

SLEEP MYSTERY OF THE RESURRECTION

Paul opens our lesson text with a summary point to be added to the list in (1 Cor.15:42-49).

Flesh and Blood

Perishable
Dishonor
Weakness
Natural
Earth
Earthly
Image

Kingdom of God

Imperishable
Glory
Power
Spiritual
Heaven
Heavenly
Image

Flesh and Blood cannot inherit the **Kingdom of God** apart from faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ
(1 Cor.15:3-4) (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

(1 Cor.15:50) "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable."

(1 Pet.1:23) "For you have been **born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is through the living and enduring word of God." John 3:1-8)

(1 Cor.15:24) "Then comes **the end**, when He hands over the kingdom of God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and authority and power."

Now Paul is ready to introduce the Sleep Mystery of Resurrection (1 Cor.15:51-58).

We will study it in the following four points.

1. We will examine our lesson text by four homiletical points.

- **Change** (1 Cor.15:51-52)
 - All Church Age Believers will be changed.
- **Clothe** (1 Cor.15:53-54)
 - All Church Age Believers will be clothed (2 Cor.5:1-8).
- **Cross** (1 Cor.15:55-57)
 - All Church Age Believers have victory over sin-death [Adam's Original Sin] (AOS) in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Confidence** (1 Cor.15:58)
 - All Church Age Believers can have confidence in the doctrine of the resurrection by the faith cycle (Eph.1:18).

Paul's argument:

- If there had been no Adamic sin (Gen.2:17; 3:6-7), there would have been no spiritual and physical deaths.
- If there had been no deaths, there would have been no need for Jesus Christ to die on the cross, be buried and raised from dead (Rom.4:24-25; 5:12-21).

(1 Cor.15:57 “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor.15:3-4)

We don't earn or work for the right to participate in the First Resurrection of believers (1 Cor.15:20-23).

2. Participation in the resurrection of the saved is given as part of our Spiritual Inheritance in the package of Grace Salvation.

(1 Cor.15:50) “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

As a Child of God, a Spiritual Heir, our inheritance is 1 of 20 status-privileges in the package of grace salvation ([50 Things](#)).

(Rom.8:17) “And if children, heirs also, **heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.” (Gal.4:4-7)

(1 Pet.1:3-5) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (Col.1:12-14; Eph.1:18-20)

(2 Cor.5:1) “For we know that if our earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

3. The key doctrine in the sleep mystery of the resurrection is described by Paul in (1 Cor.15:51-52. We refer to it as the Rapture of the Church (1 Cor.15:51-58; 1 Thess.4:13-18).

(1 Cor.15:51-53) “Behold, I tell you a mystery (mysterion) **we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed**; in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we shall be changed**. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (1 Thess.4:16)

This mystery was something not revealed in the Old Testament (OT) (Eph.1:9-10; 3:3-6), but the doctrine of the resurrection was certainly taught in the OT. (1 Cor.15:20-23) [The order of the first resurrection].

Pay attention to the **when** (hotan) [Rapture] and the **then** (tote) [the end period of eschatology] in (1 Cor.15:54).

- The **THEN** introduces two OT Scriptures:
 - (Isa.25:8) (1 Cor.15:54; 1 Cor.15:25-26)
 - (Hos.13:14) (1 Cor.15:55-56; Rom.3:20; 5:21; 2 Cor.5:4 and Heb.2:9).
- 4. **The trumpet of the Rapture will signal to Israel the Tribulation and the Victory in Christ (1 Cor.15:57-58).**

The Rapture trumpet of Church age is not the same as the seven trumpets in Jewish age Rev.8-9; 11:15-19.

The **last (te eschatos/ lsf) trumpet is the signal for the beginning of the END**. “But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, **after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the END, when He** hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.” (1 Cor.15:23-26)

- Rapture of the Church is not contrary to Old Testament Scriptures, it is a “mystery” hidden in them.