

# THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;  
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,  
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

**IN CHRIST JESUS.**

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

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## ***YOU SURELY WILL NOT DIE!***

**The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”** (Genesis 2.16-17 NASB)

**The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!”** (Genesis 3.4 NASB)

In our day, there are those who claim to be Christians who do not believe in the resurrection of Christ. I can think of one well-known theologian of our time who has made such a claim. He is not alone. However, most Christians have not fallen for this lie, for the foundation of our faith rests on the fact that Jesus not only died as a man, but was raised from among the dead as a man and ascended to the throne of God to sit at the right hand of God, waiting for the day in which He takes the scepter of *the reign of the heavens* to establish His kingdom on this earth. This is a foundational truth; but there is another foundational truth related to resurrection that seems almost lost amongst many who call themselves evangelicals, and, that is, the only way out of the state of death for all mankind, including believers, is through resurrection. I may sound like a broken record, but I believe that this is a bedrock truth of Scripture that has been lost or relegated to the back burner because of the erroneous doctrine of heaven and hell, that *in* death, believers go to heaven forever, **apart** from resurrection, and unbelievers go to hell (a torture chamber of endless flame) forever, **apart** from resurrection. Many do not deny that a resurrection of the body will occur later, but they place little relevance on it. Why should they if, *in* death, they are alive in heaven? I emphasize the phrase *in* death because, in fact, this is what many people believe even if they do not express it this way. Death is the cessation of life, and yet most Christians, as a result of the teaching they have received, believe death is merely a portal into another life, which means no one ever dies, including unbelievers, even if they are in hell, which, by the way, they are not. Jesus’ only way out of this world was through death and resurrection, and yet many believe that this is no longer valid on this side of Christ’s resurrection. They have fallen for the very same lie which deceived Eve: **“You surely will not die!”** 930 years after his creation, Adam died; and ever since the fall, every one born of Adam’s race, which includes even those of us who believe, dies. There are no exceptions. Death is the opposite of life; it is not another form of life. I realize that many will counter this with the argument that the body is what dies, but the spirit and/or the soul live on, for they are immortal, beyond death. Man was made as spirit, soul, and body. Take one component away and how can we make a claim that we are man any longer? We were not created to be a spirit without physical form. The spirit gives life; take away the spirit, and life departs the body. The soul is connected to the body; take away the body, and the soul ceases to operate. Kill the body, and the spirit and soul of man have no place to reside. The spirit returns to God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12.7). Spirit is the life of God given to man. It is the breath of life. The soul returns to the unseen called sheol or hades, not hell. The body returns to the soil of the earth from which it was fashioned when Adam was formed.

Dear brethren, I encourage you to read 1 Corinthians 15 prayerfully to see how essential resurrection is, and then I refer you to my book on *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons*, especially Volume 2, chapters 1 and 2 for proof of what I have written. In subsequent issues, I will present some scriptural proof of the two major resurrections awaiting mankind and who will be in each one.

## First Resurrection

**“But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.” (Daniel 12.13 NASB)**

**Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” (Luke 20.34-36 NASB)**

**If by any means I might arrive at the goal, namely, the *out*-resurrection from among those who are dead. (Philippians 3.11 WAET)**

**Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection.... (Hebrews 11.35 NASB)**

**Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God.... and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20.4-6 NASB)**

## General Resurrection

**“I kept looking until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him; thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; the court sat, and the books were opened.” (Daniel 7.9-10 NASB)**

**And many of the sleepers in the dusty ground shall awake, these shall be to age-abiding life, but those to reproach and age-abiding abhorrence; and they who make wise shall shine like the shining expanse, and they who bring the many to righteousness like the stars to times age-abiding and beyond (Daniel 12.2-3 REB)**

**“But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.” (Acts 24.14-15 NASB)**

**“But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14.13-14 NASB)**

**“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.” (John 5.28-29 NASB)**

**Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” (John 11.23-24 NASB)**

**Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (Revelation 20.11-12 NASB)**