

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I want to talk to you about the glorious subject of resurrection today. “Well,” you say, “it is not Easter. I know something about the Lord being risen from the dead.” No, I am talking about the resurrection of the dead. You see, we all face death. We know a little or perhaps all too well because of a loved one or a friend or we have seen death. Wait a minute! You mean, after death there is something else going on? Yes, there is the resurrection of the dead.

Back in the early part of the Bible in **Genesis**, the resurrection of the dead was actually believed by the patriarchs. Who are the patriarchs? They are those who were the leaders that God speaks of. Abraham, for example, went with his son, Isaac, to offer him up to the Lord, not knowing what was actually going to happen, but God said to bring his son and to sacrifice him. Abraham didn't even know if his son would die and something would happen that he would have to be resurrected. But he believed God because he said, “I will come again” to those who were left to guard the stuff while Abraham went into this hill with his son.

Hebrews 11 tells us - **By faith Abraham**, when he was tried, offered up Isaac. He that had received the promises offered up his only

begotten son. In other words, Abraham knew that whatever happened to his son, God would raise him up, because God said He would. Therefore, for that reason, even whether his son had to die or not die, this was a type of what would happen to our Lord on the Cross when He died for your sin and mine. He went believing God that he was going to be raised.

But it was not just to the patriarchs, such as Abraham, but also to the prophets that this was revealed. In **Isaiah 26**, we read —

19 The dead shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise . . . They believed that the dead bodies of the Lord's people were going to be restored and re-established as a nation. It is spoken of as a resurrection. So the expectation of resurrection was there.

Also, in the **Book of Daniel** — and this is very classic — in **chapter 12**, we read —

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. In other words, Daniel was spoken to at the end of his time, and he died in his nineties. He was told that some are going to sleep for this little while and raised to meet everlasting life, and others raised to meet everlasting condemnation. In other words, with resurrection there was a decision of which side somebody stood on as far as knowing God. It is a very important thing to

understand that death doesn't finish it. Resurrection follows.

Also, some of the proofs show. There are miracles in the Old Testament that speak of it. An amazing story is in the days of Elisha. Elisha came and there was child lying dead on the bed of those people that were taking care of Elisha in this home. We read in **2 Kings 4**, as Elisha believed God and laid on this child . . . **the child opened his eyes**. Later on, when Elisha himself died and they buried him, there was a band of these Moabites, who were these people in this community. They came invading the land. As it happened, one of them actually died. They went to bury him and as they did so, not realizing it, they threw him into the sepulcher where Elisha had been buried and there were the bones of Elisha. Immediately, when this dead man fell on the bones of Elisha - we read in **2 Kings 13:21** - . . . **he revived, and stood up on his feet**. In other words, down through the Old Testament, people knew of the resurrection. They knew of the resurrection and they believed in the resurrection.

Jesus Christ Himself proved this resurrection when He went to the ruler's house. You remember they said, "The little girl, Jarius' daughter, is dead." In **Luke 8**, we read —

54 **And he - Jesus - put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.**

55 **And her spirit came again and she arose straightway.**

And the fame of this spread as everybody talked about it.

Another very, very special occasion was about the widow of Nain. As they were bearing her only son who had died, Jesus saw them had compassion on her. He touched the son and he was raised. This was in recorded in **Luke 7:11-13.**

And one that I know you will know of was of Lazarus recorded in **John 11 ---**

43 . . . he (Jesus) cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes . . . Jesus saith unto them, Loose him. and let him go.

There is a resurrection one day for you and for me. Through Jesus Christ, it can be the resurrection of the living that we will be forever with Him; not the resurrection of condemnation. May it be in your life as you say *Yes!* to Him as you respond.

For His Name's sake. Amen.