

MSB256

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder - David R. Hetteema, Director

WHEN IT COMES, RESURRECTIONS BEGIN

Resurrection in the Kingdom of God

by David R. Hetteema

The bronze plaque in the beautiful California cemetery, inscribed with the words "Waiting for the kingdom of God," marks the grave-sites of Otis and Mildred Sellers, both believers in Jesus Christ, two wonderful people who are always in the memories of many grateful friends. Their faith in the Word of God gave them this expectation: that the next thing for them is to hear the voice of the Son of God calling them to resurrection and to life on this earth under God's government. Our Lord gave us a clear example of this miraculous event when He called the dead Lazarus by his name, "Lazarus come forth," and he that was dead came forth (John 11:43-44). In His earthly ministry Jesus declared: **Truly, truly, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live** (John 5:25). This is a promise that God will keep.

The voice of the Son of God is silent today; there is no manifest sight or sound from heaven during this present behind the scenes administration of His grace, but one day that voice that raised Lazarus will speak powerfully and manifestly to raise millions from the dead in their resurrection order. When Jesus Christ who is "The Resurrection and the Life" assumes sovereignty over the earth, He will exercise His great authority among the living and the dead of all nations. "He will set the order for the living and the dead at His appearing (*epiphaneia*) even His kingdom" (2 Tim. 4:1). One of the appellatives for God's government is "The Resurrection" it is God's answer to our enemy death. Otis Q. Sellers in issue number **SB032** of Seed & Bread made this statement regarding death: *When God in Christ takes to Himself His great power and reigns over the earth, the seat of His*

government will be in heaven. Jesus Christ will remain centered in this seat of government until all His enemies are subject to Him. Death is the first enemy to become absolutely subject to Him, and it is the last enemy to be abolished (1 Cor. 15:26).

A resurrection to life in the kingdom of God is the promise of God to every believer living, or in the state of death. To become a "believer" an individual must take a word or statement of God that is directed toward him and respond accordingly to that word or statement (see John 20:31). An individual also becomes an "unbeliever" by refusing or ignoring that word or statement of God directed toward him. Both of these choices are a definite act of a person's will. The believer and the unbeliever will both be raised in resurrection; however the believer will be a part of the earliest resurrection order and the unbeliever will be part of the last resurrection order. These two different resurrection orders are separated by as much as 1500 years. The apostle Paul spoke about these marvelous events as he revealed God's truth concerning the full scope of the resurrections: **For as in Adam all die** (are dying), **even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: ...** (1 Cor 15 :22-23). **It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment** (Hebrews 9: 27).

Without doubt, the Word of God declares that there will be a personal, individual resurrection in the future for all that are in the graves, every one in their own order, the good and the bad, the little children and the most ancient. Eventually, every human being since the creation of Adam will have their resurrection day. Jesus also said, **Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation** (*krisis*, a judgment, for those raised at the great white throne, (Rev. 20:11-15).

Resurrection is the restoration of life to one who is dead, it is an act of God that takes one from among the dead and places him among the living. All the dead will be raised in their order but not all will be raised to live in the kingdom of God. That privileged order of resurrection will be characterized by believers of all times who having "done good" by their faith in God's Word will inherit their portion among "those which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead" (Luke 20:35).

In 1 Corinthians 15 (a portion of scripture that is often referred to as the resurrection chapter), at verse 35 Paul the writer anticipates a question that all of us would like to hear answered; **But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?** When men die, they expire (last breath out), death is a return. **Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit** (*ruwach*, breath of life) **shall return unto God who gave it** (Eccl 12:7). Death is the reverse of man's original creation in Gen. 2:7.

The dead are raised up by the power of Christ's resurrection. The answer to that part of the question, "with what body do they come?" is found in both the Old and New Testaments. Resurrection is a re-creation in the sense that we will again have a new body made from the soil of the ground, freed from all the effects of sin, made alive by God's breath of life and sustained by the great outflow of *eonian* life (life outflowing from God). The Scriptures rightly call this a spiritual body since anything direct from God is spiritual (the manna and the water in the wilderness were both called spiritual).

Our fingerprints, our personal DNA pattern, even the very hairs of our heads, are certified by our creator. Jesus said: **Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows** (Luke 12:6-7). Hear the God inspired words of righteous Job as he contemplated his own resurrection: **For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.** (Job 19:25-27). **If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.** (Job 14:14-15).

When the Son of Man calls an individual to life in resurrection, that one will, by God's Spirit, experience the influx of life and enlightenment that those who were living upon the earth received at the initial intervention of the kingdom of God. Add to this great miracle the restored memories and experiences of his or her previous life, the instantaneous enlightenment of their whole being concerning Jesus Christ, as to who He is and what He is in God's sight. As one might say, a bringing them up to date, equipping them

with the ability to understand their own individual judgment, their setting in order by the Judge of all the earth. Psalm 22: 27-28 applies to the resurrected as much as it does to the living: **All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds (families) of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD's: and he is the governor among the nations.**

Family life will be one of the greatest joys that the government of God will bring back to the people by resurrection; the little children whom death had struck down early in their lives, loving parents, the youths and the old people whom death had taken will be re-united with their families as God calls them forth in their order. The physical earth, free from the curses of sin and death, will become the beautiful fulfillment of what God had begun for man in the Garden of Eden. Isaiah's prophecy written 2,700 years ago gives us a description of the changes and beauty that will be part of the redeemed earth where believers will enjoy their portion of the gift of God.

With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child, shall put his hand on the cockatrice den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Isa 11:4-9).

These remarkable events upon this earth will bring glory to God from all the inhabitants of the nations: **Declare his glory among the nations, his wonders among all peoples. For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised...** (Ps 96:3-4). Those who are found unworthy of resurrection in this order, the unrighteous and the unbelieving may never see the glories of God's redeemed earth.

For those who find their worthiness in Jesus The Christ, the Son of God, whether they live into the coming kingdom of God or are joined to those

who wait for His call to resurrection, their glorified portion in the kingdom of God is secure as His promise: **When Christ, who is our life, shall appear** (be manifested), **then shall ye also appear** (be manifested) **with him in glory.** (Col 3 :4).

END

ISSUE NO. MSB256
Published Sept. 1, 2001