



THE RESURRECTION AND MAN'S DESTINY

The Bible is about relationship – the relationship of God and His creation. It is not about religion or philosophy. Man made it that. God created humans to live in perfect relationship with Him and to rule His kingdom on earth as a surrogate image, a copy of God. When Adam disobeyed God, the earth kingdom was lost and we became disqualified from fulfilling the destiny that God had originally set for humankind. But because of Christ's perfect and finished work, we can be restored to God's kingdom. We can step into our God-given destiny.

What is that destiny? It is connected to the Kingdom that God established on earth when He created humankind. Man was to be God's surrogate ruler on earth, a colony of the Kingdom of heaven. Man was given dominion over earth and he was to exercise his authority in connection with and in communion with the Holy Spirit. Unbelief caused man to surrender his earth dominion and authority to Satan. And earth became a rebel planet that Satan continues to rule by keeping man ignorant of the true God and His royal destiny for humankind.

The Good News of the Kingdom is this: What Adam lost for humanity, God recovers and restores to Christ, who is both God and Man. As our Mediator and Savior Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross as our Substitute, and rose from the dead on the third day. The Messianic mission of Jesus would not be complete without His resurrection. The apostle Paul said that if Christ had not been resurrected, then His mission had not been accomplished. We could not be restored to the Kingdom without the resurrection of Christ. We would still be in our sins (**1 Cor. 15:17-20**).

Just as Christ's resurrection is important to our restoration to God's Kingdom, the resurrection of the dead is important to the fulfillment of God's destiny for humankind. God intended for man to fulfill his destiny as earth's ruler in his original creation make-up. Man became a living being (Hebrew - *nephesh*) when God breathed His breath of life into the body that was formed from the dust (**Gen. 2:7**). The *nephesh* was the result of the union of body and spirit. Adam was to rule

the earth as a living being. He was to function on earth with both body and spirit.

Jesus came to redeem the whole man – the living soul – his body as well as his spirit. He died not just for the "breath of life" (spirit) but also the "dust of the earth" (body). When our spirit goes to heaven upon our death, a part of us goes to be with God and another part returns to the dust to await the resurrection of the body. The body and the spirit must reunite because it was the whole being that was redeemed by Christ.

Death – sin's curse – puts asunder what God had joined together and created for a noble purpose. He planned for our bodies to last as long as our spirits. Death is not only unnatural but also anti-God. The resurrection of the dead is vital to the fulfillment of God's purpose and destiny for us. The death of the body stands in the way of our *nephesh* spending eternity with our Heavenly Father. That's why it is the final enemy to be vanquished before the earth is fully redeemed and finally restored.

On the resurrection morning God will restore us and the earth to what He predestined us to be. Sin and death and the curse that sin brought to humanity will be reversed and ended. The perishable shall become imperishable (**1 Cor. 15:42-44**). What was sown in dishonor will be raised in glory. What was sown in weakness will be raised in power. What was sown as a natural body will be raised as a spiritual body.

The resurrection makes our redemption total and complete – and much more. Man and earth are inseparably linked by creation and destiny. Together we fell, together we shall rise. The old world will be gone. God will make everything new. But man remains God's surrogate ruler in His earth Kingdom. It is the unchanging way and goal of God for humanity and the earth realm. So, God who resurrected His Son Jesus Christ will also resurrect His people and restore earth. And then the renewed species of man will reign in the renewed earth with Jesus Christ forever and ever (**Rev. 22:5**).