

# The Resurrection

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## The Resurrection

March 18, 2026

### A Bible Study on Hope from the Old Testament

Recently, teacher Jim led a Bible study class titled "The Resurrection," focusing on the concept of resurrection as revealed in the Old Testament and its centrality to Christian faith. Held as a devotional Bible study, the session explored how the hope of bodily resurrection permeates Scripture, distinguishing Christianity from other religions through the reality of a risen Savior.

Jim began by outlining the evening's purpose: to examine Old Testament mentions of resurrection, showing that believers in ancient times held this hope, though often veiled. He referenced Jesus' confrontation with the **Sadducees** in Matthew 22:23-32, where they posed a hypothetical about a woman married successively to seven brothers (based on levirate marriage laws). Denying resurrection, angels, and spirits, the Sadducees aimed to ridicule the idea. Jesus rebuked them: "You are mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God." In the resurrection, people neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. Quoting Exodus 3:6—"I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"—Jesus affirmed God as the God of the living, proving life after death and resurrection. This demolished Sadducean theology, affirming heaven, angels, and no need for procreation in eternity.

What sets Christianity apart, Jim emphasized, is the resurrected Savior. Jesus lives, ruling with all authority, witnessed by over 500 people post-resurrection—evidence strong enough for any court. He contrasted this with detractors, including ancient Jewish leaders who bribed tomb guards to claim disciples stole the body, and modern criticisms from some Jewish sources. Webster's defines resurrection as revival from death, especially at final judgment.

The class refuted premillennial dispensationalism, particularly the pre-tribulation rapture. Jim argued that popular views of a secret rapture removing the church before tribulation, followed by Antichrist reign, millennial kingdom, and later resurrections, constitute a "different gospel." The term "rapture" derives from Latin *rapio* ("to snatch") in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, but describes resurrection, not escape. This doctrine traces to 19th-century John Nelson Darby and dispensationalism, gaining traction amid Middle East events but lacking biblical warrant. Scriptures like Daniel 12:2 ("many who sleep in the dust... shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame") and John 5:28-29 harmonize one resurrection event, not separate ones. Resurrection ranks among Christianity's six foundational teachings (Hebrews 6:1-2).

Timing aligned with Passover (Pesach, April 1-9 that year) and Resurrection Day (Easter, April 5), following the Jewish lunar calendar for accuracy. Paul offered comprehensive teachings in Corinthians and Thessalonians.

Old Testament resurrection glimpses were ambiguous yet hopeful. Job provided early evidence. In

Job 14:7-15, a cut tree sprouting anew metaphors human revival: though man dies and lies low, Job hoped God might hide him in Sheol (grave) until anger passed, then call him forth. Despite horrific suffering—possibly elephantiasis causing blackened, oozing limbs—Job clung to hope. In Job 19:25-27, he declared, "I know that my Redeemer lives... after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." His fainting heart reflected excitement at seeing his Redeemer, redeeming him from death.

After death, souls enter Hades: divided by chasm, one side paradise (Abraham's bosom for believers), the other torment (flames for unbelievers), per Lazarus and rich man parable. Bodies return to dust, spirits to God, souls await. Rare returns occur only by God's command, like Samuel via the witch of Endor, warning against occult.

Psalm 16:9-10 prophesied the Messiah: God would not abandon His Holy One to Sheol or allow decay—fulfilled in Christ, unlike David whose tomb remained. Psalm 17:15 promised awakening in God's likeness, a metamorphosis where corruptible flesh cannot inherit incorruptible life (echoing Paul). Souls from paradise rise at the trumpet; the living transform instantly (1 Corinthians 15 mystery).

Psalm 49:15 plainly stated God redeems souls from the grave's power through Christ's blood. Isaiah 25:7-8 foretold swallowing death forever on a mountain (Calvary), Christ taking death's keys from Satan. Post-resurrection, tears—from suffering or absent loved ones—would be wiped away.

Isaiah 26:19 shouted resurrection: "Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise... awake and sing for joy!" Disciples missed Jesus' plain predictions of death and rising, perhaps divinely veiled to thwart Satan. Martha knew resurrection hope from Scriptures when Jesus said, "I am the resurrection."

Planned topics like Ezekiel's dry bones valley and Jonah's three days/nights foreshadowing Christ were deferred due to time.

Jim closed praying thanks for resurrection hope, urging steadfast faith, sharing the gospel that life continues beyond death, and anticipation of Sunday worship. The class affirmed resurrection as foundational hope: from Old Testament seeds in Job, Psalms, and prophets to Christ's fulfillment, offering believers eternal life in transformed bodies.

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## A Bible Study on Hope from the Old Testament

Teacher Jim led an engaging Bible study titled “The Resurrection,” exploring the hope of bodily resurrection woven through the Old Testament and fulfilled in Christ. This devotional session emphasized that resurrection is not a New Testament innovation but a foundational expectation among ancient believers, distinguishing Christianity by its living Savior.

Jim highlighted Jesus’ decisive response to the Sadducees in Matthew 22:23–32. Challenging resurrection with a hypothetical of a woman married to seven childless brothers, they were rebuked: “You know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.” Jesus explained that in the resurrection, people neither marry nor are given in marriage but live like angels, and God’s declaration as “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” proves He is God of the living, not the dead.

What uniquely sets Christianity apart, Jim stressed, is Jesus’ resurrection—witnessed by over 500 people, a fact that could stand in any court. He contrasted this with detractors who spread lies about the empty tomb and modern criticisms from some Jewish sources.

The class refuted popular premillennial views of a pre-tribulation rapture, labeling them a “different gospel” rooted in 19th-century dispensationalism rather than Scripture. Passages like Daniel 12:2 and John 5:28–29 describe one resurrection event, not multiple stages.

Old Testament glimpses provided early hope. Job, despite horrific suffering (possibly elephantiasis), declared, “I know that my Redeemer lives... yet in my flesh I shall see God” (Job 19:25–27). Psalms 16 and 17 prophesied the Messiah’s body not seeing decay and believers awakening in God’s likeness. Isaiah 25 foretold death swallowed up on Calvary, and Isaiah 26:19 proclaimed, “Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.”

The study closed with prayer, thanking God for resurrection hope that sustains faith today and promises eternal life tomorrow.

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