

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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Dear Brother Faull,

What is so unique about the resurrection of Jesus? Even in the Bible there are many others who were raised to life after being dead. How was His resurrection so unique that it would be accepted as sufficient for our salvation?

ANSWER:

You are right, dear reader. There are nine occasions of other resurrections besides Jesus' recorded resurrection in Scripture. That assumes that the ones mentioned in **Hebrews 11:26** are included in the nine I mention here.

Hebrews says that the women received their dead raised back to life, but I think they are included in these nine occasions.

Pre-resurrection of Jesus:

Elijah raised a little boy. **1 Kings 17:22**

Elisha raised a child. **2 Kings 4:36**

Elisha died and a corpse touched his bones and lived again. **2 Kings 23:21**

Jesus Raised Some Dead People:

The widow of Nain's son. **Luke 7:14-15**

Jairus' daughter. **Mark 5:41-43**

Lazarus. **John 11:39-44**

Post Resurrection:

Many Saints after Jesus resurrected.

Matthew 27:52-53

Peter raised Dorcas or Tabitha. **Acts 9:39-40**

Paul raised Eutychus. **Acts 20:9-12**

It is interesting to note how many of these were Gentiles rather than Israelites, whether raised by Prophets, Jesus, or His apostles.

But these interesting facts do not answer your question. Why couldn't these people's death and resurrection pay for our sins?

Why could Jesus say on the cross, "It is finished" (or it is paid) and the others could not?

Can those who have the guilt of sin pay for the sins of others? Did those people rise from the dead and never die again?

Did not their bodies finally see corruption when they died again?

Were they raised to go to Heaven thus arriving in Heaven before Jesus paid the price of their sins? He is called "the firstfruit from the dead". These will not rise again until Jesus comes (**1 Corinthians 15:23**).

Can they make intercession for us forever?

Where are they now?

As High Priest He must enter into the Holiest alone.

Are they the one whom God raised up to sit on David's throne?

Are you beginning to get the picture that only Jesus, the one whom God sent to die, the sinless one, who everliveth is the Lamb of God who

takes away the sins of the world? Only He qualifies to be the risen living Christ?

I am glad you asked this question, however, for it gives me a chance to affirm that it is Jesus' resurrection that provides us hope for the forgiveness of our sins and that we have an intercessor forever and a hope for our own resurrection.

There are many Scriptures affirming that Jesus' death and physical resurrection are essential to our salvation. Sometimes Scripture says we are saved by his death. Other times it says we are saved by His resurrection. Those are figures of speech called "synecdoche" where the part is put for the whole.

Sometimes His death is put for the whole scheme of redemption and other times the resurrection is put for the whole scheme of redemption.

Examples:

"God forbid that I should glory **except in the cross** of Jesus Christ." See how the cross or crucifixion is put for the whole?

How about **1 Peter 1:3**, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively hope by the resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

See how the resurrection is put for the whole?

The mistake is when we put the word "only" where God never put one. There are at least 16 things that the Bible specifically says saves us. (Can you find them?)

But there is not an "only" after any of these things. We are saved by faith. But we are not saved by faith **only**. We are justified by works but not by works only. They too are often put for the whole and we error greatly when we say if you believe (only) you shall be saved.

Bible students know the part is put for the whole. If a doctor says just put your trust in me, you will get well. He means if you submit to his exams, medicine, exercises, and diet you will live. It is not enough to believe he exists or is a doctor. You must submit to him and obey him.

Many a Baptist preacher is using the Bible dishonestly when they tell us that faith only will save us. Peter says baptism saves us, but we know baptism only is false Catholic doctrine.

There is a reason the resurrection saves us. Let us see what all is included, however, when we say the resurrection of Jesus is essential to our salvation. Obviously, He had to die. He had to give His life. He had to shed His blood.

But let's see what all is meant by His resurrection:

Psalms 2:6-12, "6 Yet have I **set my king upon my holy hill of Zion**. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee**. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 **Serve the LORD with fear**, and rejoice with trembling. 12 **Kiss the Son**, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is

kindled but a little. **Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**"

The following is the Divine Commentary of **Psalms 2** Prophecy. *'The begotten speaks of His resurrection not His incarnation. He was raised to be the King worthy of worship or kissed and served'*.

Acts 13:33-37, "33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, **in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee**. 34 **And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David**. 35 Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, **Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption**. 36 **For David**, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and **saw corruption: 37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.**"

Even the parables foretold that Jesus would have to go into a far country to receive a Kingdom and He did receive it.

Luke 19:12, 15, "12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went **into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return**. 15 **And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom**, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading."

The book of **Acts** and **Daniel** show that after His resurrection He did so.

Acts 1:9-11, "9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight**. 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, **Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same**

Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

It was fulfilled.

Daniel 7:13-14, "13 I saw in the night visions, and, **behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him**. 14 **And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him**: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed."

Jesus everliveth and has a Priesthood that passeth not unto another.

Hebrews 7:11-22, "11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need **was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?** 12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. 13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. 14 **For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood**. 15 **And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest**, 16 **Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life**. 17 **For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec**. 18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God. 20 And inasmuch as not without an oath *he was made priest*: 21 **(For those priests were made without an oath;**

but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.”

Nor could Jesus be a Priest on earth, and He is Priest that everliveth.

Zechariah 6:12-13, “12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13 **Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.**”

Again – **Psalms 110:1-5**, “1 The LORD said unto my Lord, **Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.** 2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. 3 Thy people *shall be* willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. 4 **The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.** 5 **The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.**”

He is a Priest and King on His throne.

Acts 2:30-36, “30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, **he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath**

shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 **For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool. 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.**”

So here we see the fulfillment of another prophecy; for on Pentecost **Peter shows Jesus is raised, never to die**, never to return to Hades and gave the word of the Law out of Zion in Jerusalem. **Isaiah 2:3**, “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: **for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**”

After Jesus gave the great commission with promises of the signs to the Apostles, here is the Divine Commentary of His ascension:

Mark 16:19-20, “19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, **he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.** 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.**”

The resurrection involved much more than raising Him from the dead. He was raised to be set up as King after His resurrection and ascension. He is the firstfruit. No corruption, no return to Hades, He is the mediator of the new covenant (**Jeremiah 31**), Spirit sent, glorified by the Father, declared by Peter to be both Lord and Christ. He was made priest who everliveth to make intercession. He is Priest and King now on His throne in Heaven. He is worthy of worship and service.

The resurrection is put for the whole system. If He was not sinless, there could be no sacrifice. If there was no crucifixion there would have been no penalty paid, no resurrection, there

would be no proof of God's acceptance, no ascension to Heaven, there would be no King and Priest on His throne. No declaration of a new covenant offered, the lost would have no forgiveness of sins. No worship of the Son, only judgment. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him.