

## CONTINUITY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 4 – Resurrection – OT Expectations – Pt. 2 (pick up w/ middle of pg. 2)

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Resurrection literally means to rise; to raise up; to stand up. To raise up to life. To be raised from death to life – never to die again.

Matt. 27:50-53 – At His last moments from the cross, *Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.* <sup>51</sup> *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,* <sup>52</sup> *and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;* <sup>53</sup> *and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.*

Why does the text specifically record that the bodies of the saints (the OT saints) came out of the graves AFTER Jesus' resurrection?

I Cor. 15:20, 23 – Jesus is our firstfruits (Lev. 23:9-14). Because He rose from the dead, believers in Him, OT saints and NT saints (Jewish and Gentile believers) will rise from the dead. We cannot precede Him!! If we did, then Jesus would NOT be our firstfruits...but He is – I Cor. 15:20, 23.

John 12:24 - *Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.* At the Feast of First Fruits the first stalks of the barley harvest were dedicated to the Lord – consecrating the rest of the harvest. This Feast of First Fruits is commemorated by the barley harvest which was the earliest harvest. The Jews believed..."If God has blessed us with this harvest – surely He will bless us with the later harvest" – which was the wheat harvest. It truly speaks of trust in God! Dependence upon Him. And, it looks forward!

This Feast of First Fruits was a dedication of the entire harvest to God through bringing the first gleanings – a portion of the harvest – to Him.

On the day after Sabbath...when it was still dark, a three-man delegation from the Sanhedrin would go to the Ashes Valley, across from the Kidron Valley. In the Ashes Valley there was a small open field of barley. The three-man delegation would wait, while it was still dark, for the first pinpoint of light to come up on the back of the Mount of Olives (in the east). When they saw the first pinpoint of sunlight, they would ceremonially harvest the first stalks of grain. These were the first fruits. The first fruits offered to God consecrated the entire harvest. (*The Feasts of the Lord* – Kevin Howard/Marvin Rosenthal)

All four Gospels tell us that Jesus' resurrection was at the very "crack of dawn" – while it was still dark (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1). The very hour of the very day of the year, the day after the Sabbath, during Passover week, on Sunday, when the men were reaping and bundling the grain and the priest was bringing the first fruit from that harvest into the Temple to wave before the Lord – **JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD ON THE FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS!** The fulfillment of this feast – Jesus' resurrection – occurred on the very day of the feast!

At the Feast of First Fruits the first stalks of the harvest were dedicated to the Lord – consecrating the rest of the harvest. God the Father accepted the sacrifice of God the Son. Jesus' resurrection validates this truth. The **FULFILLMENT** of the Feast of First Fruits – **JESUS RESURRECTION!**

When is resurrection mentioned/alluded to for the first time in Scripture?

Genesis provides us with the key to what God is planning..**FOREVER!**

What does the very beginning of the Bible teach? “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth! The beginning of the universe – the heavens and the earth – are physical!!! To be understood as literal – NOT spiritual!!

Gen. 1:1 - God (Elohim – plural) created (bara – singular; “out of nothing”) the heavens and the earth – that would sustain life. And, on the first day God created light.

Read day 3, day 5, day 6. LIFE is created.

God is the God of the LIVING! Resurrection – raised to LIFE!

In Jesus’ day, there were the Pharisees who believed in resurrection and the Sadducees who did not believe in angels or the resurrection.

Mark 12:18-27 - Jesus was basing His words on the I AM in Ex. 3:6. The verb form of YAHWEH expresses a continuous state of being rather than a specific time. The divine name of the God of Israel refers to our ETERNAL God - to the one Who is past, present, and future. The ETERNAL God speaks of His faithfulness/steadfastness undergirding all His promises! He was and is and always will be the **God of the living!**

Jesus drew from the Hebrew Scriptures (His Bible) – from the OT expectations – AND Jesus did NOT reinterpret them or change them in any way.

Mal. 3:6 – *I am the LORD, I change not, therefore you sons of Jacob are NOT consumed.*

REMEMBER, Jesus taught...

Matt. 5:18 - *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot (in Hebrew – “yod” – the smallest letter) or one tittle (the smallest stroke in a letter) will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

Another passage from the OT – from the Torah that speaks of resurrection/a bodily resurrection:

Gen. 22:1-2 – *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham (to prove Abraham’s faith; to reveal Abraham’s faith; not to produce Abraham’s faith [Gen. 15:6 – Abraham had already placed his faith in God]), and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’* <sup>2</sup> *Then He said, Take now your son, your only son (stated in v. 2, 12, 16), Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.*

Abraham carried on with the mission he’d been given from God. And, we’re told of Abraham’s thoughts when he spoke to his young men, most likely his servants.

Gen. 22:5 - *Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.*

And then we read in Hebrews 11...

Heb. 11:17-19 - *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,* <sup>18</sup> *of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’* <sup>19</sup> *concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead,*

***By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac:*** The verb tense for “offered up” indicates that as far as Abraham was concerned the sacrifice was **complete**.

***Offered up his only begotten son:*** Though Abraham had another son (Ishmael, the son of his fleshly attempt to fulfill God’s promise – through Hagar), God did not recognize the other son as

the son through whom the promise would be given. Isaac could only be called **his only begotten son**. God's promise to Abraham was only through Isaac (Rom. 9:6-7).

**Concluding that God was able to raise him up:** "Concluding" is an accounting term that means a decisive and carefully reasoned act. Abraham calculated God's promise worthy of confidence!!!

**...even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.** As far as Abraham was concerned, Isaac was as good as dead and it was from the dead that he received him back, in a manner that foreshadowed the resurrection of Jesus!!???

Could this be what Jesus referred to in John 8:56 when He spoke to the Jews who claimed that Abraham was their father?

John 8:56 - *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.* !!!

In this testing Can we understand that Abraham's faith was great enough to know God was able to raise the dead, AND that God was able to keep His promises. Abraham's physical descendants were promised through Isaac!! God promised to make of Abraham a GREAT nation!! And, God is now telling Abraham to offer up Isaac as a burnt offering??

Does God's promise and His command seem to contradict each other? Abraham obeyed God's command and he let God take care of His promise...because God is God!

Interesting verses following....

Did Abraham and his son return to the young men?

Gen. 22:19 - *So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.*

Where's Isaac????

In Gen. 24 – At the beginning of Gen. 24, we don't see Isaac. BUT, Abraham sent his oldest servant, Eliezer, to find a wife for Isaac from Abraham's country and family. Eliezer traveled to Mesopotamia and came to Laban's home. Laban had a sister, Rebekah (Gen. 15:29). Eliezer requested of the Lord – to show him which woman at the well might journey back with him to Canaan – to marry Isaac. God answered. Eliezer and Rebekah traveled to Canaan.

Gen. 24:62-67 - *Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi ("the One Who lives and sees me" – so spoke Hagar who was in need and was visited by the Angel of the Lord [Gen. 16]) for he dwelt in the South. <sup>63</sup> And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. <sup>64</sup> Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; <sup>65</sup> for she had said to the servant, 'Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took a veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.*

The Hebrew Scriptures establish the foundation for this glorious hope of resurrection. The Apostle Paul's chapter on the resurrection, I Corinthians 15, begins with declaring that Jesus' resurrection was prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures:

I Cor. 15:1-4 – *Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received.... For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (Hebrew Scriptures) and that He was buried,*

*and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.* Where in the Scriptures is it written that the Messiah would rise from the dead?

Isa. 53:10 – Of the Suffering Servant, Isaiah wrote, *...it pleased the Lord to bruise (crush) Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days (physical bodily resurrection) and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.*

The book of Job is one of the earliest written books of the Hebrew Bible. What do we read about Job? He SUFFERED! AND – Job put his trust in the resurrection! At first Job questioned whether anyone who dies will live again.

Job 14:12-14 - *So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep.<sup>13</sup> Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! <sup>14</sup> If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.*

Job 19:25-27 - *I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; <sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

For Job, the decay of his flesh was not the end. Job would see HIM in His glorified body. WHEN? When Job will have been given his resurrected body!