

## =MIRACLES OF CHRIST=

### Lesson 9

#### The Miracle of the Resurrection and the Ascension

AIM: to teach my pupils the doctrine of the resurrection.

POINT OF CONTACT: We have been living in the “space age.” Let us talk about the astronauts for an opening point of contact. Talk for a moment about some of our accomplishments in space. Ask the class who was the first astronaut, the second, the third, etc. Of course, the correct answers are as follows: The first was Enoch, who was taken to Heaven physically; the second was Elijah, who was taken to Heaven in a whirlwind; the third was Jesus, Who ascended back to Heaven.

#### I. THE MIRACLE OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.

1. The power of His resurrection. (Romans 8:11) This is one of the greatest Scriptures in all the Bible. It tells us what raised Jesus from the dead. He was not raised from the dead because He was God; He was not raised from the dead because He was the Son of God; He was not raised from the dead because he was perfect; He was raised from the dead because the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is the One Who will raise the saved people from the dead some day. This means that if a person is raised from the dead, he must have the Holy Spirit in him. He is the Resurrector. To have the Holy Spirit in us, we must be born again by receiving Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

A good illustration of this would be to bring a magnet to class, along with a nail and a piece of wood, or several nails and several pieces of wood. You can hold the magnet over wood and metal, watching the metal rise to the magnet and observing that the wood stays where it is. There is something in the metal that lifts to the magnet; there is nothing in the wood that causes it to be lifted. This is the difference between the saved and the unsaved. The Holy Spirit will be a magnet at the resurrection of the just. Those who have the Holy Spirit in them will have Something that will rise to meet the Lord; those who do not, will not. This is why good works cannot save; this is why joining a church cannot save; there is nothing a man can do to save himself—it is the Holy Spirit Who resurrects him at the resurrection of the just.

2. The significance of the resurrection of Christ. (I Corinthians 15:20) In this verse, Christ is called “...the firstfruits of them that slept,” meaning the first one to rise from the dead in the resurrection of the just. The Jews had three parts to their harvest. (The resurrection in the Bible is likened to a harvest.) First, the firstfruits; then, the main harvest; and then, the gleanings or leftovers. This is the way the harvest was gathered. The firstfruits were sort of the samplings; the main harvest, of course, was the big harvest; then the gleanings were those which the main harvest did not get or that which had grown after the main harvest. The parallel is, there will be three phases to the resurrection of the just. Jesus is the firstfruits; He is the sample, showing us what will take place someday in our bodies. The main harvest will take place at the coming of Jesus Christ for His own. This is called the “rapture” when the dead in Christ shall rise. During the tribulation period following the rapture, some people will be saved. At the end of the seven-year tribulation period, these people will be resurrected. These are the gleanings. Consequently, the resurrection of Christ is the firstfruits, showing us what is going to take place for us some day.
3. The dispensational teaching of the resurrection of Christ. Jesus had promised in John 14:16-18 that He would leave us the Holy Spirit when He went back to Heaven. Consequently, upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit entered into the body of every believer and has from that day to this dwelled in the body of every believer. Actually, the Holy Spirit is much like a baby-sitter. While the parents are away, someone takes care of the children. Jesus has left us the Holy Spirit to baby-sit with us, to comfort us, to teach us, to lead us, etc. while He is away. This Holy Spirit is always with us. (Teachers, stress a while here the fact that we are never alone, that the Holy Spirit is always with us and sees all we do.)
4. The purpose of the ascension. Jesus ascended back to Heaven as our High Priest. He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our lawyer, our advocate, our mediator, our intercessor. He it is Who pleads our case at the right hand of God the Father, and He is there even now awaiting the day when He will come again for His own.

II. THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST. The Bible speaks about two general resurrections. The first is the resurrection of the born-again people. This will take place before the tribulation and the millennium. The resurrection of the unsaved will take place at the end of the millennium, or 1,007 years after the resurrection of the saved. Note Revelation 20:6. Here we have the saved being resurrected. Notice it says, “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection....” This teaches us there must be a second, or He would not have called this the first. It also says that “blessed and holy” are these, which means that only the blessed and holy ones will be resurrected at first. Then in Revelation 20:5, you will notice it says, “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished....” Hence, they will be resurrected at the end of the Millennium.

1. The resurrection of the just shall be signaled by a trumpet. (I Thessalonians 4:16) A trumpet in the Bible blew for several reasons: It blew for a gathering time, it blew for a feast, it blew at the time to get up. This trumpet will signal all three of these things. It is time for the dead to get up and rise; we are going to a great feast in the sky; and we will all be gathered together with Christ forever.
2. Notice the order of the resurrection. (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17)
  - 1) The Lord will descend from Heaven.
  - 2) He will shout.
  - 3) We will hear the voice of the archangel.
  - 4) The trumpet shall sound.
  - 5) The dead in Christ shall rise from the grave.
  - 6) The living in Christ shall go up into the clouds with the dead in Christ.
  - 7) We all shall meet the Lord in the air.
  - 8) We all shall be with the Lord forever.
3. Let us look at the bodies we will have when we are resurrected.
  - 1) Our bodies shall be like His. (I Corinthians 15:49; I John 3:2)
  - 2) Our bodies shall be perfect. (I Corinthians 15:42, 43, 53a)
  - 3) Our bodies will be immortal. (They cannot die.) (I Corinthians 15:53b)

III. THE RESURRECTION OF THE UNJUST.

1. This will not take place until the thousand years are finished. (Revelation 20:5)
2. The purpose of this resurrection will be for the judging of the unsaved dead. This will not decide whether they are going to Heaven or Hell; it will simply decide their degrees of punishment in Hell. (Revelation 20:11)
3. All of the unsaved dead, both rich and poor, both small and great, shall rise. (Revelation 20:12)
4. Some shall rise from the sea, some shall rise from the earth, but all unsaved people shall rise. (Revelation 20:13)
5. The soul of the unsaved has been in Hell all these years that his body has been in the grave. The body and the soul shall rise and be united, the soul coming from Hell and the body coming from the grave. Then both body and soul shall be cast into Hell. (Revelation 20:13, 14)
6. These will be cast into Hell for one reason. This reason is not because they were bad; not because they were not church members; not because they were not baptized; but because their names were not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (Revelation 20:15)