

I AM The Resurrection and the Life; John 11:25-27

I. Life After Death

- A. This is a question that has been asked since around 600 BC
- B. In the play by Euripides (480-406 BC), "*Bellerophon*" the main character says, "Doth some one say that there be gods above? There are not; no, there are not. Let no fool, Led by the old false fable, thus deceive you." ¹
- C. Atheism is not a new, Western idea
- D. It also has some roots in Eastern religions during the same time period (600 BC) in the form of Carvaka school of philosophy
- E. Ajita Kesakambalin was debating with a group of Buddhists (somewhere between 200 and 1 BC) and said, "With the break-up of the body, the wise and the foolish alike are annihilated, destroyed. They do not exist after death." ²
- F. This is all happening around the time of the divided Jewish Kingdom (Israel and Judah)
 1. Israel is taken into captivity about 722 BC
 2. Judah is taken into captivity about 589 BC
- G. These thoughts and ideas live on today in the same (and some new) teachings
- H. Even some of the Israelites, while believing in God, did not acknowledge a resurrection
- I. Acts 23:8 (ESV); For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.
- J. It is in this backdrop that Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life"

II. Resurrection

- A. After hearing that Lazarus was dead, Jesus stayed for two more days across the Jordan where John had been baptizing
- B. John 11:21–24 (ESV); ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."
- C. The idea of resurrection is bringing life back to the dead
- D. The Widow of Zarephath's son (1 Kings 17)
 1. The event begins with God telling Elijah to go to Sidon — A Phoenician city
 2. 1 Kings 17:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to him, ⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."
 3. The never-ending jars of flour and oil
 4. The widow's son becomes ill and dies
 5. 1 Kings 17:20–22 (ESV); ²⁰ And he cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again." ²² And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.
- E. The Pharisees believed in a resurrection
 1. Daniel 12:2 (ESV); And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
 2. Job 19:25–27 (ESV); ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I

¹ "El-Ev: Positive Atheism's Big List of Quotations". Positiveatheism.org. Archived from the original on 26 January 2000. Retrieved 1 March 2012.

² "Elements of Atheism in Hindu Thought". AGORA. Archived from the original on 15 June 2006. Retrieved 26 June 2006.

shall see God, ²⁷ whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

- F. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection
 - 1. If the soul perished at death (atheists and the Sadducees) then how could one be brought back from death?
 - 2. Jesus' resurrection of Lazarus, the widow of Nain's son, Jairus' daughter, Jesus himself, and all those who came out of the grave at His crucifixion prove that there is a resurrection
 - 3. The final proof is Jesus' resurrection
- G. Jesus often used the physical to illustrate the Spiritual
 - 1. Lazarus' resurrection is one example
 - 2. Jesus physical resurrection gives us spiritual life

III. Life

- A. John 11:25–26 (ESV); ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
- B. John 8:51 (ESV); Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."
 - 1. Physical death is a necessity
 - 2. We will all physically die, there is no getting around that
 - 3. Hebrews 9:27 (ESV); And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
 - 4. Spiritual death is a choice
- C. Jesus' words, "I AM the resurrection and the life" give us someONE to believe in, not someTHING
 - 1. Coffman calls this statement the "great inheritance of the human family"
 - 2. This means Jesus is God in human form, a truth he promptly proved by raising Lazarus.
 - 3. Jesus had claimed to be God as: the Light of the world, the Good Shepherd, the giver of eternal life, the door of the sheep, as existing before Abraham was born, and in numerous other ways.
 - 4. Here he appeared as Resurrection come in the flesh.
 - 5. This means far more than an assertion of Jesus' power to raise Lazarus, but extends to all the dead who ever lived.
 - 6. John 5:24–29 (ESV); ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. ²⁵ "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
 - 7. "The "Come forth," shortly to be sounded over Lazarus' grave, is the same cry that shall awaken all the dead on earth." ³
 - 8. "The Christian will of course pay the last debt to nature; but, because of that saving link with Christ, the physical death he must one day experience loses all reality." ⁴

³ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on John 11:25". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/john-11.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

⁴ A. M. Hunter, The Gospel according to John (Cambridge University Press, 1965), p. 115.

- D. The person of Jesus is where we put out faith
- IV. Only in Jesus
- A. There is life only in Jesus
 - B. He is the person we must believe in
 - C. He is the person we must obey
 - D. He is the gospel (good news)