

Chapter 8

The Impact of Jesus' Rebirth



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Why Was Jesus' Resurrection So Important?

God's Son died like any natural human being so that He could endure the pain of death for everyone else ever born. His death was sufficient to cover the ransom for all time. Unlike the offerings of the Old Covenants which had to be repeated periodically, His sacrifice of His Own blood never has to be reproduced, ever. Jesus of Nazareth was the first Man to rise from being spiritually Dead and His testimony is for both Jewish, as well as every non-Jewish person who ever has or will live.

"Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death.... might taste death for everyone." (Hebrews 2:9)

"We have been sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus once and for all." (Hebrews 10:10)

"that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the Dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people, and to the Gentiles." (Acts 26:23)

How Did Jesus Defeat Satan and What are the Consequences?

"(Jesus) spoke to them: "The Kingdom of God is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." (Matthew 13:33)

I will no longer talk with you for the ruler of this age is coming; but, he has

nothing in Me." (John 14:30)

"Having disarmed principalities and powers (Ephesians 1:19-21, 6:12), He made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:15)

God's Son conquered Satan, liberated humanity, and rescued His Father's creation at the same time. Jesus did so by employing a similar strategy that God's enemy had used to overthrow His authority over the earth centuries beforehand. How? First, Jesus had to get into Satan's domain, as Satan had into God's. Basically, Jesus allowed Satan kill Him and then take Him into the inner sanctum of his kingdom. Jesus had obeyed the voice of God's Spirit in Him the entire time He lived here on earth as a man. So, when He died and Satan carried Him into his domain, He was like leaven there. He absolute perfection was like leaven, or a catalyst that began to dominate and eventually control the environment that He had been placed in. And, as He said prophesying about His future, He did it in only three days.

The Cessation of the Authority of Death

"If Christ is preached that He has risen from the dead/Dead, how do some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But, if there is no resurrection from the dead then Christ is not risen. And, if Christ has not risen then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

"Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ Whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead did not rise. For, if the dead did not rise, then Christ did not rise. And, if Christ has not risen your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then, also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

"But, now Christ is risen from the dead/Dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For, since by man came death/Death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead/Dead. For, as in Adam all die/Die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive/Alive.

"But, each one in his own order: (Galatians 6:7) Christ made the firstfruits. Afterward, those who are in Christ's at His (second) coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all (earthly) authority and power. (Ephesians 6:10-18, II Corinthians 10:4-5) For, He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. (Genesis 3:15c, Matthew 22:44) The last enemy that will be destroyed is death/Death." (I Corinthians 15:12-26)

If Christ did not rise from the Dead then all of the faith in Him is absolutely worthless. Likewise, if He did not accomplish this feat, then all of Christianity is to be pitied because it would be a religion based on a lie, a fake foundation. However, Christ did rise again and gives mankind a Spiritual rebirth of the Spiritual death that the Adams caused to come upon every other human being born after them. Christ will come to the

earth for the second, and final, time when He conveys all of His followers to God's Heavenly Kingdom. He will reign here until every single one of His and His Father's opponents is conquered, the last being spiritual Death--Satan himself.

Who Benefited from Jesus' Resurrection?

"Surely He has born our griefs and carried away our sorrows. Yet, we esteemed Him stricken ... by God and afflicted. But, He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him; and, by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

"These things I have spoken to you that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues (or churches. Yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And, these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father, nor Me." (John 16:1-3)

"These things I have spoken to you that in Me you will have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Jesus was crucified in order that we would not have to succumb to grief, sorrow, anxiety, and fear. Additionally, He suffered physical agony and torture instead of us having to be burdened with and surrendering to their ravages any longer. Once He conquered Satan and his entire kingdom, sin no longer has the same control over humanity as it had previously, and with His help we can get rid of its effects, with love, faith, perseverance, and patience. People will judge and persecute believers in God's Son Jesus just as He was treated.

We should be prepared to undergo some of the same indignities that He did, and, also as they did with Him, many will believe that they are doing God's will in acting this way. However, the Bible strongly admonishes that this is not good, so it cannot come from Him. When trouble arises against us, in any form, we should maintain our confidence in God the Father and His Son's abilities to overcome it for us, no matter how long we have to sustain our faith in the invisible and not give in to what is visible.

The First Communion--"The Lord's Supper"

"On the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, when they had killed the Passover lamb, the disciples came to Jesus saying to Him, 'Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?'

And, He sent out two of His disciples, Peter and John, and said to them, 'Go into the city and, behold, when you have entered the city a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him. Wherever he goes, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher/Master says to you, 'My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples. Where is the quest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples? Then he will show

you a large upper room, furnished and prepared, there make ready for us.'

So the disciples did just as Jesus had directed them and found it just as He had said to them and they prepared the Passover. When evening/the hour had come He came and sat down with the twelve apostles.

Then He said to them, 'With earnest desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I say to you I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.'

And, as they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, blessed and broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat, this is My body. Do this is remembrance of Me.'

Then He took the cup. And when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying/and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves. Drink from it all of you, for this is My blood of the New covenant which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. But assuredly I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's Kingdom/the Kingdom of God.'

And when they had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives."

(Matthew 26:17-20, 26-29, Mark 14:12-17, 22-26; & Luke 22:7-20)

Jesus Himself initiated the communion ceremony to remember, appreciate, and honor what He did to retrieve humanity out of Satan's authority. He did so during the Jewish Passover--the ritual to observe God the Father's liberation of those people out of bondage in Egypt. It was to continue that righteous custom under the Law, and not break that specific and holy tradition. Communion is the homage to God's final covenant with mankind. Jesus is the new Lamb, one whose blood does not have to be offered again to cover sin.

Jesus demonstrated His knowledge of God's will for the future when He told His men where to go, whom they would find there, and what would transpire between them. There is no record that He could have learned this information by any earthly means, so His Father must have told it to Him through His Holy Spirit. The disciples must have followed Jesus' directions without any deviation, because they found the things that He told them about and were able to prepare for the gathering as instructed. It is evident that Jesus placed great importance on what He already knew would be their last meeting together before He was arrested, disgraced, tortured, and crucified. He recognized that they had to be with Him, not only to celebrate the Passover and initiate communion, but also to have a lengthy intimate contact that would sustain them for the next few days. Although He had told them repeatedly what was necessary for Him to complete His Father's mission, they had not yet grasped the enormity of maintaining their faith in Him and His words.

Jesus took bread and wine, common foods that anyone could have at a normal meal, and used these in the communion ceremony. Thus, whether people were rich or poor they easily would have had access to them. He had set up part of this before when He referred to Himself as the Bread of life/Life. Using wine instead of water demonstrated more clearly an image of the red blood that He would shed for mankind's deliverance from the curse of the Law.

Before they left to pray at the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane, the

disciples and Jesus sang a hymn. This part of the ceremony was vital because it showed the recognition of their connection to God the Father.

What Was the Significance of Communion?

"The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls. For, it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." (Leviticus 17:11)

"Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly I say to you, unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood You have no Life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal Life and I will raise him up at the last day. For, My flesh is food indeed and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.'" (John 6:53-56)

It was essential that the Savior of humanity shed His blood in the same way that an animal would be sacrificed under the previous covenants to cover mankind's initial and continuing rebellion against their Creator. Since blood is the essential element that gives life, then offering it to God is the only way to cover or remove the effects of sin. When Jesus asked His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane if there was any other way to redeem mankind, except by His death He knew that there was none. Although He even begged three times to get out of the misery because He recognized the physical agony that His human body would have to endure. He recognized that He would get no "last minute reprieve", so to speak. So He persevered in His prayers and God was able to strengthen Him through His faith and obedience to Him. We figuratively have to be crucified with the Christ to be capable of ever acquiring the salvation that He died to offer us. It is only then that we can experience the rebirth of our souls and spirits back into God's Kingdom. Communion is a vicarious physical manifestation of that crucifixion.