

## I. Introduction

### II. V.24 "Martha says to Him, 'I know that he will arise again in the resurrection in the last day.'"

- A. This is a powerful statement of the understanding that Martha has.
- B. She believes in Christ.
  - 1. She believes in the resurrection.
  - 2. She understands that there is a coming resurrection.
  - 3. She obviously is not partial to the Sadducean party.
- C. Where did she get the idea of a resurrection of the last day?
  - 1. Sadducee/Essenes = no resurrection (Matthew 22:23; Act 4:1, 2; 23:8).
  - 2. Pharisees = Resurrection = (Actsts 23:6-8).
  - 3. It was a debated topic, as is evident in Acts 23.
- D. In general, the common people hoped in the future.

Hebrews 11:17–19

**17** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

**18** *it was he* to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called."

**19** He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

Daniel 12:1–3

**1** "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

**2** "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

**3** "Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Isaiah 26:19–21

**19** Your dead will live;

Their corpses will rise.

You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy,

For your dew *is as* the dew of the dawn,

And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

**20** Come, my people, enter into your rooms

And close your doors behind you;

Hide for a little while

Until indignation runs *its* course.

**21** For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place

To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;

And the earth will reveal her bloodshed

And will no longer cover her slain.

A. See Ezekiel 37:1-14!!
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- A. Thus, to see the resurrection is to hope in the future restoration of Israel, of which Lazarus would be included.
- B. However, her understanding, like most, is deficient.

**IV. V.25 "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one believing into Me will not ever perish.""**

- A. He is not just the resurrection, but the resurrection and the life.
  - 1. This is not simply a statement of a general resurrection.
  - 2. In Christ there is also, of necessity, life.
- B. Instead of doctrinal orthodoxy, Jesus calls her to look to Him for a resurrection.
  - 1. John 5:25-29
  - 2. Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15
- C. He is in command of the life of every person of all time.

**V. V.26 "And every/each one living and believing into Me! Will not in any way perish into the age."**

- A. "living and believing" = v. 25
  - 1. Resurrection and life = Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Even the dead will be raised, but for judgment of eternal death.
- B. Jesus is calling her to understand the fundamental difference between Himself and every other teacher (who espouses a future hope).
  - 1. He teaches the future resurrection.
  - 2. But unlike others, He claims He is in charge of that resurrection!!!
- C. That is why He says this (v.26).
- D. Now, taking her heart away from Lazarus for a moment, He demands to know what she really believes.
  - 1. "Do you believe" NO.
  - 2. "Do you believe THIS?! = YES.
  - 3. Jesus does not ask for doctrinal positions here.
    - a. He is requesting, from her own lips, what she believes in her heart about what He just said.
    - b. "This" = the sovereignty of Jesus Christ over the resurrection of the OT.

## II. The Resurrection

- Job 19:25–26

25 וְאֲנִי יָדַעְתִּי גֵּאֲלִי חַי אֲחִירָאֵן עַל-עֶפְרַיִם יְקוּם:

26 וְאֲחִיר עוֹרִי נִקְפֹּי-זָאת וּמִבְּשָׂרִי אֲחִזֶּה אֱלֹהִים:

Job 19:25–27

25 “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,

And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

26 “Even after my skin is destroyed,

Yet from my flesh I shall see God;

27 Whom I myself shall behold,

And whom my eyes will see and not another.

My heart faints within me!

- A. Job understood something here.
- He understood that God will be alive at the last day.
  - He understood that *he* would be alive at that last day.
  - He understood that there would be a last day.

B. How did he know these things?

A. Genesis 3:8-22

1. Man was given the Tree of Life.
2. This Tree was to perpetuate life and vitality for the enjoyment of man forever.

Revelation 22:1–2

1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

1. So much so, that when man died, and was confined to death, he was forbidden to eat from this tree lest the curse be reversed apart from Christ (?).
2. The curse on the man was that of death (2:17).
  - A. What kind of death?
  - B. A cutting off from life, i.e. God Himself.
  - C. Adam did, in fact, die once he ate of the Tree (Romans 5:12ff.)
- C. Death, the result of obvious deception by the Devil, was promised and initiated by God toward the man and his wife.
- D. However, God also promised that the works of the Devil would also be done away with, namely death.

- A. The life of God, promised to the sons of God, would continue.
- B. The act of the curse that stopped life would be destroyed and life would reign.

1. Job lived during the time of Abraham, or just before.

- From creation to the flood = 1656 years.
- From the flood to Abraham = 292 years.

a) *Noah died 58 years after Abraham was born.*

b) *The oral record of creation, the promise, etc. would have been well preserved.*

- E. Therefore, even though man, in Adam, was promised death, and got it, man was also promised life (Genesis 3:15).
  - A. However, this life, the destruction of the Destroyer, is yet to be.
  - B. The conclusions derived from this truth would have lead to an inescapable conclusion-resurrection.

1. Hebrews 11:17-19

- a. Abraham was willing to believe that in order for God to keep His promises, He would have to raise Isaac from the dead after Abraham killed him.
- b. This is an understanding that death does not hold where God has promised life.

Hebrews 11:13–14

**13** All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

**14** For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.

F. Therefore, all the fathers died with a sense of the future, which:

1. Denounced the present world under the curse:

Romans 5:14

**14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

2. Looked forward to the time when the original work of God was restored.
3. The only way this can happen is by means of the resurrection.

### III. Resurrection

A. What is it?

Romans 2:4–10

4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

6 who will render to each person according to his deeds:

7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

9 *There will be* tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,

10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- Vanquishing of the curse of death.
  - The proof of this reality, which is the cause of tremendous hope, is the resurrection of Jesus Christ Himself.

- Restoration of life.

- Reconstitution of the body.

1 Corinthians 6:12–14

12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

13 Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

1. The concept of life from death was preposterous to the world.
  - A. The Greeks:
  - B. *The parallel between these traditional beliefs and the later resurrection of Jesus was not lost on the early Christians, as Justin Martyr argued: "when we say ... Jesus Christ, our teacher, was crucified and died, and rose again, and ascended into heaven, we propose nothing different from what you believe regarding those whom you consider sons of Zeus." (1 Apol. 21). There is, however, no belief in a general resurrection in ancient Greek religion, as the Greeks held that not even the gods were able to recreate flesh that had been lost to decay, fire or consumption. The notion*

*of a general resurrection of the dead was therefore apparently quite preposterous to the Greeks.”<sup>1</sup>*

2. Acts 17:18, 32
3. Notice that the idea of a resurrection was not ridiculed, but the idea of a general resurrection of the dead, and especially unto rewards and judgment.

B. The resurrection is an event in the future in which:

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| 1. The wicked are judged: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Revelation 20:11-14 (cf. v.6)</li> <li>b. Psalm 1:4-6</li> </ol> |
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**4** The wicked are not so,  
 But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
**5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
 Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
**6** For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
 But the way of the wicked will perish.

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| 2. The righteous are rewarded with physical eternal life: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Revelation 20:4-6</li> <li>b. John 14:18-20</li> </ol> |
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**18** “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.  
**19** “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also.  
**20** “In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 15:2

**2** “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:6

**6** “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11
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**9** Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

**10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**11** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

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<sup>1</sup> . <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection> (This article was reworked by the editors of The New World Encyclopedia: New World Encyclopedia contributors, "Resurrection," *New World Encyclopedia*,

<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/p/index.php?title=Resurrection&oldid=989287> (accessed August 14, 2016).

## B. When is it?

1. Before the Millennium-the resurrection of the saints.
  - Revelation 20:11ff.
0. After the Millennium-the resurrection of the wicked.
  - All nations will be judged then.
  - This is not the judgment of Matthew 25 -> there is no mention of resurrection there.
    - a. However, all the dead will be raised in Revelation 20.
    - b. This includes all nations and is the final sentencing of them to the Lake of Fire.
  - This is the culmination as what began, at the start of the Tribulation, (Jeremiah 30:7) the "Day of the Lord"

Jeremiah 30:7

7 'Alas! for that day is great,  
There is none like it;  
And it is the time of Jacob's distress,  
But he will be saved from it.

Joel 2:11

11 The Lord utters His voice before His army;  
Surely His camp is very great,  
For strong is he who carries out His word.  
The day of the Lord is indeed great and very awesome,  
And who can endure it?

Psalms 46:6

6 The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;  
He raised His voice, the earth melted.

Isaiah 13:4

4 A sound of tumult on the mountains,  
Like that of many people!  
A sound of the uproar of kingdoms,  
Of nations gathered together!  
The Lord of hosts is mustering the army for battle.

## C. What is after it?

1. The New Heavens and the New Earth.
2. Eternal life
3. Revelation 21
  - "Then"