

Restoration of the Kingdom of God – 12

Daniel, called a prophet because he was among those “*holy men of God*” who “*spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” - **2 Peter 1:21** - referred to the resurrection at “*the time of the end*” - **Daniel 11:40** -

- “*Many of them*” - those responsible to God - “*that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt*” - **Daniel 12:2**.

In literal terms, “sleep” is defined as that condition of repose in which consciousness, response to external stimuli, etc are suspended. That is why he says that they “*awake*” who will be brought back to life for judgement - they regain consciousness after their “*sleep*” of death.

- The ancient Egyptians, when preserving a body for the afterlife, removed the brain, which they regarded as merely cranial stuffing. Those in later times, either unaware of, or rejecting the word of God through Moses, clung to the idea that consciousness in a living body was based on an immaterial soul. But now, apart from Scripture, it is well understood that the brain is the root of consciousness. The functioning of the brain, in turn, depends on the support of the rest of the body. Injury of the brain can interrupt self-awareness, or if severe enough, can terminate all life functions of the body. This leaves no place for the immaterial soul of ancient pagan philosophy.

So the resurrection, which also leaves no place for the immaterial soul, will occur on judgement day, when “*the Lord Jesus Christ ... will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom*” - **2 Timothy 4:1**. The purpose of the judgement is given by Paul in **2 Corinthians 5:10**, that “*we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*”

- And so he “*will render to each one according to his deeds: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness - indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil*” - **Romans 2**.

This again shows clearly that believers are not rewarded or punished when they die - it is only **after Jesus has returned** that God, through Jesus, will “*render*” the promised “*eternal life*” (immortality) “*to each one according to his deeds.*”

- The “*self-seeking*” of the disobedient includes the placing of first priority on the pursuit of material gain, which leads them astray from the faith - “*The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*” - **1 Timothy 6:10**.

In his discourse on the mount, Jesus warned of false teachers. God expects mankind to believe in what he has promised, which is everlasting life on this earth - **Genesis 13:15; Galatians 3:16**. Those who have not believed what God has promised, but believe in heaven-going instead, will also be rejected by Jesus at the judgement. Hence Paul’s warning,

- “*Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ*” - **Colossians 2:8**. Those who prefer such human philosophy are among those who will be punished instead of rewarded. More next time, God willing.