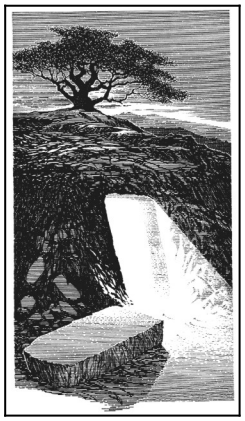
“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

John 11:22-44
4/20/2025



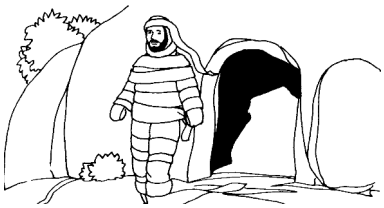
Introduction:

**** Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life! Death is a defeated Foe!***

I. Christ’s <u>Words of Comfort</u> regarding death (v.21-27)

II. Christ’s <u>Tears of Compassion</u> for people who face death (v.28-38)

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Conclusion: John 11:25-26

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

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Introduction:

The last year or so was a difficult period for many with so many of our loved ones passing into eternity (little Dante, Leola Young, Connie Roberts, Lee Sawyer, Kevin Williams, Terri's dad, little baby Michael Gonzalez, Cheryl Carrington's dad).

Death would be quite a bit more unbearable if we didn't have an assuring faith regarding the soon-approaching resurrecting power of Jesus Christ.

**** Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life! Death is a defeated Foe!***

I. Christ's <u>Words of Comfort</u> regarding death (v.21-27)

v. 22

Although Martha regretted that the Lord Jesus had not been around earlier to prevent her brother's death (v. 21), she now demonstrates faith as she implies from verse 22 that even at the late date of four days after Lazarus' death, He could still ask His Father and receive him back to life.

"Martha still has courageous faith in the power of God through Jesus, and Jesus in verse 41 says practically what she has said here." (Robertson, p. 199).

v. 23

"Thy brother shall rise again" – What a comfort to know that death does not capture the body forever; there is a resurrection day coming. What Martha did not know is that Jesus had an immediate fulfillment of this promise in mind.

v. 24

Martha, probably due to a previous conversation with the Lord Jesus, has a good eschatology. She knew that at the "last day" of <u>this present Age</u> (not the last day of human history as some assume), then God would raise His justified ones from death. This resurrection of the just will occur immediately prior to the outpouring of the Lord's wrath in the Day of the Lord.

v. 25

Jesus here gives another one of His "I am" statements of John's gospel. Having already referred to Himself as the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35), the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 9:5), the Door (Jn. 10:7, 9), and the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11), Jesus now boldly calls Himself the **"Resurrection and the Life."**

It is important to note that Jesus did not merely say, “I will give him resurrection,” but rather, “I am the resurrection.” He did not merely say, “I will give him life,” but rather, “I am the life.”

Note the definite article with both *anastasis* (resurrection) and *zoe* (life). He is the exclusive source of both, and there is only one ultimate Resurrection and Life – to be found in none other than Jesus Christ.

“He that believeth in Me” – The prerequisite for the resurrection unto eternal life is faith, and not just faith but faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith is only as good as the object of that faith. Jesus is trustworthy.

v. 26
Jesus is not saying that believers will never die physically and temporarily, but, as Charles Ryrie notes: “He that believeth in me, even if he dies physically shall live spiritually and eternally. And whosoever liveth physically and believeth in me shall never die spiritually and eternally.”

Another interpretation which makes more sense in light of the context is this:
“And whosoever liveth (liveth at the time of the resurrection mentioned in v.25)…shall never die (because he will be raptured!)

v. 27
“The Christ” = the Messiah (the Anointed One)

“The Son of God” = the Divine One

“The Messiah or the Christ (1:41) was to be also ‘the Son of God’ as the Baptist said he had found Jesus to be (1:34), as Peter confessed on Herman for the apostles (Mt. 16:16), as Jesus claimed to be (Jn. 11:41) and confessed on oath before Caiaphas that he was (Mt. 26:63ff), and as John states that it was his purpose to prove in his Gospel (20:31). But no one said it under more trying circumstances than Martha.” (Robertson, p. 200).

II. Christ's <u>Tears of Compassion</u> for people who face death (v.28-38)

v. 32
Mary reiterates the same regret that Martha did in verse 21.

v. 33
"Groaned in spirit" = deeply moved or agitated in spirit

"Was troubled" - disturbed

Our Lord is a high priest who is touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

EX: Hymn – "Does Jesus Care?"

The sorrow that Jesus saw over sickness and death moved his heart.

His understanding of the value of human life and the ugliness of death and the grief and pain it causes tot he survivors of those who depart brought grief to our Savior's sympathetic, caring heart.

v. 35
"This is the shortest verse in the Bible, but no verse carries more meaning in it" (Robertson, p. 203).

The smallest verse in the Bible shows the largeness of heart in Jesus Christ.

"Jesus wept"

v. 37
The answer to this question is "Yes." Yes, Jesus could have prevented Lazarus' death, but He allowed it to display an even greater demonstration of power.

v. 38
"The speculation concerning His power stirred the depths of his nature again." (Robertson, p. 204).

The doubts and unbelief implied in verse 37 was perhaps the greatest source of our Savior's heavy heart.

III. Christ's Miraculous Power over death (v.39-44)

v. 39
Removal of the stone (after four days of death) would emit a terrible stench of decaying flesh.

v. 40
Jesus promised that this tragedy would not end in death but in God's glory.

v. 42
Jesus could have just talked to the Father privately, but He did so publicly (v. 41) that the people would see a connection between the Father and Son in the performance of this miracle.

v. 43
"He cried with a loud voice" – Jesus could have whispered and achieved the same result.

The loudness of voice was for the benefit of those standing by, so that they could hear the source of the resurrection power.

What power in Christ's words! He just spoke and it was done!

"Lazarus, come forth" – If Jesus ad not qualified His "come forth" by specifically naming Lazarus, all of the dead in graves could have come forth!

v. 44
Like a mummy, Lazarus walked out of the grave with his entire body wrapped up in burial cloth.

Conclusion: John 11:25-26

Christ's raising of Lazarus gives proof that He has the power to do what He promised in verses 25-26.

***Jesus has power over the grave ("resurrection")**

Doctors can do a lot through modern medicine to keep a sick person from dying; but they have no power to bring a person (dead for four days) back to life.

Jesus didn't merely want to show that He could keep a person from dying, but that He could bring back to life.

"Resurrect" = lit. To stand again (Daniel promised to stand – Dan. 12:13).

Because Jesus rose again, we have a guarantee that we will, too! We are in Him and in His resurrection (Rom. 6).

He is our only hope of coming alive again – Jesus has "the keys of death and the grave" (Rev. 1:18).

The Bible does not teach reincarnation.

The Lord likened death unto a "seed" that goes into the ground and dies. And the resurrection is like the plant that grows out of the dead seed (the species does not change, but the form does).

We are "sown a natural body and raised a spiritual" (1 Cor. 15:44).

Our resurrection is immediate, not delayed (we are changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye – a twinkling is not a blink – 300,000/1 second) (1 Cor. 15:52).

"The Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven. . . Dead in Christ rise first" (1 Thes. 4:16).

***Jesus has power over death ("Life")**

--Jesus did not merely say, I teach you about the resurrection and life (although He did teach about it – Mt. 22:23) . . . But He is the Resurrection and Life!

--Jesus did not merely say, I show you about the resurrection and life (although He did show it – Jn. 14:1ff) . . . But He is the Resurrection and Life!

--Jesus did not merely say, I give you resurrection and life (although He does give it – Jn. 6:39, 40, 44, 54 – "I will raise him up at the last day") . . . But He is the Resurrection and Life!

Cp. Ezekiel 37 – "Valley of Dry Bones."

Jesus makes us alive the same way He created us. By saying the Word!

Compare:
Hebrews 11:3
Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

John 1:1-5
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] The same was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. [4] In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Jesus said: "Lazarus come forth" and he did!

Jesus will say: "Come forth" to us, and we will!

John 5:24-25
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. [25] Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and **they that hear shall live."**

Because Jesus is life (Jn. 14:6), we who believe share His life. "When Christ who is our life shall appear. . ." (Col. 3:4; cp. Gal. 2:20).

Jesus said; "I have come that you might have life, and . . . more abundantly."

Death does not end it all!

Death for the believer is "graduation," "promotion."

"Oh, death, where is thy sting!?"
"Oh, grave, where is thy victory!?"
(1 Cor. 15:57)

Job's testimony: Job 19:25-27 -
For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: [26] And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: [27] Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Gen. 3:19 – "Dust to dust"

Resurrection = from dust to glory!