

I Will Raise Him Up

By Henry Mahan

Bible Text: John 6:39-44

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Now here is my text today: John chapter six verse 39 through 44, John 6:39-44. Now my subject is the resurrection of the dead or this is the title of the message: "I Will Raise Him Up. I Will Raise Him Up."

Now while I read the text you listen for that phrase, "I will raise him up." Now listen carefully. I am reading John six verse 39 and our Lord Jesus Christ is speaking and he says, "This is the Father's will which hath sent me that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise him up again at the last day. I will raise him up."

Verse 40. "And this is the will of him that sent me that everyone which seeth the Son by faith sees the Son and believes on him may have everlasting life and I will raise him up at the last day."

Now verse 44. "No man can come to me, believe on me, come to Christ in faith except the Father which hath sent me draw him and I will raise him up at the last day. I will raise him up at the last day."

We are talking about the resurrection of those who have died in Christ.

Now of all the doctrines which the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has revealed to us, perhaps, perhaps the most difficult to human thought and human understanding is the actual resurrection of this body from the grave, from the dead. After this body has died and rotted and decayed and gone back to the dust for God to raise it up, 100, 200, 1000, 5000 years later, for God to raise it up a new and glorified body, that is perhaps the most difficult doctrine for the human mind and understanding. But the Word of God promises that. The Word of God promises to believers a perfection of soul and a perfection of body, body and soul and an eternity of glory and happiness on a new earth, a resurrected earth, a new earth, recreated earth and heaven.

Actually, our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated the glorified resurrected body when he appeared to his disciples in the 24th chapter of Luke. Do you remember? Have you read that Scripture? Luke 24 beginning at verse 36 when he appeared to his disciples after he had risen from the grave and this is what he said to them. They were afraid. They saw him die. They buried him. And here he is standing in the midst of them.

And the first thing he said to them is this. "It is I myself." It is Christ himself. That is the word he uses in verse 36, Christ himself. And then he said, "It is I myself."

Well, they were afraid. They thought they had seen a ghost, a spirit, and he said, "A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see me have. Touch me." That is what he said. "Handle me." A spirit does not have flesh and bones, does not have a body.

And then he showed them his hands and feet. Why did he do that? Why didn't he show them his head or his back? He showed them his hands and feet. I'll tell you why he did that. There were scars in his hands, the nail prints and in his feet and they recognized. They saw the Roman soldiers drive those nails into his hands and into his feet.

And he said, "Look. It is I myself. A spirit doesn't have flesh and bones as you see me have. Touch me. Behold my hands and my feet."

And they were still in unbelief. They still did not believe for joy and he said, now listen. "Do you have anything to eat?"

And they said, "We have some fish and a honeycomb." And he took the fish and the honeycomb and ate it in front of them.

Our resurrected body is going to be like his. Now I know that is tough. You stay with me and listen, though, as I show you this from the Scriptures, but our Lord was in the grave and he arose and this is the body that he had and showed to his disciples. And we are going to have a body just like his.

Now, the first preachers and apostles, they went forth preaching two doctrines for which they were hated, stoned, imprisoned and finally martyred, slain. Do you know what those two doctrines were? The two doctrines for which they were hated and stoned and imprisoned and finally put to death. The first one is this: Salvation by the free grace of God, not of works lets any man should boast, but salvation through the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, salvation by faith, not by works, not by keeping days and paying tithes and doing certain duties. Salvation is the gift of God by the grace of God through the sacrifice of Christ through the blood of the Son of God by the Holy Spirit's regeneration through faith in Christ to believe him. That is what they preached in opposition to duties and traditions and customs and professions. Salvation is the work of God in the heart.

That is the first doctrine. And the second was this. The other doctrine which cannot be separated from the first, the other doctrine for which they were despised and hated and finally slain was the resurrection of the dead. That's right, the resurrection of the dead, what I read to you a moment ago. Salvation is by grace. Salvation is through the blood of Christ. Salvation is by faith in Christ and faith alone. And those who believe are going to be raised from the dead in perfection, in holiness, in incorruption, in power in glory and be made just like the Lord who redeemed them. That is what he said that I read to you a few moments ago.

He said, "This is the Father's will which has sent me that of all which he hath given me by his grace I will lose nothing but raise it up again at the last day. And everyone that seeth the Son and believeth on him may have everlasting life and I will raise him up again at the last day. And no man can come to me except my Father which sent me draw him and they shall be taught of God and learn of the Father and everyone that is taught of God and learned of the Father cometh to me and I will raise him up at the last day."

Those two doctrines stand together. Salvation, full, complete, eternal by the blood of Christ, by the grace of God through faith and the resurrection of the dead. All who believe are going to be resurrected and made like Christ.

Now the Old Testament believers...you say, "Where do you get that doctrine?"

Throughout the Word of God.

All of the Old Testament believers looked forward to the resurrection of the body. They believed that the body would rise. Let me quote some of them.

Abraham, he accounted that God was able to raise up Isaac even from the dead. Abraham believed in the resurrection.

Job. Listen to Job. "Though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh and bones (as Christ said) I shall see God whom I shall see myself and not another. I am going to die and worms will destroy this body. But I am going to see God in my flesh."

David said, "Thou wilt not leave my body in the grave."

Daniel said, "Those who sleep in the dust shall rise."

Isaiah said, "God's dead men shall live together. With my dead body shall they rise."

That's Daniel...Isaiah. Listen to Isaiah. "The dead shall live together. He shall raise them up and they shall live in his sight."

All of the Old Testament believers believed in the resurrection of the dead.

And then the apostles, like I told you. They went forth preaching salvation by grace and the resurrection of the dead. And the thing that people hated and despised, not only that message of redemption by Christ, but the resurrection.

In Acts 1:22 when they chose an apostle to take the place of Judas, the apostles said, "Now, he must be a witness of the resurrection of our Lord. He has got to have seen the resurrection because that is what he is going to preach."

If Christ...oh, I'll tell you that in a minute.

Listen to this. Acts 2:31. Peter's message on Pentecost was largely a declaration of Christ's resurrection. He said, "You with wicked hands have crucified the Lord of glory, but God raised him up. This same Jesus whom you crucified hath God raised up."

God raised him.

Acts 4 one and two of the apostles were arrested and put in jail. Why? It says for preaching the resurrection of the dead.

In Acts 17:18 you remember this story, don't you, when Paul came to Mars' hill to preach and it says that he was accused, listen, he was accused of setting forth strange gods because he preached the resurrection of the dead.

In Acts 17:32 they mocked him and ridiculed him when they heard him preach. Why? The resurrection of the dead.

And then in Acts 23 verse six Paul was called in question. Why? For preaching the resurrection of the dead.

Now here is what I want you to see. And you jot this down. If you don't turn there and read it, jot it down. 1 Corinthians 15 verse 13. Paul presents the problems that we face if there is no resurrection of the body. If there is no resurrection of this body. I am going to die and be buried. And some day the Word says I will be raised.

Now listen. If there is no resurrection Christ is not risen. This is 1 Corinthians 15:13-19. If there is no resurrection our preaching is vain and your faith is vain. Thirdly, if there is no resurrection we are false witnesses of God. Fourthly, if there is no resurrection we are yet in our sins. Five, if there is no resurrection all who have died in faith are perished, all your loved ones perished. In the sixth place if there is no resurrection all we have is this world and if all we have is this world we are of all men most miserable if there is no resurrection.

Philippians three Paul said, "But thank God there is. Thank God for the promise of the resurrection. I will raise him up."

Listen. Our citizenship is in heaven from whence we look for the Savior the Lord Jesus Christ who will change our vile bodies and make them like his glorified body. Yes, he will.

Now here is the big question. Here is the big question and here is what causes the problem in these human minds and thoughts. Here is the question. How are the dead raised and with what body do they come?

Now we are old enough and lived long enough and seen enough death to know what it is like. The body dies and it is buried and it rots and it decays and it goes back to the dust from whence it came.

And what the problem is, what the thing that is the problem to us is the deterioration of the body, the total deterioration of this body and that presents a problem. But one of the great old writers said, "That is not a problem. That is not a problem. The decay and corruption of the body is not a problem to the resurrection, it is a necessity."

What? Yes. The decay of the body, the death of the body is necessary in order that here shall be a new body, a new person. The old person has got to die and decay and disappear before the new body comes forth. That is what the Lord said in John 12. Listen. Listen. Listen, will you? John 12:24. "Except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone." He says, "If you have got a grain of corn or a grain of wheat in your hand, you hold it a long time, no change. It is still a shriveled, wrinkled grain of corn."

What do you go to do?

You got to bury it. It has got to die. It has got to decay. It has got to rot. And listen.

"But if it dies it will bring forth more fruit."

It will grow up.

So that grain of wheat or corn decaying, that's not the problem. That's the necessity. The problem is if it doesn't decay. And 1 Corinthians 15:35 says this. But some man will say, "But how are the dead raised? With what body do they come?"

"Thou fool, thou fool. That which you plant is not made alive to bear fruit except it die." That is what Paul...that is the answer he gives.

Now let me see if I can help you with that. Listen. We plant seeds. Most of you people listening to my voice today have planted gardens. And you put a seed in the ground and there that seed dies and rots and decays by water and dust and in a few days there is a green blade appears which grows and grows and grows until it becomes a full stalk of corn or wheat and has a beautiful luscious ear of corn on it with many, many grains.

Now this tall stalk of corn which is growing there, is that the same corn you planted?

Well, you say, "Yes, of course it is. It came right up where I planted it. It came out of the same little shriveled seed I put in the ground, this new stalk of corn came from it. Of course, that is where I planted it."

And we...this happens before our eyes every day and we take it for granted. Everybody takes this miracle for granted. Every year we plant seeds and then these beautiful vegetables come up and they fill our tables and we take them for granted.

A few days ago all we had was a little shriveled grain of corn and now we have a five or six foot stalk of corn and no one doubts it is the same corn we planted. It came out of the same hole in the ground where we put that little shriveled, dried up, wrinkled grain of corn.

Now listen to me. This body will one day die and it will be buried and it will be buried as an old shriveled seed, dried up, no life, no beauty about it, fit for nothing, but to be put in the ground. And there it will rot, but there it will go back to dust and the years will pass and when the trump of God sounds some morning and the Lord Jesus Christ comes there is a new body going to come forth from that old seed. It will be a glorified body. It will be in full flower. It will be worthy of him who made it. And while it will be the same body that I planted and you planted, it will be oh so different, oh so different.

Do you understand what Paul is saying?

People say, "Well, how are the dead raised? With what body do they come?"

He says, "Now take that grain of corn that you have planted. You have got to put it in the ground. And from that grain of corn comes a new stalk, beautiful, rich and wonderful."

And then in 1 Corinthians 15:42 Paul is talking about these bodies. He said, "They will be buried in corruption, corruption." It is a frail body, a weary body, a body full of disease, decay, flesh, a vessel of clay with sin in its nature and essence. It will be raised in incorruption without sickness, without disease, without suffering. Can you think about that without the possibility of wear or destruction?

Do you remember when the Israelites were walking through the wilderness 40 years? Did you ever read Deuteronomy 29:5? It says their shoes didn't wear out. They wore the same shoes for 40 years and the same clothes for 40 years.

I have been preaching the gospel over 40 years and this is not the first suit that I had when I started preaching the gospel. They have worn out, worn out lots of them. And this old body is wearing out and it is going to be sown in corruption, but it is going to be raised indestructible, indestructible, incorruptible. It will never wear out.

He said it will be buried in dishonor. It will be raised in power, holiness. It will be raised in glory subject to deformity that makes it ugly. This body is subject to losses that make it useless. If when you lose the use of the arms and legs, the eyes and the ears. This body is subject to bruises and sores and wounds and scars and subject to age and weariness and sin. It will be raised in glory, unblemished holiness, spotless beauty, loveliness. Our new bodies will be without wrinkle, without spot, without stain, without age, eternal beauty, eternal youth so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. It will be buried in weakness. This body is too weak to work without weariness. It is too weak to think without foolishness. It is too weak to live without sin. It is too weak to walk without falling. It is too weak to continue without dying.

But he said, "I am going to raise it in power."

I had an old friend. He is dead now, but he used to sing a song. "I will never grow tired again, praise the Lord. I will never grow tired again."

And in that new body there will be, listen, no emotional burden, no physical burden, no mental burden will ever present itself because God is going to wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more sorrow, nor more crying no more pain. I make all things new. Our eyes will see unlimited distances. Our ears will hear the beauty of heaven. Our memories will never fail and never forget. Can you imagine that?

Our minds will comprehend all things. I will know like I have been known. Our hearts will love perfectly because we are going to be like Jesus Christ. That is what the Scripture teaches. I will raise him up just like that little shriveled, wrinkled useless grain of corn. You can't even eat it. It is not table worthy. There is only one thing you can do with it. Put it in the ground. Put it away. Bury it out of sight and then stand back and watch the power of my God. Stand back and watch the power of my God. And every time you bury a believer he said, "Those that the Father gave me I will not lose. I will lose nothing. I will raise him up. Those who see the Son and believe on him, I will raise him up. Those whom the Father draws and they come to me, I will raise them up."

There were two martyrs, two martyrs who were going to be burned at the stake during the days of Queen Mary, bloody Mary over in England. One of them was a crippled man. One of them was a blind man. And before they lit the fire the crippled man turned to his brother, the blind brother in the faith and he said, "My brother, have courage. This fire is going to heal both of us. This fire is going to heal both of us."

I read an illustration. There was an old, old woman who lived all of her 90 years in an old house. She was born in that old house and lived there all her life. And it is now old and broken down. It is cold in the winter and hot in the summer. That old house the windows are small and dark and the roof leaks and the foundation is crumbling and she feels like a prisoner. And often times she cries like Paul the apostle, "Oh, wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from this bondage, from this body of death and this old house?"

And one day her landlord comes by and he calls to her and he calls her by name. And he says, "Now, you come with me. I am going to be build you a new house. I am going to tear down your old house. I am going to destroy your old house and I am going to build a brand new house for you. So you come live with me while I tear down your old house and build a new one. You come live with me."

You know, Paul said, "If our earthly house of this tabernacle be destroyed while it is being destroyed, while it is rotting and decaying and going back to dust we have a building eternal in the heavens, not made with hands, made by God. And that is our residence and our habitation and our dwelling place until he builds the new house."

Now you listen. The landlord said, "You come live with me. Come live with me while I destroy the old house and build another so every board is ripped up and every stone falls and the foundation is dug up and nothing remains, nothing remains, not a thing, not any remembrance except maybe a memory where it was, the place where it stood. Nothing remains nothing."

Soon the new house is finished and the foundation is eternal stone and the walls are precious gems and the gates are pure gold and the windows look out over the river of life and it will never fail and it will never fall and the landlord, our eternal Lord says, "Come now and move into your new house and enjoy it forever."

"I will raise him up."

My friends that is the promise of our God. "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. And this is the will of my Father which sent me that of all which he hath given me I will lose nothing. I am going to raise him up at that last day. And everyone that seeth the Son and believeth on him hath everlasting life and I will raise him up at the last day. And no man can come to me except my Father draw him. And those whom my Father draws, teaches, from whom they learn I will raise them up."

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