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## The Biblical Chapter Completely Given Over to Both the Savior's Past Resurrection, and the Saints' Future Resurrection

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## **THE BIBLICAL CHAPTER COMPLETELY GIVEN OVER TO BOTH THE SAVIOR'S PAST RESURRECTION, AND THE SAINTS' (ALL BELIEVERS') FUTURE RESURRECTION**

The answer of course is Paul's great resurrection overview as found in 1 Corinthians 15. Here is an alliterated outline of this marvelous chapter.

- **The Prominence of the Resurrection (15:1-4)**

- A. The resurrection of Christ is the focal point in reference to salvation (15:1, 2).
- B. The resurrection of Christ is the focal point in reference to the scriptures (15:3, 4).

- **The Proofs of the Resurrection (15:5-11)**

The various appearances of the risen Christ are offered as proof.

- A. His appearance to Peter (15:1-4)
- B. His appearance to the apostles with Thomas absent (15:5)
- C. His appearance to 500 disciples (15:6)
- D. His appearance to James, the half-brother of Christ (15:7a)
- E. His appearance to the apostles with Thomas present (15:7b)
- F. His appearance to Paul (15:8-11)
  - 1. The unworthiness of Paul (15:8, 9). It was Paul who had once persecuted the church!
  - 2. The unmerited favor of God (15:10, 11). It was grace that made Paul what he was.

- **The Protest Against the Resurrection (15:12-19, 29-34)**

This doctrine was under attack then as it is today!

- A. The charge (15:12)

In essence, the enemies of the gospel were denying it.

- B. The conclusions (15:13-19, 29-32)

If there is no resurrection, then one must be forced to accept the following horrible conclusions:

- 1. In regard to Christ (15:13, 16). The Easter story is a lie!
- 2. In regard to gospel preaching (15:14a). It is unclear and vain.
- 3. In regard to gospel preachers (15:15). They continue to propagate the lie.
- 4. In regard to living believers:

- a. Our trust in God is empty, worthless and hopeless (15:14b).
  - b. We are still in our sins (15:17).
  - c. We are the most miserable of all creatures (15:19).
5. In regard to departed believers (15:32). They are forever dead, never to rise again.
  6. In regard to this present life (15:32). *“Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die!”*
- C. The chastening (15:33, 34). Paul rebukes those Christians who had been listening to the lies of unbelievers concerning the resurrection.

- **The Program of the Resurrection (15:20-28)**

- A. The two representatives (15:21, 22)
  1. The first Adam brought about ruin and death.
  2. The second Adam brings about resurrection and deliverance!
- B. The three resurrections
  1. The resurrection of Christ (15:20, 23a)
  2. The rapture resurrection (15:23b)
  3. The resurrection of Old Testament and tribulational saints (15:24a)
- C. The ten-century reign (15:24-28)
  1. The final enemy will be destroyed! This terrible foe is physical death.
  2. The future kingdom will be established.

- **The Pattern of the Resurrection (15:35-41)**

Paul illustrates the differences between the earthly and heavenly body through several analogies:

- A. The difference between a planted seed and a harvested seed (15:36-38)
- B. The difference between animal flesh and human flesh (15:39)
- C. The difference between the moon and the sun (15:40, 41)

- **The Perfection of the Resurrection (15:42-44)**

Here is described the superiority of the new body to that of the old.

- A. The old body:
  1. It is sown a perishable body (15:42a).
  2. It is sown in dishonor (15:43a).
  3. It is sown in weakness (15:43c).

4. It is sown a natural body (15:44a).
5. It is sown bearing the likeness of the first Adam (15:49a).

B. The new body:

1. It will be raised imperishable (15:42b).
2. It will be raised in glory (15:43b).
3. It will be raised in power (15:43d).
4. It will be raised a spiritual body (15:44).
5. It will be raised bearing the likeness of the second Adam (15:49b).

• **The Promise of the Resurrection (15:50-58)**

- A. The situation requiring this promise (15:50). Flesh and blood cannot inherit God's Kingdom.
- B. The secret associated with this promise (15:51): In essence, all believers alive at Christ's coming will go to heaven without dying!
- C. The suddenness of this promise (15:52a): *"In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye."*
- D. The signal introducing this promise (15:52b): *"The trumpet shall sound."*
- E. The schedule of this promise (15:52c, 53):
  1. The corrupting bodies of departed believers will receive incorruptible ones.
  2. The mortal bodies of living believers will receive immortal ones.
- F. The scriptures predicting this promise (15:54-57): Both Old Testament prophets Isaiah (25:8), and Hosea (13:14) wrote of this.
- G. The strength derived from this promise (15:58): Because of the resurrection, no labor done for the Lord will be in vain.