

Words of Grace Seasoned With Salt
BIBLE STUDIES, PERSONAL OPINIONS ABOUT CURRENT AND
FUTURE EVENTS

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**The Resurrection of the Dead and the Translation of
Living Saints at Christ's Coming
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Concerning the resurrection of dead saints and the translation of living saints at the second coming of Christ Paul wrote: 1 Corinthians 15:50-55:

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

In these verses, the Lord gives us a full description of both the dead and living saints at his second coming:

The Time:

He will come at the last trumpet.

The Speed:

He will come in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.

The Saints:

When he comes, the dead shall be raised incorruptible and the living saints will be changed and transformed without dying.

The Prophecies:

When this event takes place two prophecies in the Old Testament will come to pass according to verses 54-55. One is Isaiah 25:8-9 which says: ***He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.***

The other prophecy is Hosea 13:14 which says: ***I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.***

These are the two prophecies Paul said will come to pass in verses 54-55 when Jesus comes again. When Paul quotes these two prophets this is how he interpreted them:

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Paul combines what Isaiah and Hosea wrote concerning the dead and living saints when Jesus comes again. When they wrote; *O grave where is thy victory?*, they wrote of the dead saints when Jesus comes again. They will be raised from the dead. This agrees with verse 52: ***The dead shall be raised incorruptible.***

It also agrees with 1 Thessalonians 4:16: ***For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:***

When they wrote, *O death, where is thy sting?*, they wrote of the living saints at Christ's coming. They will never experience the sting of death. They will be changed without dying. This agrees with verse 51: ***We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.*** It also agrees with 1 Thessalonians 4:17: ***Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.***

The prophets Isaiah and Hosea prophesied that when Jesus comes again at the last trumpet, dead saints will be raised incorruptible and living saints will be changed without dying; they will never experience the sting of death.

The Word of the Lord

What Hosea and Isaiah wrote explains what Paul meant in 1 Thessalonians 4:15 about *the word of the Lord*. He said: ***For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.***

What Paul wrote about the dead saints being raised from the dead and the living saints changed without dying, he was referring to what Isaiah and Hosea the prophets wrote according to 1 Corinthians 15:54-55. The word of the Lord in 1 Thessalonians 4:15 are the prophecies of Isaiah and Hosea made in the word of the Lord concerning the resurrection of dead saints and the translation of living saints at Christ's coming. This is why Paul calls this event the Hope of Israel in Acts 28:20. We share in their hope for in time past gentiles like us had no hope according to Ephesians 2:12.

A Mystery

In 1 Corinthians 15:51 he wrote: ***Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.***

This verse says there is something about Christ's coming that was a mystery in time past. In this chapter, he tells us exactly what it is. The mystery is: ***We shall not all sleep.*** The mystery is not Christ's coming. The mystery is not the resurrection of dead saints. The mystery concerns living saints when Christ comes again. They will not sleep or experience the sting of death. They will be changed without dying. When Christ comes again the dead saints will say; O grave, where is thy victory? and the living saints will say, O death where is thy sting?

In the days of Christ's earthly ministry and the days of the apostles, the general belief of most people was that by the time Christ came again all saints would be dead. But, Paul shows us a mystery about the resurrection; we shall not ALL sleep. Some will sleep, but not ALL. Some will be alive when he comes again and they will never die or experience the sting of death. But, even though it was a mystery it was one of those mysteries written down in the prophets. A mystery in the Bible is not a mystery or secret because it was not written down prior to its revelation. Many doctrines we believe today were written down in the prophets, but were hidden and concealed from the understanding of men until God chose the right time, place and man to reveal it to. And the mystery about living saints was one of them. It is found in Isaiah 25 and Hosea 13, but no one understood it until God revealed it to Paul in its fullness. Most people believed in the resurrection of dead saints, but they did not fully understand the plight of living saints. Most believed all saints would be dead when Christ came and they would be raised, but God revealed to Paul there will be saints alive when Christ comes and they will never die. They will be changed and transformed without experiencing the sting of death. (I hope to be one of them.)

The Dead And Living Saints According To Jesus Christ

In the book of John, he records a conversation Jesus had with a woman and in his conversation he told her what Paul would later write in 1 Corinthians 15 concerning the living and dead saints at his coming. In John 11 is found the death of Lazarus. After he died, Martha his sister came to Christ and it says in verses 21-26:

Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

The Lord told Martha that her brother would rise again. She answered by saying: ***I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*** This shows us what she knew about resurrection. She knew there would be a resurrection of

the dead at the last day which all saints in that day believed. But, then the Lord told her something else about the resurrection in the last day; ***And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?***

This verse has given people a problem for years because we know many saints who have believed in Christ and yet they have died. But the Lord said, *whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die*. How do we explain this? The answer to the problem is by interpreting it by the context in which it appears. When the Lord said: *whosoever liveth and believeth in me*, he was speaking of the saints who will believe in him in the last day when the dead will be resurrected. He said, they shall never die. Martha understood the resurrection of the dead in the last day, but she did not answer his question about the living saints in the last day. Why? Because according to 1 Corinthians 15:51 it was a mystery to her as it was to most saints in that day. It is not until you read 1 Corinthians 15 that this mystery about living saints is fully revealed. But, even though it was mystery, Jesus plainly said that in the last day, not only will dead saints be resurrected, but those who are alive and believe in him will never die. He said this years before God saved Paul, but Isaiah and Hosea the prophets wrote about it years before Christ said it, or before Paul wrote it.

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