

## ***Eleutheros Newsletter***

May 2020

### **News of Interest**

The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is now available on [Amazon Kindle](#).

God willing, a Spanish translation of The Ramifications of Our Salvation will be printed and distributed in a number of churches In Honduras in the next few months.

Eleutheros Books is working on a church history book which will be entitled “19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity. Many factors were in force in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that are still having effects in our modern world. Details will be made as progress on this book is made.

### ***Continued Thoughts on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ***

**[Revelation 1:5-6](#)**. *And from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Apostle John is writing “to the seven churches which are in Asia” ([Revelation 1:4](#)) with a message “from Jesus Christ” ([Revelation 1:5](#)).

Jesus is the “faithful witness” Whose “testimony is true” ([John 21:24](#)).

He is “the first begotten of the dead.” This is a Jewish Messianic title (Psalm 88:28 and as in [Colossians 1:18](#)) and refers to priority in the resurrection to be followed by others. He rose first and by His power and grace we who believe will be resurrected later.

Jesus, by His resurrection, won Lordship over the “kings of the earth” ([Revelation 17:14; 19:16](#)), an offer Satan made to Him if He would surrender ([Matthew 4:8f](#)).

In [Revelation 5:10](#) we have again “a kingdom and priests.” The idea here is that Christians are the true spiritual Israel in God’s promise to Abraham as explained by Paul in [Galatians 3](#) and [Romans 9](#). Each member of this true kingdom is a priest unto God with direct access to Him at all times.

Jesus “washed us” (a one time and completed action) and loves us always!

To Him be the glory forever!

**[Revelation 1:18](#)**. *I am He That liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

The word “liveth” is a very strong verbal construction in the Greek called a periphrastic participle. It means *constantly in a state of living*. “For evermore” literally means “unto the ages of the ages” and is even a stronger expression of eternity than in [Revelation 1:6](#).

The point is that Jesus lives forever and offers eternal life! “The keys of hell and death” is an idea conceived in Matthew 16:18 as a prison or walled city. The keys are a symbol of authority, as we sometimes speak of giving someone the keys of a city.

Hades here means the unseen world to which death is the portal. Jesus has the keys because of His victory over death. This same graphic picture can be seen in [Revelation 6:8](#); [20:13f](#). The key of David is found in [Revelation 3:7](#). The key of the abyss is found in [Revelation 9:1](#); [20:1](#).

This verse emphasizes our Lord’s resurrection and eternal sovereignty over all things.

[Revelation 20:4-6](#). *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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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.*

Apparently, these verses refer to Christ and the Apostles ([Matthew 19:28](#); [Luke 22:30](#)) and some of the saints ([I Corinthians 6:3](#)), and martyrs from the tribulation period. God will allow these people to reign with Him.

There is a debate as to the meaning of the phrase “This is the first resurrection.” Some believe it is a return of the martyrs and confessors to life at the beginning of the thousand years. According to this view the first resurrection is a special incident in the present life and has no parallel with [I Thessalonians 4:16](#) where the dead in Christ are raised before those living are changed.

Others believe John here pictures the regeneration (new life) of [Matthew 19:28](#) and the restoration of [Acts 3:21](#).

This is a difficult problem to resolve. The best we can do is call attention to the general judgment out of the books in [Revelation 20:12](#) and to the general resurrection in [John 5:29](#) and [Acts 24:15](#).

There are seven beatitudes (“blessed and holy”) in the book of the [Revelation 1:3](#); [14:13](#); [16:15](#); [19:9](#); [20:6](#); [22:7](#), [14](#).

“The second death” is the spiritual death of [Revelation 2:11](#); [20:14](#); [21:8](#) in contrast to the first or spiritual death.

“Priests of God and of Christ” refer to servants of God who serve Him and reign with Him (see [Revelation 1:6](#); [5:10](#); [22:3](#), [5](#); [Matthew 19:28](#)).

Whether we understand these verses correctly or not, the promise is very clear: “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power...” ([Revelation 20:6](#)).

### **Some conclusions/applications**

Having looked carefully at *Biblical truth* regarding the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we do well to consider the following points:

Jesus presented Himself alive in *many ways and in many places*, making doubt about the resurrection an untenable position.

His resurrection was a fulfillment of prophecies He made previously.

He showed His great love and power during His post-resurrection ministry.

God the Father planned His coming to earth, His death on the cross, and raised Him from the dead.

Death has lost its sting because of His resurrection.

There was *no way* Jesus would not rise from the dead!

Jesus' body did not decay. This pictures what our bodies will be like in heaven.

The fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ gave the Apostles great boldness to preach the Gospel.

The resurrection of our Savior and all the ramifications of it was a consistent theme of the preaching of the Apostles.

The resurrection of Jesus empowered the Apostles to keep serving Him in spite of imprisonment, persecution, and many times of tribulation.

Not all people believe in the fact of His resurrection; some actually pervert this all-important fact.

Preaching the resurrection was a powerful message that God used to save many lost souls.

One of the messages associated with the resurrection is that men should believe and repent.

Our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection were accomplished *once*. The price has been paid, and the work of redemption is complete.

His resurrection makes His offer of eternal life legitimate. Religious leaders are buried in a tomb somewhere. Our Savior lives forever!

We have many reasons to rejoice because He rose again.

We do well to comfort others in times of bereavement because He rose from the grave. We will see Him.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the “first fruits” of an amazing truth: we will be raised also.

The message of the resurrection is for all people.

The living Shepherd became the sacrificial Lamb Who rose again!

Our *methods* in presenting the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ may change, but the *message* cannot be altered in any way.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a proof of His deity.

The justification of a believer is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God is no longer angry at believer’s sins because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When a believer submits to water baptism He is associating with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and making a public testimony to what Jesus has done in saving him.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is closely associated with the redemption He accomplished for believers.

Death has “no more dominion” over Jesus or His own because of His resurrection.

Jesus is the second Adam. Adam sinned and that fact caused all men to be sinners by nature who face an eternity in hell. Jesus is the sinless Man Who paid for sin and rose from the dead for those who will enjoy eternity in heaven.

We live in a sinful world. As a result, there is much groaning and suffering here. Believers have a hope that heaven is certain because Jesus rose from the grave. There will be no groaning there!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a message we must deliver to a lost world.

The death, burial, and resurrection are facts *according to the Scriptures*.

As Paul wrote, we would have no hope, would be false witnesses, and would be miserable people if Christ is not our risen Savior. Our faith would be no better than that of religion.

We will be reunited with believers who have already passed because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Surely, we should live for Him in “newness of life” because of His resurrection.

Jesus is now seated in heaven, praying for us, because of the resurrection.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ can be misunderstood and even perverted. As a result, we must defend this all-important truth.

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ produces maturity in the life of those who believe.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was *bodily*.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is indeed the *greatest event in all of history!*

May we give praise to Him because He lives!