

The Manifestation of the Four Powers of God
Ephesians 1:20

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1. Outline of Ephesians 1:2-20

- (1) The work of God the Father in our Salvation, 1:3-6
- (2) The Word of God the Son, 7-12
- (3) The Word of God the Holy Spirit, 13-14
- (4) Spiritual love in the power of the Holy Spirit, 15
- (5) Paul's first Apostolic Prayer 16-20
 - A. Importance to Thanksgiving in prayer, 16
 - B. Prayer of wisdom of the revelation in True Knowledge, 17
 - C. Prayer of Christian Knowledge, 18-19

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

- D. Prayer of the Four realms of the Power of God, 20

Ephesians 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and

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seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

1. First the raising up of Jesus Christ is proclaimed as the sole deed of God. That the raising of Jesus, or the Resurrection is the affect of the power of God not just for the faith of man but is above the principalities and powers of all things, but this power of God is the primary issue in the Church as a whole. When God raised Jesus, the Resurrection ushers in a completely new triumph, new Kingdom and the victory of His creative design.
2. This raising up of Jesus also answers the question of mankind: *what happens to me after my death?* What is so important at this point is not just man's salvation but the Glory of God Himself. Both God's glory and what happens to man is answered in the resurrection by God. For example the great question of every human being is found in

Romans 7:24: wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Next time you think of this question think fully on Ephesians 1:20.

3. The power of God, stands alone in Ephesians 1:20 dealing with
Romans 4:17...even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

The power of God stands with the resurrection in answer to

1 Corinthians 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised;

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1 Corinthians 15:14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:15 Moreover, we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

1 Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised;

1 Corinthians 15:17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

People, the power of God to resurrect the dead is one of the most important attributes of God, for us and our life after death.

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God Raised Jesus (The Resurrection)

(From, Dallas Theological Seminary, Markus Barth, Ephesians 1-3; Lewis Sperry Chafer, Ephesians; Alexander Maclaren “Sermons Preached in Manchester, R.B.Theme, J.Oswald Sanders, and John F. Walvoord –The Millennial Kingdom.

I. Biblical Definition

1. There are two returns from the dead.
 - a. Resuscitation – where a person returns from the dead in a body of corruption and eventually dies again. Example in the Bible of Lazarus, Paul, two boys in the Old Testament, Elijah and Moses during the Tribulation.
 - b. Resurrection where a person returns from the dead in a body of incorruption and never dies again.
2. Therefore Resurrection is rising again from the dead in a human body, and never again being subject to death.
3. Resurrection is the beginning of eternity for the person.
4. Resurrection is one of the basic doctrines all believers must understand for spiritual growth. Hebrews 6:1-2.
5. Anyone who dies during the Church Age has an interim body in heaven until the Resurrection of the Church Age at the rapture.
6. Resurrection is a New Testament teaching. While it is mentioned in the Old Testament, it did not occur historically until the Christocentric dispensation.

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II. The Sovereignty of God and Physical death.

1. While the believer has control over his life in the execution of the life on earth, he has no control over the manner or time of his physical death. He has very little control over his life except for suicide. Neither does he have any control over the manner or time of the resurrection.
2. The death of the believer is always a matter of the wisdom and sovereignty of God.
3. Apart from being alive during the Rapture of the Church, all believers will experienced physical death.
4. The manner of our physical death is a matter of Divine wisdom and omniscience. The death of the believer is always God's victory. The type of believer makes no difference; all go to heaven. Distinction among believers is not made until the Judgement Seat of Christ.
5. Therefore, the death of the believer is always God's victory. The believer's death means he is absent from the body, face to face with the Lord. Death always comes at the exact right time.
6. Believers, be they winners or losers, die by the decision of God. God chose the time and manner believers die.

III. Resurrection in the Word of God

1. There are two general resurrections
 - a. For believers only: resurrection for eternal life. The resurrection body is eternal and permanent, superior to that of angelic creatures.

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Daniel 12:2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awaken, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt (this is a person beneath consideration, worthless or scorn, this is the future of every person who exist for all eternity)

Also John 5:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; Revelation 20:6. This is called the 'first resurrection'.

- b. For unbelievers only; resurrection and cast into the lake of fire forever.

Matthew 25:41 then He will also say to those on His left, Depart from Me, accused ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.

More preaching should be proclaimed, and knowing the being of angels, like humans will be either in heaven or in Lake of Fire for all eternity. Revelation 20:5-15, 1 Corinthians 15:24.

2. There are two directions for the two resurrections
 - a. The direction for the first resurrection: eternal life.
 - b. The direction for the second resurrection: eternal condemnation and judgment.
3. The difference between the two is one's attitude toward Jesus Christ.

John 3:36 The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not

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obey (believes) the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

As long as anyone is alive, he has the opportunity of entering into the first resurrection simply by believing in Christ as their savior.

4. Each one of the Christocentric dispensations terminate with resurrection, giving great significance to them by God.
 - a. The first Christocentric dispensation is the Church Age. It terminates with the resurrection of all Church Age believers. It started with the resurrection, ascension and session of the humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is given to us in Ephesians 1:20
 - b. The second is the ending of the Millennium. It terminates with the resurrection with all believers in the Millennium and believers of the Old Testament, Tribulation and Millennium believers.
5. While in the Old Testament dispensation there was a few raised from the dead and a few departed from this earth without dying, there were no resurrections.
6. Until Jesus Christ died on the cross, there could be no resurrection. The first resurrection in history is that of Jesus Christ in Hypostatic Union.

IV. Importance of Physical Death as a Prerequisite for the Resurrection. This taught in 1 Corinthians 15:50-52

1. Verse 50

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the

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kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

- a. Paul uses the phrase ‘the kingdom of God’ in the sense of the eternal state of the Church. He says we cannot live in eternity in the body we now possess. It is the body of flesh and blood, not a resurrection body.
- b. The physical body is not capable of living off of the planet earth out in the universe, as angelic creatures can right now.
- c. Corruption refers to the human body which is subject to physical death. Incorruption refers to the resurrection body, which is a durable, permanent body which can never die physically.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

Eternal life can only exist in the eternal resurrected body.

2. Verse 51

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

- a. The *mystery* applies to the Church Age only. There is no prophecy of the dispensation in the Bible. Romans 16:25-26; Ephesians 3:1-6; Colossians 1:25-27
- b. In this verse, *sleep* applies only to the physical body, not the soul. The body *sleeps* because the soul and spirit are

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absent from that body in an interim body waiting for the resurrection.

- c. ‘changed’; means we receive a resurrected body in exchange for our former body.
- d. Paul is saying here that we will not all die physically. One generation will receive their resurrection body apart from physical death.

3. Verse 52

1 Corinthians 15:52 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 will be changed.

- a. This resurrection occurs instantly. It is not a prolonged process! When God does something with regard to life, it is done instantly. Evolution is totally wrong! Man was created instantly. The universe was created instantly. God imputed life to your soul instantly. God provides resurrection bodies faster than you can wink your eye!
- b. This is a reference to the trumpet of 1 Thessalonians 4:16. It is not the same trumpet as that in Revelation 11:15 (from which the misinterpretation comes in the post-tribulational Raptures). The Trumpet in Revelation 11:15 is the herald’s trumpet, announcing Jesus Christ as the new ruler of the world. The trumpet here in our study is an analogy to its military use in the ancient world for the assembly of troops. In this case, the troops consist of the Church Age. Hence the trumpet in this context refers to the resurrection or Rapture of the Church.

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- c. The trumpet is used only for those who are already dead, living in heaven under ideal conditions of great happiness. So those who have died will receive their resurrection bodies first. Then those alive at the Rapture will receive their resurrection bodies.
- d. So the two categories of resurrection are mentioned here. The believers of the first category receive their resurrection bodies through physical death. The believers of the second category is alive at the Rapture and receives their resurrection bodies apart from physical death.

The significance of Resurrection (Ephesians 1:20) as the Lord's victory 1 Corinthians 15:53-54. *Death has been swallowed up because of the victory.* Our death has been swallowed up by the Victory of Jesus Christ in His Resurrection.

- A. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ by God the Father is strictly the Lord's victory. Just as we have no control over the manner or time of our death, so we have no control over the manner or time of our resurrection. This is completely a matter of the wisdom and sovereignty of God. This is what Ephesians 1:20 is all about.
- B. Your resurrection does not depend in any way on your merit or your life. Winners and losers alike receive a resurrection body equally. No distinction is made between winners and losers at the point of receiving resurrection bodies.
- C. The Rapture will never occur by the merit of anything Christians do, because of the merits of believers. We don't bring on the resurrection by what we do.
- D. This is the false teaching of The Emergence Movement. Where they believe that Christians must get the Kingdom ready for the rule of

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Jesus Christ. No such teaching is found in the New Testament. God is going to bring Jesus Christ back into the fulfillment of the Age of Israel.

- E. So resurrection is far greater than we can even imagine. For in resurrection, God makes no distinction between those who completely fail to execute the Christian way of life and those who succeed in beautifully executing the Christian way of life. The resurrection has nothing to do with our winning the tactical victory or the angelic conflict or failing to do so. It has everything to do with who and what the Lord is! The Resurrection is one thing you must completely divorce from any principle of spiritual merit!
- F. While standing at the grave of Lazarus, Jesus heard Martha speaking to God that Lazarus had died but if Jesus had been there he would not have died. But, and here is the wonder of her knowledge, that whatever Jesus desires can happen. Jesus responded to Martha in John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.” So death does not hinder any of us from being in the resurrection. We have so much to look forward to being with the Lord after resurrection.

4. Verse 53

1 Corinthians 15:53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable and this mortal must put on immortality.

- a. *Putting on imperishable* is a reference to resurrection body given to those who have died, a body never again subject to death.

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- b. For those who are alive at the Rapture, they will receive an immortal body that is not subject to death and eternal in nature.

5. Verse 54

1 Corinthians 15:54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’

1. The ultimate victory for the believer in the Church Age is the resurrection. Why is it such a fantastic victory? Because it includes winners and losers, positive and negative believers. Just because certain believers fail to execute the Christian life with the Filling of the Holy Spirit, they are not excluded from the resurrection due to the grace of God and Jesus is victorious. The resurrection makes no distinction between winners and losers in the Christian way of life.
2. Physical death of losers does not deprive the Lord of His Victory. It does not deprive our victory! Resurrection is the Lord’s Victory! And it applies to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.
3. So the final phrase, “death has been swallowed up because of victory” is very important to God. Man has nothing to do with receiving a resurrection body.
4. While we have control over our lives while here on earth, the believer has no control over the manner or time of his death or the manner or time of the Resurrection.

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5. Therefore resurrection is a grace reality from the sovereignty and wisdom of God. Our resurrection body is an eternal memorial to the grace of God.
6. Resurrection is a total Divine Victory! Thanks be to God!
7. Death has been swallowed up and destroyed because of the Lord's victory. There will be no death in the eternal state. Death is abolished with the possession of resurrection. So this quote is reference to the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ.