:30-31 says, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” Here, we see that the miracles that Jesus did were done as signs so that people would believe in His name. Jesus said that the works that He did were a witness that the Father had sent Him.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand each of the formal witnesses that the Father gave to prove that the testimony of Jesus was true. When they fully understand the testimony of each of these witnesses, they will be able to explain to others why we can know for sure that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to this earth to give life to all who will believe. May the Lord richly bless you as you equip your children to share this message with others.