

Your First Sensations After Death

Commentary for September 15, 2022 — ... After Your Resurrection

Sometimes I wonder about things. Did you ever take a moment to consider, what will be your first sensation at the moment of your resurrection from the dead? Let me remind you of my July 1, 2022 Commentary, because everyone is "[Raised to Mortal Flesh](#)," but there are differences after that moment. The apostle Paul tells us in two passages below.

Resurrection Of Those Raised To Glory

The first sensation YOU will experience in YOUR resurrection to glory will be a loud sound of a trumpet, blown when Christ returns from heaven. He will be in the air, not yet touching His feet on the Mount of Olives. The trumpet blast will wake you to life:

"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [in death], but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for

- [1] **THE TRUMPET shall sound, and**
- [2] **the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and**
- [3] **we shall be changed.**

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

• **1 Corinthians 15:51–53**

In his first epistle to the Thessalonians Paul tells of the same event in a different context. We also learn the trumpet is God's:

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring [lead forth] with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with THE TRUMP OF GOD: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

• **1 Thessalonians 4:14–18**

"Them also which sleep" refers to the dead. This may be the same or a different trumpet in Revelation 11:15. To me it seems to be the same event. Notice how, in the context, Christ takes active rule and control over the world:

"And the seventh angel sounded [the angel "trumpets," an active Greek verb]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying,

'The kingdoms [Greek singular, "kingdom"] of this world [are] become[s] the kingdoms [Greek singular, "kingdom"] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever' [Greek: 'for the eons of the eons']."

• **Revelation 11:15**

Be assured, we will never forget the moment when we hear that trumpet sound.

New Testament Resurrections of Recently Dead People

There were resurrections to life in the Old Testament, but I focus now on those in the New Testament. They were resurrected to physical life like those Jesus raised from the dead: Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:41), the widow's son at Nain (Luke 7:14), and Lazarus. None were resurrections to glory. **Their first sensation was a full breath.**

The raising of Lazarus from the dead by Jesus (told in John 11:1–12:18) was widely celebrated by Jews who came to Jerusalem for the Passover in 30 AD. Jesus raising Lazarus frightened the chief priests, causing them to conspire to murder not only Jesus but also Lazarus (John 12:9–11), a wealthy resident of Bethany, two miles east of the Mount of Olives. Also, an unstated number of newly deceased people were raised back to life after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead:

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept [a metaphor for death] arose, And came out of the graves AFTER HIS RESURRECTION, and [they] went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

• **Matthew 27:52–53**

After the resurrection of Jesus, others were raised from the dead by God through Peter (Acts 9:36–43), and through Paul (Acts 20:7–12). Perhaps Paul was resurrected (Acts 14:19–20).

Resurrection to Judgment — Not Immortal Yet (Revelation 20:11–13)

The Great White Throne judgment begins with renewed flesh and blood individuals, just like the people of Israel in Ezekiel 37:1–14 (there, all will be Israelites, but not all believers). In the Revelation judgment, adults will be raised as adults, and children as children (who grow to adulthood). **Their first sensation will be a full breath** [spirit] of life (Ezekiel 37:13–14).

Yes, there will be harsh punishments for many. There will also be reconciliation with God and reconciliation between victims and evil doers. All will learn what you learn now: God exists and created all. He has a Son through whom all creation came (Colossians 1:12–17, Hebrews 2:10), who is **"the captain of their salvation [made] perfect through sufferings"** (Hebrews 2:10). God **"works all things after the counsel of His own will"** (Ephesians 1:11), to save every person born of Adam (1 Timothy 2:4–6, 4:10).

God will also reconcile every created intelligent spirit being to Himself (Colossians 1:20, Philippians 2:10–11). God will accomplish His will in heaven and earth. For more information, see my article "[Your Resurrection](#)," as well as "[Chapter 16: Resurrections from the Dead](#)" and "[Chapter 29: Marriage and the Family in the Resurrection](#)" — two fascinating chapters from Dr. Martin's book, "[Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#)."

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com