

## **THE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL TODAY**

October 3, 2015

Chris Katulka, What is Your Hope? Part 2

So last week I asked the question... as a Christian “what is your hope?” I mentioned that I love asking this question to other believers in hope of hearing one particular answer. Last week I said, that as long as I’ve been asking that question, I never get a wrong answer. Every answer I get is essentially right, BUT it’s usually not the specific answer I want to hear.

The answers I often get are, “My hope is to spend eternity in heaven with Jesus.” or “My sins are forgive forever!” And my response is, you’re right. But that’s not exactly what I’m looking for.

The answer I’m still waiting to hear from Christians when I ask this question is... the resurrection!

The resurrection is the hope of every believer in Jesus. The reason I’m telling you it’s your hope is not because I just think it is, but because that’s what Jesus and the Apostles taught... last week I quoted C.S. Lewis who said in his book Miracles, that the Resurrection was always mentioned in the gospel presentation... the gospel messages of the Apostles. The Apostles preached the resurrection and hoped in the resurrection, because for them as

good Jewish men... they knew that the resurrection was tied to the coming Kingdom of the Messiah!

The resurrection is the belief that there is a day coming... in the future... which means this event is prophetic, when the dead will rise from the grave. That there is a day coming when you and I will go from mortal to immortal, corruptible to incorruptible. That the exact same thing that happened to Jesus when He resurrected from the dead will happen to us... that's the ultimate hope of a Christian.

Last week we looked at what Job had to say about resurrection, but this week I want to focus on Daniel's prophecy of the resurrection, and tie it into the words of Jesus.

The requirement for resurrection is very simple, it's extremely simple actually... you don't have to do anything to be resurrected in the future according to the scriptures... you only had to have lived at some point. Period.

So here's the thing... if you are living and breathing today... you will be resurrected! It doesn't matter if you are a Christian, a Jewish person, a Muslim, a Hindu, Buddhist... even an atheist... you will be resurrected. But, the question is to what will you be resurrected?

The prophet Daniel in Daniel 12:2 gives us some theological insight on the resurrection... he says this, “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.” Let me stop there... often times in the Bible whenever Biblical writers mention the resurrection they don’t use the term, “resurrection”. For instance here in Daniel 12:2 he says those who sleep in the dust of the earth... that’s the dead... shall awake... that’s resurrection. That people who have died in the past, who are buried in the ground, Their dead body will come back to life... waking up.

Paul called resurrection in Romans 11 “life from the dead”, and in Ephesians 4 Paul also calls resurrection... “the day of redemption”, when all things are redeemed.

So everyone who has ever lived since Adam will resurrect from the dead. Yet to what will they resurrect to?

Well according Daniel, in Daniel 12:2, it says some will rise to everlasting life, and some will rise to shame and contempt.

And it's here that we see this discrepancy as to where people will go when they resurrect. Remember, as I said last week on our program, everybody has been designed to live eternally everyone whether they believe in God or not has been designed by the Creator to live forever, remember Adam and Eve weren’t created to

die, but here Daniel tells us in Daniel 12 that some will go to everlasting life and some will go to everlasting shame and contempt.

This is where one's belief comes into play. It doesn't matter if you believe in God or if you are an atheist everyone will resurrect from the dead but the destination is what matters the most.

Why does everyone have to resurrect?

What's the purpose of the God making it so that everybody must rise from the dead?

I believe it's incredibly important that all of humankind must resurrect from the dead because see everyone must stand before God in their flesh in order to be judged. God will judge everyone in their flesh and some as a result of their faith in the Lord and a result of their faith and trust being placed in the Lord Jesus... they will find everlasting life. But for those who don't believe, for those who didn't believe in God or trust in His Son or His promises then everlasting contempt is waiting for them.

Now we've been looking at the resurrection found in Daniel 12:2, and I think it's quite interesting when you look at Daniel 12:2 and then you pan across the Gospels you find this interesting

connection between what Daniel is talking about - the resurrection of all people and the result that some will rise to eternal life to everlasting life and some will rise to everlasting shame and contempt. Now it's interesting that we find Jesus in the gospels using this phrase that we that we are extremely familiar with this phrase "eternal life" we see it all the time especially in the book of John... Jesus loves using this phrase "eternal life".

The verse that many of us have memorized over the years John 3:16, since you were probably very young is connected to Daniel's prophetic vision of the resurrection... it's a direct connection. Jesus is practically quoting John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

You've probably read that verse a million times but think about it in light of Daniel 12 where Daniel is saying that there is a day coming when all mankind will be resurrected some to everlasting life and some to everlasting shame or the idea of perishing. When Jesus says this very famous verse what he's thinking of is resurrection this is what eternal life is and this is why I am I never tell somebody who says that their hope is to one day spend eternity with Jesus I never tell that person that they're wrong however what does it mean to have everlasting life according to Daniel and according to the way Jesus uses the phrase ever ever

lasting life or eternal life these ideas are connected specifically to the hope the longing for the resurrection.

And for those who say that your hope is that your sins are forgiven... you're right. But why are your sins forgiven? They're forgiven so that on that day of judgment when everyone stands before God you are found the righteous and holy so that you might have everlasting life. That's why whenever the apostles would give the Gospel message, and the hope of the Resurrection was always connected to it, it was connected because of what Jesus accomplished for us. He clothes us with the righteousness needed to attain everlasting life the hope of the Resurrection.

So next time someone asks you what's your hope as a Christian simply say... my hope is in the resurrection to come!