

JOYS AND PROSPECTS OF THE RESURRECTIONS

George Tabac - April 1992

Heavens scene

We realize that each of us in this room are having trials of one form or another. Some are physical, some are mental, some are emotional, and perhaps some of each.

We realize intellectually their necessity. That each are unique, each designed or permitted by our Heavenly Father for our specific requirements, for the development of our specific characters.

But they can become so difficult at times. We may become discouraged, we may feel no one really fully understands what we are going through, and it's true, no one really can, no one that is except our Heavenly Father.

So what we would like to try to do this morning is to ease in measure our hardship, by reflecting on the time when they are all over.

We would like to suggest we all relax, and try to forget for a few moments our heartaches as we travel together in our mental vision imagining the joys and prospects that await us and all mankind in both the heavenly and earthly resurrections.

It's good for us to reflect often on our HOPE, even as Jesus did:

Heb 12:2

"Who for the **joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

As we consider this hope we would especially desire to encourage those of you who the Lord may be calling to the grandest privilege that will ever be offered throughout eternity.

As you count the cost of consecration I'm sure the thought will cross your mind that you are completely unworthy. And it's true, we are all unworthy.

But God answers you in,

1 Cor. 1:26-29

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that **not many wise men** after the flesh, **not many mighty, not many noble**, are called: But God hath chosen the **foolish things** of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the **weak things** of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And **base things** of the world, and things which **are despised**, hath God chosen, yea, and **things which are not**, to bring to nought things that are: **That no flesh should glory in his presence.**"

The way is narrow, with sacrifice, and trials, but on the other hand it is filled with countless joys in this life, as each day you draw closer to the Lord. And if faithful that which lies beyond the veil is so grand it is far beyond our comprehension.

Peter one day asked the Lord,

Matt. 19:27-29

"Peter said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; **what shall we have therefore?** And Jesus said unto them, ...every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, **shall receive an HUNDREDFOLD, and shall inherit everlasting life."**

We would like to go on to consider the scriptural promises where God gives us some **incite** of what this **100 fold** blessing will be like.

We realize we could never in this life with our finite beings be able to appreciate what Divine Spirit life is like. It is a complete **different dimension** than the material universe. As Jeramiah implies:

Jerm. 23:24

Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I **FILL heaven and earth?** saith the LORD.

Thus we realize we can't understand the spirit dimension, but God does give us His promises that at least in some measure give us a glimpse of what only eternity will reveal.

Let's begin with the words of our Lord in John 14:2-3

John 14:2-3

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that **where I am, there ye may be also."**

It's difficult to understand that in all the universe there was no place suitable but the Lord went to prepare a special place for His bride. From time to time try to imagine what that HOME will be like.

God encourages us to think of the time when our course is nearly finished and we are wondering what lies beyond. And then the climax of our hopes takes place.

1 Cor. 15:51-52

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed**, In a **moment**, in the **twinkling of an eye**, ...For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on **immortality."**

1 Cor. 15:41-44

"As one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. ... It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in **GLORY**: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in **POWER**: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a **SPIRITUAL BODY."**

What will that GLORIOUS, POWERFUL, SPIRITUAL BODY be like?

Phil.3:20-21

"The Lord Jesus Christ ...shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his **GLORIOUS BODY.**"

Yes,

1 John 3:2

"We shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

We shall be like Him! Think whats implied when "we shall be like Him," as members of His body!

Eph. 1:18-21 NIV

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which the Father has called you, the **riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,** and his **incomparably great power for us** who believe.

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him **at his right hand** in the heavenly realm, **far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and ever title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.**

And to think, **"We shall be like HIM!** as members of his body!

Our Father has given us other promises to indicate what it will be like when "we shall be like him."

Matt. 13:43

Then shall the righteous **shine forth as the sun** in the kingdom of their Father.

Another quality that our Lord has and we will have that we just can't fathom, is to be able to travel through the universe at the speed of thought. we recall the incident with Daniel and the angel Gabriel

Dan. 9:21-23 LB

"While I was praying ...Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, flew swiftly to me, ...and said to me, Daniel, I an here to help you understand God's plans. The **moment you began praying, a command was given. I am here to tell you what it was.**"

Daniel began to pray - God heard - commanded Gabriel - and instantly he was there to tell Daniel the answer.

Milky Way Galaxy

We can see the necessity for this ability, (to instantly travel at the speed of thought) for if spirit beings could only travel at the speed of light which is extremely fast (186,000 miles a second), it would take 80,000 light years to just cross through the diameter our one Milky Way Galaxy.

Many Galaxies

And there are over 100 billion Galaxies. It would thus take billions upon billions of years to go from one end of the universe to the other, traveling only at the speed of light.

We can't grasp this attribute of travel because it belongs to another dimension of time and space that we know nothing about.

But since we are told the angels have this ability, it will be true of the church as well.

Another quality angelic beings have that will be the churches is referred to in Matt. 18:10.

Matt.18:10

"In heaven (the guardian) **angels do always behold the face of my Father** which is in heaven. "

No matter where we will be in the universe we will have instant communication and be able to see our Father face to face.

Another quality in which we will be like our Lord is in John 5:26

John 5:26

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have **life in himself.**

Divine Immortal life. Life not dependant on any external sustenance for existence. Here too, "we shall be like him!"

If faithful, all these qualities will be given in that moment when we are **changed in the twinkling of an eye.**

Then it will be that we will experience Isa. 33:17

Isa.33:17

Thine eyes shall see the king in his **beauty.**

It will but be the beginning of understanding Psalm 16:11.

Psalm 16:11

In thy presence is **fullness of joy**; at thy right hand there are **pleasures for evermore.**

Try to think of that moment when we will be suddenly be in the presence of our Lord and our Heavenly Father whose **beauty will far transcend the bounds of our imagination.**

Then Rev. 2:17 will be fulfilled:

Rev. 2:17 NAS

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the **hidden manna**, and will give him ...**a new name, which no one knows but he who receives it.**

Yes we will eat or receive what was pictured by the hidden Manna in the Arc of the Covenant. It never corrupted, picturing Divine Immortality.

Then we will receive a new name, which we like to think will be a **term of endearment**, that no one else will know except ourselves and our Lord and Father.

We Notice a similar thought in Isa.62:2-3:

Isa.62:2-3

Thou shalt be called by a **new name**, which the mouth of the LORD shall name. Thou shalt also be a **crown of glory** in the hand of the LORD, and a **royal diadem** in the **hand of thy God.**

We will fall prostrate at our Fathers feet as He says:

Matt.25:21 NIV

"Well done, good and faithful servant! ...**Come and share your masters Happiness.**

Come and share your Master's happiness! Shortly after, - we will have the privilege of sharing our Master's happiness as we share in the greatest event since creation -**THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB!** Psalm 45 describes the event.

Psalm 45:13-15

The **king's daughter** is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: **they shall enter into the king's palace.**

Star Scene

Try to picture in your minds eye the scene inside this celestial palace of the heavens. Our Father on his throne, our master before him, then the 12 Apostles, the 144,000 members of the church class. Then in the words of the revelator:

Rev. 7:9-12

After this I beheld, and, lo, a **great multitude**, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, **stood before the throne**, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands, ...

And **all the angels** ... fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, **Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

We could imagine these words of the angels worshipping God being sung. What an angelic chorus it will be. For Dan. 7:10 refers to 1 million angels ministering to God and 100 million standing before Him ready to serve.

Could you just hear that 100 million voice chorus singing, "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Then we can envision our Lord, the Church and the Great Company all joining in singing it together to our Heavenly Fathers praise.

Following the marriage we can visualize each member of the church receiving their position and assignment for their responsibility in the Kingdom.

The Revelator portrays the office of the Church as Judges Kings and Priests:

Rev. 20:4-6

And I saw **thrones**, and they sat upon them, and **judgment** was given unto them, ...Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but **they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

Then we recall the blessing given to Rebecca who pictured the Church as the bride of Isaac:

Gen. 24:60

And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, ... be thou the **mother of thousands of millions.**

The privilege of being mother with Our Lord as Father to all of earths billions is a beautiful picture of the Churches role of giving birth or raising mankind from the tomb and then nurturing them that they may reach perfection. Isaiah speaking of the church, portrays it in other language:

Isa.49:8-9

Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, ...**That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves.**

After calling these promises to mind, God gives us each a list of names of those who will be our responsibility for raising from the tomb of death, and then assisting them up the highway of holiness.

With some 20 billion people to resurrect it comes out to 144,000 for each church member.

Together with each name on the list we notice a recording is given of the complete memory of each individual, together with their final photograph, so we could raise each individual with the identical likeness and memory they had at the time of their death.

The lessons of why we needed our particular sin offering trials and experiences will be understood then like never before. For we notice the people on our list had very similar experiences as that of our own in this present life.

Having known what they went through, we will be best able to to give what is needed, mercy, instruction, encouragement, sympathy or at other times chastening and rebuke, so they might little by little proceed up the highway of holiness.

The marriage scene of Psalm 45 ends by noting the first children of the union and then the ultimate feeling of all mankind towards Jesus and His bride.

Psalm 45:16-17

Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth.

I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.

Thus the earthly phase of the resurrection will begin with the Ancient Worthies and will gradually progress till the end of the 1000 years when the above words of God will be true.

"I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever."

Yes all mankind will know who were in the church and will praise them forever.

Psalm 87:5-7 NIV

Indeed, of **Zion** it will be said, This one and that one **were born in her**, and the Most High himself will establish her. The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: This one was born in Zion. As they **make music** they will sing, **All my fountains are in you.**

Let's go on to reflect on the blessings and conditions of the earthly Kingdom resurrection that will truly cause all mankind to praise Jesus and the Church forever and ever.

Haggai 2:7

And I will **shake all nations**, and the **desire of all nations shall come:**

So first there must come the shaking of all nations in **Armageddon**, but then, then will come the desire of all nations.

Psalm 30:5

For his anger endureth but a moment; weeping may endure for a night, but **joy cometh in the morning.**

When that morning comes some will not even die, but will live on right into the Kingdom. Job 33 refers to an old man near death at the time when the resurrection begins.

Job 33:22-25

His soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers. ...Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the grave: I have found a ransom for him. **His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: he shall return to the days of his youth:**

Then in answer to prayer, will begin the gradual resurrection of everyone who has ever lived.

1 Cor.15:22

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ **shall all be made alive.**

Could you try to envision the sheer joy each will have the moment they are experience their awakening. Especially those mentioned in Isaiah 35.

Isa. 35:5

Then the eyes of the **blind shall be opened!**

Isa. 35:5

...and the ears of the **deaf shall be unstopped,**

Isa. 35:6

...then will the **lame leap like a deer,**

Isa. 35:6

...and the tongue of the **dumb shall sing.**

Oh what a joy will be ours to have the privilege of awakening them in all the fullness of a perfectly functioning body and to thus share in their astonished happiness.

And these resurrection joys will not be just for a few righteous, but for ALL, - not only the good but the bad as well.

Acts 24:15

There shall be a resurrection of the dead, **both of the just and unjust.**

1 Tim. 2:3-4

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; **Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

Yes all men will be saved (not eternally saved,) but saved from the standpoint of being saved from Adamic death, by being raised from the tomb.

All will then be given an opportunity to gain everlasting life. All will taught the knowledge of the truth

Even as many scriptures show:

Jerm. 31:34

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for **they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them**, saith the LORD: for **I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**

Isa. 26:9

When thy judgments are in the earth, the **inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**

Isa. 11:9

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be **full of the knowledge of the LORD**, as the waters cover the sea.

It will be a time when:

Isa. 33:24

The inhabitant shall not say, **I am sick**: for the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.

All these blessings will take place as mankind walk up a highway leading to everlasting perfect life.

Isa. 35:8

And an **highway shall be there**, ... it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

Isa. 35:9

No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, but the **redeemed** shall walk there:

Isa. 35:10

And the **ransomed** of the LORD **shall return**, and come to **Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Then, the entire earth will become like the **garden of Eden!**

Ezek.36:35

And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become **like the garden of Eden.**

Then all the animal kingdom will become tame and be a blessing to mankind.

Isa.11:6-8

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;

AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM.

All wars and enmity between people will cease.

Micah 4:3-5

They shall beat their **swords into plowshares**, and their **spears into pruninghooks**: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither **shall they learn war any more.**

It will be a time of individual home ownership, peace, and security.

Micah 4:4

They shall sit every man under his **vine and under his fig tree**; and **none shall make them afraid**: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

Isa.65:21-22

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: ... **my chosen ones shall long enjoy the work of their hands.**

The inference here is complete security, not like it is now, when one can labor their entire life and all could be taken away in an instance by various circumstances, calamities, illnesses or death.

Brother Russell also suggests there's an implication here that each individual will design their own home and garden according to their individual desires and then will long enjoy the fruitage of their labor.

The next verse (vs 23) which is still obviously referring to the Millennium, indicates that new born births will take place in the kingdom.

Isa.65:23-25 NIV

They will not toil in vain, or **bear children doomed to misfortune**; for they will be a people **blessed by the LORD**, they and their descendants with them.

... They will neither harm nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

(See Question Book 426 for Bro. Russell's thought on this scripture)

We know children will not continue to be born indefinitely for our Lord told us that sexual distinctions will one day come to an end. In Luke 24 the Sadducees who didn't believe in a resurrection tried to trick Jesus with a question.

Luke 20:34-36

Therefore **in the resurrection** whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife. And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:

But they which shall be accounted worthy to **obtain THAT AGE, and the (complete) resurrection** from the dead, **neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels.**

On reprint 1107 Brother Russell suggests that this scripture is **NOT REFERING TO THE MILLENIUM**, but to the age after the little season.

For the phrase, "**Neither can they die any more,**" could not be applicable until they have passed their final test in the little season.

Then and only then will it be true, that "they cannot die any more." Not from the standpoint that they are immortal, but from the standpoint that Divine Judgment is unerring, and once they pass their final test, it will be decreed that they are worthy of everlasting life, hence "neither can they die any more."

Thus this scripture is showing us that their are various usages and aspects to the word resurrection.

The Greek word for resurrection is **anastasis**, which literally means "**a standing up again.**"

Sometimes it is used in reference to the heavenly resurrection of the church which will be a full instantaneous resurrection.

Other times it is referring to various aspects of mankind's earthly resurrection which will in reality be a GRADUAL PROCESS.

The word resurrection, (anastasis) is used at times in referring to the beginning of the "**standing up again**" **PROCESS**, when one is awakened from the tomb.

At other times as in this scripture, it is referring to the completion of the resurrection **PROCESS**, when perfection is reached.

Lets note John 5:28-29.

John 5:28-29

The hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth;**

they that have **done good, unto the resurrection (anastasis) of life;** and they that have **done evil, unto the resurrection (anastasis) of judgment.**

Notice that ALL, everyone that has ever lived are going to be resurrected. Here when anastasis is used in referring to the resurrection of those that have done good (which is the church class,) it is referring to their complete, full instantaneous heavenly resurrection, or standing up again as divine beings.

The resurrection of those that have done evil, is referring to the earthly resurrection of all the rest of mankind.

The fact that it says that all those who have done evil will receive a resurrection or (Anastasis) is obviously referring to only the beginning of the resurrection process, that starts when they are awakened from the tomb.

After they are awakened, each will given every help and opportunity to go on to a complete resurrection to perfection. But not all will avail themselves of it. Some will refuse to obey and will go into 2nd death.

Acts 24 uses the word Anastasis in the same way as here in John 5.

Acts 24:15

There shall be a **resurrection (anastasis)** of the dead, **both of the just and unjust.**

The anastasis of the just, is referring to the resurrection of the church, and the anastasis of the unjust is referring to the beginning of the resurrection PROCESS of the rest of mankind.

After their awakening, most of mankind will go on to a full complete resurrection of perfection, but some will refuse to obey and will die the 2nd death.

Another way anastasis is used is in Heb. 11:35 where it compares two different levels or degrees of Anastasis.

Heb. 11:35

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a **BETTER resurrection.** (anastasis)

This scripture is referring to the resurrection of the Ancient Worthies. Notice it mentions they will have a **better resurrection!** A better anastasis.

Better than what resurrection??

It obviously is referring to the fact that the ancient worthies resurrection or anastasis, will be better than mankind's initial anastasis when they are first raised from the tomb.

The ancient worthies anastasis will be an awakening from death to instantaneous human perfection.

Thus their anastasis will be better than mankind's in general, for mankind's anastasis will be but the beginning of a process.

They will still have all the effects of Adamic sin within them that they will need to get rid of.

Thus we can see from these various scriptures that the word for resurrection (anastasis) is used to describe various

The completion of the earthly resurrection process is what is referred to in Luke 20:34-36

Luke 20:34-36

Therefore **in the resurrection** whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife. And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:

But they which shall be accounted worthy to **obtain THAT AGE, and the (complete) resurrection** from the dead, **neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels.**

We've added the word "complete" to help show the word anastasis when applied to the earthly resurrection is describing various stages of a gradual process "Of standing up again."

The complete anastasis is what is described here. It is referring to the time when one has reached full perfection of character, worthy of eternal life.

Thus the anastasis resurrection PROCESS **begins** with the initial awakening from the tomb. Mankind will be raised with the same sexual distinctions and appearance as at death.

Children thus could be born as we saw in Isa. 65:20.

But then gradually through out the Kingdom each ones character will gradually be changing, taking on more and more qualities of perfection.

Eventually each individual who will be rightly exercised, will gradually possess all the qualities of perfection of both sexes, just as Adam had before Eve and the feminine qualities were separated from him.

At that point sexual distinctions will cease, having served their purpose. Mankind then will be as the angels.

When that resurrection PROCESS has accomplished its purpose, then Rev. 21:4 will be fulfilled in its fullest sense.

Rev.21:4

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and **there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

Isa. 25:6-9 NAS

And the LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain, ...**He will swallow up death for all time**, ...And it will be said in that day, Behold this is our God for whom we have waited ...Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.

Then Eph. 1:9-10 will begin to be fulfilled:

Eph. 1:9-10 RSV

"He has made known to us ...the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a **plan for the fullness of time**, to **unite** all things in him, **things in heaven and things on earth**.

We mentioned this verse would **begin** to be fulfilled for we notice it refers to Gods plan that will continue **for the fullness of time**. A plan that will ever unite all beings in the universe with our Lord.

The inference is there will be further creative works that will take place in all the ages to come.

Star Scene

We remember God created nothing in vain. We believe there will be future generations of intelligent beings that will be brought into being in the millenniums of eternity, on all the other planets that exist in our universe, and possibly more that will be created.

Notice how the 22nd Psalm refers to these future generations.

Psalm 22:27-31 RSV

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him ...Yea to him shall all the proud of the earth bow down; before him **shall bow all who go down to the dust**

...Posterity shall serve him, men shall tell of the LORD to the coming generation and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

Explain!

Think for a moment of the creative power our Lord had when he was the Logos:

Col. 1:16

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Now our Lord's power is even greater as a Divine being! And just think, "**We shall be like Him!**" If faithful, we too will do creative works through out eternity, that we can't begin to comprehend.

In John 17:3 we read:

John 17:3

And this is life eternal, (in order) that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

What it's really saying is that it will take all eternity to know God, for he will forever be instructing Jesus and the church to bring some new facet of creation into being.

Pause *****

Rom. 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

There will be a day when the Master will look upon us with eyes that pierce through to the naked soul, and he will say-

"I gave you a marvelous opportunity."

"I gave you an understanding of my message such as millions of earth's multitudes never received."

"I gave you a knowledge of my Truth such as many of my first disciples never had."

"I gave you the key to every problem which distressed mankind in your day, and I gave you the privilege of being heralds of my Kingdom."

"I gave you the opportunity which my followers in every century since Pentecost dreamed of and prayed for."

Then, he will ask--

"What have you done with it?"