RESURRECTION – BE READY TO COMPLETE EVERYTHING

On the day the Lord Jesus died, the Bible tells us that tombs were opened and the bodies of many saints who had died were raised. But they did not leave their tombs immediately; they remained there until the day Jesus Himself rose. Then they began their journey to the holy city of Jerusalem. When they arrived, many people saw them.

This raises an important question: Why did the dead rise at that particular time? And why did they go specifically to Jerusalem?

Let us read:

> *Matthew 27:50-53 (ESV)*
> *“50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.*
> *51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were*

> *split.*
> *52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,*
> *53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”*

Theological Significance of the First Resurrection

The resurrection of these saints was not random; it served several purposes:

Validation of Christ’s Resurrection: God wanted to confirm to His people that the resurrection was real and that Jesus Christ had truly risen

> *(1 Corinthians 15:20 ESV*
>
> – “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”*).*

This prefigured the future general resurrection and served as a

living testimony to those in Jerusalem.

Witness to Others: At that time, there were groups of people, such as the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection (Acts 23:8 ESV). Others falsely claimed that Jesus' body had been stolen. The risen saints provided irrefutable evidence that God's power is absolute and that death cannot hold His children.

A Demonstration of God's Sovereignty: The timing and location—Jerusalem—underscores God's divine orchestration. Jerusalem was the spiritual and political heart of Israel. By directing the saints there, God showed that resurrection is a divine act of power, meant to glorify Him and encourage faith.

But did everyone see it?

No. Only the saints who were in Jerusalem at that time witnessed the event. Just as the resurrected Jesus did not appear to everyone, but only to His followers (Luke 24:36-43 ESV), the risen saints appeared only to those who were spiritually receptive. This reminds us that God's miraculous acts often require faith to perceive.

Imagine the awe of those who saw familiar faces—friends, neighbors, loved ones—rise from the dead, speaking and testifying: *“I am Joseph, I am Solomon, I am Jeremiah”*. Could anyone then doubt the resurrection?

The Future Resurrection and the Rapture

The resurrection we are now awaiting, the resurrection of the Church, is even greater and nearer than most realize. At that time, the great trumpet of God will sound, and an event similar to the resurrection of the saints after Jesus’ death will occur—but on a far larger scale.

> *1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (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.*
> *16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*
> *17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

> *18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.”*

This future resurrection is also called the “first resurrection” (Revelation 20:5-6 ESV). It is primarily for the righteous—those who belong to Christ. Unlike the resurrection after Jesus’ death, this will include saints from all generations, not only those present in Jerusalem.

Theologically, this event is part of God’s eschatological plan:

Dead in Christ rise first: The resurrection is sequential; the dead in Christ are raised before the living are caught up.

Transformation of the living: Those who are alive will not experience death but will be instantly changed (1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ESV).

Judgment delayed for the righteous: The rapture spares the saints from the coming tribulation, demonstrating God’s mercy.

Why Only Some Will See

Just as in Jesus' first resurrection, the event will not be visible to everyone. Only those who are spiritually alive—born again believers—will witness it. The rest of the world may be confused, deny it, or claim deception, much as they did during Jesus' resurrection.

> *1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (ESV)*
> *"51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*
> *52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."*

At that time, the act of "sleeping and awakening" will end. Those who are caught up will enter the spiritual Jerusalem (Galatians 4:26 ESV – *"But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother."*), fully united with the Lord.

A Call to Readiness

We are living in the season of the Church’s rapture. Signs of the times are clear. The question is: Are we ready? If the trumpet sounded today, could you confidently be taken up? After the rapture, the door of God’s mercy will close, and the world will experience His judgment (Revelation 6:16-17 ESV).

Time is short. If your relationship with Christ is distant, turn to Him today. He will receive you and make you His child

> *(John 1:12 ESV*
>
> – “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*).*

May the Lord bless you.

I

JIUNGE NA GROUP LETU LA WHATSAPP HAPA >> WHATSAPP GROUP....

Share on:
WhatsApp