

## 44. The Gospel of John—5:28-29a

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### *“Jesus Declares His Divinity” Pt.6*

(9/23/18)

We are currently in chapter 5 in our study of John’s gospel—in a series we’ve entitled, *“Jesus Declares His Divinity.”*

In John’s gospel chapter 5 verses 17 thru 30—Jesus makes 5 claims to His own divinity, 5 claims of equality with the God the Father—

**I. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Person—v.17-18**

**II. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Work—v.19**

**III. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Power Over Life and Death—v.20-21**

**IV. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Authority to Judge—v.22, 24-30**

**V. Jesus Claims Equality with God in Honor—v.23**

Now, last week in our study we got as far as the fourth main point in our outline—

**IV. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Authority to Judge—v.22, 24-30**

**John 5:20-22 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. <sup>21</sup> For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. <sup>22</sup> For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

As we said last time, in verses 21-22, first Jesus claimed equality with the Father in His power to raise the dead—and then He coupled it with a claim of equality with the Father in His authority to judge the world.

And now starting with verse 24 and running thru verse 29—the Lord amplifies this truth by focusing His remarks on the resurrection of the dead and the coming judgment.

Before we get into that, let me just make some introductory statements on the subject of resurrection.

Many centuries ago Job asked the question—

**Job 14:14 (NLT2)**

<sup>14</sup> Can the dead live again? If so, this would give me hope through all my years of struggle, and I would eagerly await the release of death.

He went on to answer his own question—

**Job 19:25-27 (NLT2)**

<sup>25</sup> “But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last.

<sup>26</sup> And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! <sup>27</sup> I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes [and not with someone else’s eyes]. I am overwhelmed at the thought!

Job is declaring his belief in the *resurrection* of the dead.

He is also rejecting the doctrine of *reincarnation*—“*I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes and not with someone else’s eyes.*” (Comment)

The doctrine of reincarnation is a doctrine of demons rooted in Hinduism—a doctrine that is completely refuted in the N.T. in numerous places but in particular—

**Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)**

<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

**John 5:24-25, 28-29 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

<sup>25</sup> 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...<sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

These verses have been called some of the greatest in the Bible for helping people understand what the Bible teaches about resurrection and the coming judgment.

What's a little confusing and why some misinterpret what Jesus is saying here about the resurrection of the dead is because—there are three different resurrections in view—one spiritual and the other two physical.

**A. The Spiritual Resurrection of the Lost—v.24-27**

**B. The Physical Resurrection of Believers—v.28-29a**

**C. The Physical Resurrection of Unbelievers—v.29b**

**A. The Spiritual Resurrection of the Lost—v.24-25**

In verses 24-25 Jesus describes **the resurrection of the lost to eternal life**—which Paul talked about in Ephesians 2:1—"*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins*"

So the '**dead**' in verse 25 is a reference to unbelievers—those that are *spiritually* dead in trespasses in sins.

They hear the voice of the Son of God (thru the Holy Spirit) when the gospel is preached—and if they believe the message and receive the Savior at that moment they are raised out of spiritual death into spiritual life—resurrection life.

So, the first resurrection that Jesus speaks of is the resurrection of lost souls at the moment of salvation.

And as we said last week, this resurrection is going on right now, constantly, every day all around us.

In fact, all around the world wherever the gospel is preached, and people put their faith in Jesus Christ they are raised out of the spiritual state of death into new life in Christ.

That then sets the stage for the final two resurrections that Jesus speaks about in John 5:28-29.

Before we look at these final two resurrections, let's first look at verses 26-27, remembering that Jesus is talking about these resurrections in terms of final judgment—at least for those in one group.

**John 5:26-27 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, <sup>27</sup> **and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.**

The term **'Son of Man'** is a reference to the *humanity* of Christ—**'Son of God'** is a reference to His *deity*—'Son of Man' speaks of His humanity in relation to His redemptive work.

You see, the Bible says that by one man (Adam) came the fall and eternal condemnation of mankind—whereas, by one Man (Jesus Christ) came the salvation and restoration of mankind.

Since a man caused the fall of mankind—it would take a Man to redeem mankind (a Kinsman)—*"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."* (1Corinthians 15:22)

The only Person who could righteously sit in judgment of mankind was a Man (a descendant of Adam) who Himself was morally perfect and sinless—and that Man of course was Jesus Christ, God in human form—the God-Man!

Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer!

Jesus came to conquer over Satan and death, to give spiritual life to all that would receive it—and someday to reign as King over this world.

Those that bow the knee to Jesus Christ now on the earth will be a part of His kingdom when He returns to reign.

Those that reject Jesus as their King and Savior now will be judged by Him someday and cast into hell.

**2 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom...

**1 Peter 4:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

And so that brings us to the two final resurrections—“*The Physical Resurrection of Believers*” and “*The Physical Resurrection of Unbelievers*”.

**B. The Physical Resurrection of Believers—v.28-29a**

**John 5:28-29 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

In these verses Jesus is affirming that every person who has ever lived and died on the earth will someday be resurrected from the dead—both believers and unbelievers.

Furthermore, He makes a clear distinction between these two resurrections—One He calls the “*resurrection of life*” and the other He calls the “*resurrection of condemnation.*” (v.29)

**“The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice” (v.28)**

Unlike the ‘**hour**’ Jesus spoke of in v.25 that He said had *already arrived*—this ‘**hour**’ (not a literal 60-minute period of time but a moment in human history) is yet future.

This will be a time when Jesus will speak the word (that same word that He used to create the universe in the first place—Genesis 1) and all the dead will be resurrected bodily from the grave—

**John 5:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

Now, if we only had John 5:28-29 on the subject, we would be left to conclude that this will be one giant all-encompassing resurrection of believers and unbelievers together.

However, we learn from 1Corinthians 15, Revelation 20 and other places in the N.T. that there will actually be two resurrections—one for believers and the other for unbelievers and that they will be separated by at least 1007 years (Tribulation Period plus the Millennial Kingdom).

**John 5:28-29a (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life...

When the Lord says that those who have *done good* will be raised to the resurrection of life (believers)—be careful to not interpret this to mean salvation by works.

The Lord is simply pointing to the good works these people had done in their lives as the *fruit* and proof of their relationship with Him—“*you will know them (believers) by their fruit [the good works they do in service to Me].*” Jesus said.

Charles Spurgeon—“*We are convinced that a man is saved by faith alone—but we are also just as convinced that the kind of faith that saves a man is never really alone.*”

**Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

But with regard to the physical, bodily resurrection of believers, which Jesus called the ‘**resurrection of life**’ Paul tells us in 1Corinthians 15 that this resurrection is not a single event—but a category that contains multiple resurrections of believers—

**1 Corinthians 15:20-21, 23 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead...<sup>23</sup> But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.

The word for “*order*” in verse 23, “*But each one (group), will be resurrected) in his own order*” is the Greek word ‘*tagma*’ and it means “a series of succession.”

The word originally referred to military rank—the order of command (i.e. “order of importance”).

Paul is telling us that the physical resurrection of believers doesn’t happen all at once but consists in a series of successive resurrections starting with:

**1. The resurrection of Jesus, the Firstfruits**

“*But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*” (v.20)

As the Lamb of God, Jesus died on Passover, He arose from the dead three days later on Sunday—which was the Feast of Firstfruits. (Lev.23:9-14—Explain)

By offering God the firstfruits of the harvest it was their way of honoring Him by putting Him first in their lives and He then responded by accepting their firstfruit offering and giving them a great harvest later on.

Even so when Jesus was raised from the dead—it was God’s assurance to us that we shall also be raised one day as part of that future harvest—*“Because I live, you will live also.”* (John 14:19)

Referring to Jesus as the **“firstfruits”** of those who will be raised to eternal glory doesn’t mean that Christ was the first one ever to rise from the dead—we have instances of people who were raised from the dead *before* Jesus in both the Old and New Testaments.

But Jesus’ resurrection was different from all of those in that—they were raised and yet died again (physically)—Christ rose never to die again. He rose with a glorified body!

## **2. The resurrection of the Church saints**

After the resurrection of Jesus next comes the physical resurrection of the Church (the Body of Christ)—all those people who came to saving faith in Christ from Pentecost to the Rapture (the Church Age).

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

To believers, death is only *“sleep”*—the body sleeps, but the soul and spirit are at home with the Lord (*“...to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”* 2 Cor.5:8).

At the rapture, the physical body will be resurrected (“awakened”), glorified, and will be reunited with our soul and spirit.



**1 Thessalonians 4:14-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> 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.  
(The dead saints belonging to the Church)

These will be joined by believers who will still be alive upon the earth at that time—

**1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

‘**Caught up**’ is the Greek word *harpazo* (‘snatched away’)—the Latin is *rapio* from which we get the word ‘rapture’.

Don’t confuse *this* coming of Jesus with the Second Coming—here Jesus comes for His Church in the air—whereas, the Second Coming is Jesus coming with His Church to the earth to establish His Kingdom.

**3. The resurrection of the Tribulation saints**

Next will be the resurrection of the Tribulation saints.

Many will come to trust in Christ during the Tribulation Period (7 years total)—especially during the last 3 ½ years known as the *Great* Tribulation.

During this horrific period of time, many godly people will be put to death by the Antichrist for their faith. (Rev. 6:9-11; Rev. 7:9-10, 14; Rev. 13)

At the end of that period of time, Jesus will return to the earth, end the Antichrist’s persecution of God’s people, destroy his armies and cast him into the Lake of Fire. (Rev.19:20)

Then Jesus will resurrect all those believers in Him that the Antichrist martyred, and they will become a part of His Millennial Kingdom and reign with Him—

**Revelation 20:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

**4. The resurrection of the Old Testament saints**

The resurrection of the OT saints, I believe, will occur simultaneously with that of the Tribulation saints.

The resurrection of Old Testament saints was promised by God through the OT prophets like Daniel—

**Daniel 12:1-2 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> “At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued.” <sup>2</sup> Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace.

This very much parallels what Jesus said in John 5:28-29.

And again, if it weren’t for other passages in the Old and New Testaments we would be left to conclude that this will be one giant all-encompassing resurrection of believers and unbelievers together.

Often people will ask me, “*What happened to the people who died in the OT before Jesus came?*”

(Talk about Abraham’s bosom, Luke 16:19-31 and Ephesians 4:8-9)

## 5. The resurrection of Millennial Kingdom believers

Then during the Millennial Kingdom there will, of necessity, be the resurrection of those who die during that time.

Remember, death won't be done away with until after the Millennial Kingdom when God creates a new heaven and a new earth—

### **Revelation 21:1, 4 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

One pastor commented on this by saying—

*"It is interesting to think that they may well be raised as soon as they die, no burial being necessary. It would make death for a believer during the Kingdom nothing more than an instant transformation into his eternal glorified body."*

Although, because of the conditions upon the earth during the Millennial Kingdom (I believe the earth will be returned to a paradise state as it was in the Garden of Eden before the fall)—most people will live for the entire thousand years—

### **Isaiah 65:20 (NLT2)**

<sup>20</sup> "No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! Only the cursed will die that young!

The only resurrection remaining will be that of the unrighteous, who will be raised to condemnation and eternal punishment at the end of Christ's thousand-year reign—

### **Revelation 20:5 (NLT2)**

<sup>5</sup> This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.)

God has promised us that if you're a believer in Jesus Christ, you belong to the first resurrection—on you the second death will have no power.

**Revelation 20:6 (NLT2)**

<sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

This is exactly what Jesus promised—

**John 5:24 (NLT2)**

<sup>24</sup> “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

And Paul the apostle—

**Romans 8:1 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

All true believers whether they are O.T saints, N.T. saints, Tribulation saints or Millennial Kingdom saints will be part of the first resurrection.

All unbelievers will be a part of the second of these two final resurrections.

These are the unbelieving dead who will be physically resurrected—the resurrection which Jesus called—the **resurrection of condemnation** (John 5:29b).

Those who take part in this final resurrection (at the end of the Millennial Kingdom) will be cast into the Lake of Fire, otherwise known as the ‘second death’ (hell)—

**Revelation 21:8 (NLT2)**

<sup>8</sup> “But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”