

JESUS: I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Jesus "I AM" (16)

Banska Bystrica, 25 January 2015

John 11:1-57 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "**I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. ⁵⁴ Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples. ⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. ⁵⁶ They

were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?"⁵⁷ Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION

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- 0.2. RESURRECTION(S) DEFINED

1. GET SERIOUS ABOUT ETERNITY!

- 1.1. LETTING LAZARUS DIE
- 1.2. THE BIGGER THE PROBLEM → THE GREATER THE DELIVERANCE

2. BELIEVE IN JESUS!

- 2.1. THE FAITH IN JESUS IS CENTRAL!
- 2.2. THE METONYMY

3. DO NOT EXPECT A GENERAL CONSENSUS ON THE MATTER!

- 3.1. THE POWER OF GOD → CRISIS
- 3.2. THE DIVISION CAUSED BY FAITH IN JESUS

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. THE CONTEXT

- Lazarus' sickness and death

0.2. RESURRECTION(S) DEFINED

- death presupposed → theological definition of death – complete separation from the source of life, from God

The essence of a human being consists above all in the most intimate union of soul and body in a single personality; they belong together. The continuity of an individual human being is maintained as much in the identity of the body as in the identity of the soul.¹

0.2.1. DEFINITIONS

0.2.1.1. THE WORD "RESURRECTION"

0.2.1.1.1. The Bible

- Slovak: vzkriesenie – from *krepkij, svieži, zdravý, silný*
- NT: ἀνάστασις, ἀνίστημι – to make to stand up; to raise from sleep, wake up; to raise from the dead;
- OT: קים
 - Is 26:19 Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise (יְחִי מֵתֵיךְ נִבְלָתִי יְקוּמוּן).

The church, filled with hope which will not be put to shame, now calls to itself, "Thy dead will live" (יְחִי מֵתֵיךְ, *reviviscent*, as in תְּחִיַת הַמֵּתִים, the resurrection of the dead), and consoles itself with the working of divine grace and power, which is even now setting itself in motion: "my corpses will rise again" (נִבְלָתִי יְקוּמוּן, *nebelah*: a word without a plural, but frequently used in a plural sense, as in ch. v. 25, and therefore connected with יְקוּמוּן²

¹ BAVINCK, H. *Reformed Dogmatics (Abr.)*, p. 751.

² DELITZSCH, F.

- **Dan 12:2** And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake (קִיּוּ), some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt (תִּבְזוּז).³
- **Ps 16:10** For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol...

0.2.1.1.2. Resurrection = immortality?

- “Resurrection denotes the concept of God’s raising the body and soul after death (meant literally) to a new and eternal life (not a return to mortal existence). This belief should not be confused with the Hellenistic concept of the immortality of the soul...”³
 1. "Now unto the King eternal, immortal" [1 Tim 1:17].
 2. Only God has immortality [1 Tim 6:16].
 3. Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel 2Tim 1:10.
 4. "To them (Christians) that...seek for glory and honor and immortality" [Romans 2:7].
 5. "This mortal must put on immortality" [1 Corinthians 15:53] at the resurrection.
 6. "This mortal shall have put on immortality" [1 Corinthians 15:54] after the resurrection.⁴

0.2.1.2. THE EVENT

- (1) Resurrections of humans → miracles confirming the word of God
 - (2) The resurrection of Jesus → faith in the gospel (...the firstborn of the dead (John 11:25; Acts 26:23; 1 Cor. 15:20; Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5)
 - (3) The resurrection in sanctification (eg. Rom 6; Phil 3) → the power of Jesus’ resurrection today
 - (4) The eschatological resurrection (**John 5:29** ...those who have done good to the **resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil to the **resurrection of judgment**)
 - *general resurrection*: a resurrection not only of believers but also of unbelievers and of all human beings (John 5:29; **Acts 24:15** ...a resurrection of both the just and the unjust)
- [BAVINCK] The first event that follows the appearance of Christ is the resurrection of the dead. This event is not the result of an evolution of bodies in general or of the resurrection body implanted in believers by regeneration and sacrament in particular but the effect of an omnipotent, creative act of God (Matt. 22:29; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:38; 2 Cor. 1:9).⁵
- (The *first* resurrection: of the saved → **Rev 20:5-6** The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection...Over such the second death has no power... **Luke 20:34-36** And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage,³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons¹ of the resurrection.
 - the *second* resurrection: of the unsaved → second death [**Rev 20:14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.]

0.2.2. THE PROBLEMS OF ESCHATOLOGY

0.2.2.1. OPPOSITION

- The Sadducees; the Athenians; Corinthian Christians (!); Hymeneus and Philetus
- [SHAKESPEARE] “A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king ; and eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm.”

0.2.2.2. OBSESSION (“HOBBY HORSE DOCTRINES”)

- Dispensationalism(?) → “prophetic timetable”
- Sects predicting future events...

1. GET SERIOUS ABOUT ETERNITY!

- “You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you.”⁶

³ CHARLESWORTH, J. H. *Resurrection*, New York : T&T Clark, 2006, p. 2

⁴ William Robert WEST

⁵ BAVINCK, H. *Reformed Dogmatics IV*, p.

⁶ LEWIS, C. S. *A Grief Observed*, p. 22.

1.1. LETTING LAZARUS DIE

- Jesus loved him → death is painful
- Jesus may have healed him → death is “nonsensical” [“unnatural”(?)]
- v.35 “Jesus wept”
- WHY?

1.2. THE BIGGER THE PROBLEM → THE GREATER THE DELIVERANCE

- v.4 ... that the Son of God may be glorified through it
- v.15 so that you may believe → the growth of faith (**John 16:30-31** ...we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe?")
 - v.40 if you believed you would see the glory of God?

2. BELIEVE IN JESUS!

- vv,25-26 Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

2.1. THE FAITH IN JESUS IS CENTRAL!

- the one sin: *unbelief*: **John 16:8-9** And when he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because **they do not believe in me**;

2.2. THE METONYMY

- “I am” the resurrection: metonymy (A figure of speech which consists in substituting for the name of a thing the name of an attribute of it or of something closely related.)

2.2.1. JESUS: THE WAY TO ATTAIN THE RESURRECTION

- soteriology → faith in Him *saves* from death and gives the resurrection and the life

2.2.2. JESUS: THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

- new creation → faith in Him will give you a *new spiritual body* in new creation

2.2.3. JESUS: YOUR FUTURE IS IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM

- the Lord of the time → faith in Him gives *access* to the resurrection power now... (Rom 6; Phil 3:10-11)

3. DO NOT EXPECT A GENERAL CONSENSUS ON THE MATTER!

- ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death...
- the danger of the “religion of the public opinion” (*Majority decides what is the truth...*)

3.1. THE POWER OF GOD → CRISIS

- → the time of decision (**Joshua 24:15** ...choose this day whom you will serve... **Dt 30:19** I call heaven and earth to witness against you **today**, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live)

3.2. THE DIVISION CAUSED BY FAITH IN JESUS

- → the decision to receive the resurrection life is a decision to die with Jesus at the same time
- **Lk 12:51-53** Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

4. TO REMEMBER

- The eternal life is a life from the dead.
- The only way to attain eternal life is to be raised from the dead by Jesus.
- To follow Christ in life means to follow him in his death as well.