

Episode #632 The Why Question 17: Resurrection Is the Hope

I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.

II. One of the most terrible tragedies we face in life is the tragedy of death. As we face the deaths of those near and dear to us, particularly when those deaths are sudden and tragic, we ask the why question and seek an answer.

III. In our previous study, we saw that Jesus Christ held out the hope of resurrection. Paul does the same thing in the resurrection chapter: I Corinthians 15.

A. I Corinthians 15:20. New life comes from resurrection.

B. I Corinthians 15:21-22. Death comes on all because of Adam. Resurrection life comes on all because of Christ.

C. I Corinthians 15:23-26. Not all are raised at the same time, but all are raised.

D. I Corinthians 15:35. How exactly does this happen?

IV. The Resurrection in the Valley of Dry Bones.

A. Ezekiel 37:1-3. Ezekiel sees the bones-only the Lord knows if they can live.

B. Ezekiel 37:4-8. The Lord can restore bodies. These are the same people who died...resurrection, not reincarnation.

C. Ezekiel 37:9-10. The Lord can restore life, even to those long dead.

D. Ezekiel 37:11-14. The Lord can bring people out of their graves. The Israelites thought death cut them off from all God’s promises.

V. The Resurrection in the Future.

A. A. I Corinthians 15:50-54. Flesh and blood as we are cannot inherit God’s kingdom. The resurrection is to a different kind of body.

B. I Corinthians 15:55-58. The ultimate victory over death is by resurrection.

C. Time has a way of erasing the legacies our dead loved ones leave us. Shelley in Ozymandias wrote, “Nothing beside remains.” Yet our legacies are not doomed: they will continue in resurrection.

VI. Resurrection to Life Comes Through the Gospel.

A. Acts 24:15. Both just and unjust will be raised.

B. John 20:30-31. The record regarding Christ, God’s Son.

C. I Corinthians 15:1-4. The record regarding what Christ did.

VII. Conclusion: death is one of the most terrible calamities at which we desperately ask the “why” question. While we might not have answers as to just why a certain tragic death happened, we can know the glorious answer to the sorrow of death, the hope that Paul held out to his readers and that the prophet Ezekiel held out to the despairing Israelites, the hope the Bible promotes from cover to cover: the hope of resurrection.