

Now Is Christ Risen

Easter Special

1 Corinthians 15:20–28 (ESV) — **20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **24** Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. **28** When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

I. The resurrection of Christ (20a)

A. But in fact...

1 Corinthians 15:12–19 / 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

II. Death for the Christian (20b)

A. First Fruits

Exodus 23:16 (ESV) — **16** You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.

Exodus 34:22 (ESV) — **22** You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year’s end.

Deuteronomy 18:4 (ESV) — **4** The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.

Proverbs 3:9–10 (ESV) — **9** Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; **10** then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Romans 8:23 (ESV) — **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (ESV) — **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

B. Fallen Asleep

John 11:11 (ESV) — **11** After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.”

1 Corinthians 15:6 (ESV) — **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (ESV) — **13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 (ESV) — **15** For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

CONCLUSION What happens to the believer when they die?

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (ESV) — **7** and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

2 Corinthians 5:6–8 (ESV) — **6** So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Philippians 1:21–23 (ESV) — **21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **22** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. **23** I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

Hebrews 9:27 (ESV) — **27** And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

DEATH - what does the Bible say?

1. Death is real

John 11:39 (ESV) — **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.”

2. Death is an enemy

1 Corinthians 15:26 (ESV) — 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

3. Death is never the end for anyone

John 5:28–29 (ESV) — 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice **29** and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Hebrews 9:27 (ESV) — 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

4. Beyond death there are two destinies

Daniel 12:2 (ESV) — 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

5. Death for the believer is a defeated enemy

1 Corinthians 15:56–57 (ESV) — 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:14–15 (ESV) — 14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

III. Death for everyone (21-22)

A. Adam and death

Genesis 2:16–17 (ESV) — 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:8–11 (ESV) — 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” **10** And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” **11** He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

Genesis 5:5 (ESV) — 5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

Job 5:7 (ESV) — 7 but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.

Romans 5:12 (ESV) — 12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

B. Christ and life

John 2:19 (ESV) — 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

John 2:21–22 (ESV) — 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. **22** When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

John 10:18 (ESV) — 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Romans 1:4 (ESV) — 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Acts 2:23–24 (ESV) — 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. **24** God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Romans 10:9 (ESV) — 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 11:25–26 (ESV) — 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?”

IV. The resurrection and the end (23-28)

A. Christ’s resurrection (23)

Acts 3:14–15 (ESV) — 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

1 Corinthians 15:5–6 (ESV) — **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

B. Christ's reign (24-25)

Acts 2:36 (ESV) — **36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Hebrews 2:13 (ESV) — **13** And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

C. The general resurrection (26)

John 5:25 (ESV) — **25** “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

John 5:28–29 (ESV) — **28** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice **29** and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Revelation 20:11–15 (ESV) — **11** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. **12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. **13** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. **14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. **15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

D. Post resurrection (27-28)

John 6:38–39 (ESV) — **38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

Hebrews 2:13 (ESV) — **13** And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

Revelation 21:1–4 (ESV) — **1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 1:17–18 (ESV) — **17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, **18** and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.