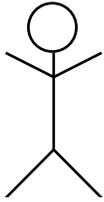


## LESSON #4 HOPE GROWS AS WE LEARN THE TRUTHS ABOUT DEATH AND RESURRECTION



God's Great Exchange



- Man and woman were not created to die, but to live. Death came into being only because of sin. *“Dust you are, and to dust you will return.” Gen. 3:19*
- Death is the harshest, most clear preaching of God’s law that exists: *“The wages of sin is death ...” Rom 6:23* That’s why death causes us to be uneasy -- it reminds us clearly of our sinfulness.
- God tells us that Jesus came to free us from our fear of death: *“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death -- that is, the devil -- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” Heb 2:14-15*
- In our homework for the last lesson, we saw that Jesus had power to bring people back to life.

### I. JESUS SHOWED POWER OVER HIS OWN DEATH.

**Read Matthew 27:45-53**

1. About the ninth hour (that is, about 3:00 p.m.) Jesus cried out with a loud voice. What did He say? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the significance of that cry? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In v50 we’re told that Jesus “gave up His spirit.” What is the significance of those words? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are those words important for you? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Remember, John’s Gospel had recorded that when Jesus died He said, “It is finished.” In other words, He was saying that the entire payment for all sins had been made. How does God show that in v51? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In 1 Corinthians 15:56 we read: “*The sting of death is sin,...*” What is it that makes death “sting?” \_\_\_\_\_
6. This section clearly shows us that sin has been paid for. What does that teach us about death? \_\_\_\_\_

*The religious leaders, ironically, remembered that Jesus had told them that He would rise from the dead on the third day. The religious leaders were afraid that the disciples would steal Jesus’ body out of the tomb and say He’d risen. So they asked Pontius Pilate -- the Roman Governor of Israel -- to order that a guard be posted and Jesus’ tomb be sealed. So it was done.*

**Read Matthew 28:1-10**

1. As the guards are busily watching the tomb, a holy angel appears. How did the guards react? \_\_\_\_\_
2. We’ve seen this type of reaction before. (Adam and Eve hid from God in the Garden of Eden. The shepherds were terrified when the angels appeared to them.) Why does this reaction make sense? \_\_\_\_\_
3. But when the women arrive, the angel has an amazing announcement. What? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Explain the ladies reaction. (v8) \_\_\_\_\_
5. As they’re hurrying away, Jesus appears to them. What are Jesus’ first words to them? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

***Jesus showed His power over death in two dramatic ways; He willingly gave up His life, and He powerfully took it back up again. Certainly He has power over death!***

*An unfortunate event is recorded in vv 11-15. When the guards reported that Jesus really had risen, the religious leaders paid them a large sum of money and told them to spread the lie that they had been sleeping while on duty and that the disciples had stolen the body. Many people believed that lie. How sad! Numerous people knew that Jesus had arisen, but they rejected its benefits, and even led others away from Jesus. As we look at that section, may we resolve never to turn our backs on the risen Savior!*

## II. WHAT DOES JESUS RESURRECTION PROVE?

Some Helpful Passages:

**Romans 1:4** “... (He) was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead:”

1. It proves that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_

**John 2:19-22** “Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” The Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.”

2. It proves that Jesus’ words are \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 4:25** “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

3. It proves that we stand before God as \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22** “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

4. It proves that we too will someday \_\_\_\_\_

*“Christ’s resurrection took place as an actual absolution from sin. As God punished our sins in Christ, upon Whom He laid them and to Whom He imputed them, so He also, by the very act of raising Him from the dead, absolved Him from our sins imputed to Him, and so He absolved also us in Him.” - Calov, quoted in Pieper’s Dogmatics, Vol. II, p321.*

## III. JESUS WILL SHOW POWER OVER ALL DEATH AT THE LAST DAY

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

1. In 4:13 we’re told that even as we mourn the death of a Christian loved one we can have hope. Why? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In v14 it says that Jesus died, while believers in Jesus “fall asleep in Him.” Why the difference?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. God then gives us some of the details of the Last Day. What are some of the things that will happen? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In 5:1-2, Paul tells us when to expect all this to happen. When? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What will happen to the unbeliever on the Last Day? (5:3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. According to 4:18 and 5:11, what purpose are the truths concerning the Last Day supposed to serve in our lives? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Some Questions Concerning Death, Resurrection, and the Last Day:**

1. Will all people rise? Or only believers? (cf. John 5:28-29) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of body will I have when I rise? Young? Old? (1Cor 15:42ff) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What happens after death? (Hebrews 9:27; Ecc. 12:7; Luke 23:43) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How many times will Jesus return? (Hebrews 9:27-28; Revelation 1:7) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Some people say that there will be a time of great happiness on earth before the last days. (Millennialism) Is that true? (Matthew 24:4-14) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What do I say at a funeral? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

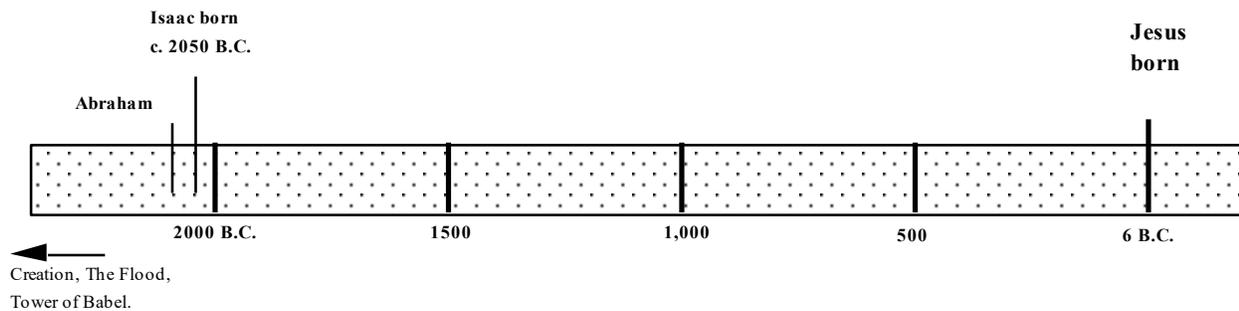
**Summary:**

- Jesus showed power over his own death by giving up His life and rising again.
- Jesus' resurrection is THE key event of salvation. Because Jesus has risen, I'm forgiven.
- When the time is right, Jesus will come back to raise all people from the dead. I will then be with God, body and soul, for eternity.

***Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands for our offenses given  
But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from heaven. (CW #161)  
Hope Grows!***

**FOR STUDY AT HOME DURING THE WEEK**

1. Complete the homework sections below.
2. To build up your knowledge of God’s Word, memorize these passages:  
**Rom. 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification**  
**John 14:19 Because I live, you also live.**
3. Memorize the Old Testament books of the Bible, Genesis through Esther.. You’ll find them listed in the front of your Bible.
4. Suggested daily reading: Genesis 23-29



In the homework for lesson #2 we were introduced to Abraham. In Genesis 12:2-3 God had promised Abraham several things: he would become a great nation, he would be a blessing to those around him, and most importantly, that the Savior -- Jesus -- would come from his line. The rest of the Old Testament records how God kept those promises. Today we’ll read several sections from Genesis, starting at chapter 12.

1. Read Genesis 12:10-20. What sin(s) does Abraham commit in this section? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In chapter 13, what problem arose between Abram and his nephew, Lot? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When Abram and Lot decided to part company, where did Lot choose to locate? Why was that a poor choice? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What promise does God give to Abraham near the end of ch. 13? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Gen. 15:1-6. What problem does Abraham have? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How does God assure Abram? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Read Gen. 16. Abram tried to take matters into his own hands. What sin does he commit?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What effect did this have in Abram's family life? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Read Gen. 17. How old is Abram? \_\_\_\_\_
10. God reveals Himself in Chapter 17 as "God Almighty." After reading the chapter, try to determine why God used that name for Himself at this point. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. God changes Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah. What explanation does God give for it? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Read Gen. 18-19. When God repeats the promise again, (notice how many times He's repeated the promises during these sections!) what is Sarah's reaction? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What does God reveal to Abraham concerning the town of Sodom? (Remember, that's where Abraham's nephew Lot had chosen to live.) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Summarize Abraham's prayer for Sodom. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What picture of Sodom do you get from chapter 19? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What happens to those wicked towns? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Read Gen. 20. Does this sound familiar? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Read Gen. 21:1-7. What happened? How old is Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Read Gen. 22:1-19. According to v1, what is the purpose of this? \_\_\_\_\_

20. What does God tell Abraham to do? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Previously, instead of following God's will, Abraham had tried to take matters into his own hands when faced with difficulties. (Lying about Sarah in Egypt and again to Abimelech, taking Hagar to have a child, etc.) How does Abraham react this time? \_\_\_\_\_

22. How fully does Abraham carry out God's directive? \_\_\_\_\_

23. How did God step into the situation (v11-13)? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Hebrews 11:17-19 says, "*By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. In other words, how does this section of Genesis show that Abraham had faith in the resurrection?* \_\_\_\_\_

**Write the passages, from memory if possible.**

**Romans 4:25** He was \_\_\_\_\_ over to \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and was \_\_\_\_\_ to life \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_

**John 14:19** \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 15 is often called “The Great Resurrection Chapter.” Listed below are some false teachings and some questions concerning the resurrection? After reading the chapter, pick out specific verses which would either answer the questions or refute the false teachings listed below.

1. False Teaching: “Jesus didn’t really rise. A few of his disciples were so grief-stricken that they imagined that they saw Him.”
2. False Teaching: “It isn’t all that important if Jesus really rose from the dead or not. All that really matters is the symbolism of ‘new life’ that we can see in the stories about Jesus rising.”
3. Question: “How many people will rise?”
4. Question: “Will my body be the same when I rise as it was when I died?”
5. Question: “What importance does the resurrection have for the believer in his everyday life?”

**Bible Books** (Write, from memory if possible, the books of the Old Testament, Genesis - Esther.)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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