

Doctrine of Resurrection: Part 1 Old Testament Perspectives

At least ten passages in the Old Testament present the hope of resurrection.

The resurrection is not an unknown concept in the Old Testament. It is clear from earliest times God revealed that life did not end at death and those who died would live again. All of these examples, except for those in Daniel involve people who were resurrected once, but all died again. The ultimate hope is that we will be raised to everlasting life and we will never die. Note the following:

1. Abraham – he believed that God, who required him to sacrifice his son, could raise him again, Gen. 22:5 – I and the lad will go yonder to worship and we will come again, see Heb. 11:17-19.
2. Job – looked at a tree stump and saw it regenerate, but what about human life? Job. 14:7-14. He believed God could redeem his body from death, 19:25-29.
3. Isaiah – wrote a hymn in praise of God’s deliverance including deliverance from the final enemy of death. He said, your dead shall live and shall arise, Isa. 26:19.
4. Hosea – saw that God had the power to ransom his people from the grave, 13:14.
5. Ezekiel – saw a vision of the resurrection of individuals that would become the restored nation and a mighty army, Ezek. 37:1-14.
6. David – was confident God could bring his soul from the grave, Ps. 16:10; 49:15.
7. Elijah – raised from the dead the widow of Zerephath’s son, 1 Kin 17:17-24.
8. Elisha - raised from the dead the Shunamite widow’s son, 2 Kin. 4:8-37.
9. Elisha’s Bones – a man was thrown in Elisha’s grave, when his body touched the bones of the prophet, he came back to life, 2 Kin 13:20-21.
10. Daniel 12:2 – Presents five purposes of the Resurrection:
 - Resurrection will ultimately include every person who has ever lived, the just and the unjust (Acts 24:15). Every person will be resurrected some to eternal life, some to eternal judgment and spiritual death (Jn. 5:28-29).
 - Resurrection will separate just and unjust (Jn. 5:29; Lk. 16:19-31, esp. v. 26).
 - Resurrection will be a time of reward and judgment (Heb. 11:35).
 - Resurrection will allow God to transform our mortal bodies to glorified bodies (Rom. 8:22-23; 1 Cor 15:51-58).
 - Resurrection will allow us to have eternal fellowship with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, angels and believers of human history

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