

## The Hope of the Resurrection

*Isa 26:19-21 Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.*

The Book of Isaiah is filled with prophecies concerning our Lord, His birth, life, death and resurrection. We have found herein many pronouncements regarding the church in the New Testament, the proclamation that Gentiles will be added to the Commonwealth of Israel. Now this morning we shall see that here in Isaiah is given to the church the promise of the resurrection. It is true that in the passage before us could be the comfort to the saints of Isaiah's day that the although Israel is as a dead man, its bones will once again revive and return to the Land. As prophesied in Ezekiel 37:3-6 "And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord God, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6 I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord." And in verses 11-13 we read, Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

But in this passage the greater part of the context has been to the church in the New Testament age. And I find myself in agreement with the Hebrew scholar Gesenius, who says, "That this passage actually contains the doctrine of *the resurrection of the body*, appears without doubt from the words." So this morning we shall see, 1) The hope of the resurrection for the redeemed of God, 2) The means of comfort as our Lord carries, and 3) The final day of judgment of the ungodly.

### A. The hope of the resurrection for the redeemed of God

1. I speak first of all the redeemed who have lived under both covenants
  - a. Some have said that there is no reference to the resurrection in the Old Testament
  - b. We are reminded of the words of Job

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

- c. This was as much the hope of the saints in the Old Testament as we here in the New Covenant age

*Heb 11:9-10 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

*Heb 11:13-14 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

*Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, **a heavenly country**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

2. Thus it is proper to understand that Isaiah here could be giving hope and comfort to the elect of both his day and ours of the resurrection at the end of time.
  - a. E. J. Young in his commentary on Isaiah writes.

"We need not assume that this doctrine would be too advanced for the day of Isaiah, and that it was only received by the Jews from the Persians during the time of the exile or later. The **true doctrine of the resurrection of the body is a revelation received from God**, and not a doctrine to be discovered by unaided human reason."

- b. It always troubles me when men try to determine where the different teachings of Scripture come from
    - c. I can assure you - Isaiah wrote it and it came from God

2 *Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God*

2 Peter 1:20-21 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

3. Let us look at what Isaiah says: *Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust*
    - a. God's dead, God's elect who have died in faith shall live - *Your dead shall live*
    - b. Together with my dead body
    - c. Isaiah is saying with the elect of God he too will be resurrected - *will arise*
    - d. Then hear his words of comfort - *Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust*
    - e. Heaven is going to be a place of eternal praise
  4. Like the plant that revives from the evening dew - *for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead*
    - a. The elect of God shall come forth from the graves with renewed bodies
    - b. Paul says that we are to comfort ourselves with this great hope (cf. 1 Thess 4:14, 17-18)
- B. The means of comfort as our Lord carries - *enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past*
1. Until He comes we will experience the indignation of the ungodly
  2. But enter your chambers - enter the chambers of meditation in the Word of God and prayer
  3. Calvin in effect takes the language as figurative when he asserts that the **chamber is simply calmness and composure of mind**
  4. As the children of Israel in Egypt, the night the death angel visited, and they were instructed to enter into their homes for safety let us enter into our chambers of faith and confidence - *Hab 2:4 But the just shall live by his faith.*
  5. *Hide yourself for a **little moment*** - Our Lord will come in His own time

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Conclusion: God's day final day of judgment upon the ungodly is coming - *For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.*

That day of judgment is certain

We need to warn the ungodly of that coming day

Paul wrote: *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men. 2 Cor 5:10-11*

The martyrs of the church that have been crying out "how long" will be avenged of their blood

Our responsibility is to show kindness and speak the truth in love for our God has clearly stated "vengeance is mine I will repay"

*Rom 12:19-21 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

I close with one more Old Testament passage - Dan 12:1-2 - *"And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Dear flock of the Lord Jesus Christ take comfort our Lord will come again

He will raise all those who have died in the Lord and catch them up to Himself

Those who are alive on that glorious day will meet them in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.