

**And he that was dead came forth
bound hand and foot with grave clothes**

That as Lazarus was we would be now who witness the gospel of Jesus Christ, who call on the Lord day and night for His mercy and strength, according to the scriptures, praying without ceasing for many, remembering those who have passed before us, to when our precious Lord shall take us up from this earth.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

All born again souls mysteriously experience the first resurrection while in their earthly tabernacle, even as the flesh remains laden with sin (Romans 7:22-25). God's word refers to this as being born again, (John 3:3-5), not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, but of the Spirit of God (John 1:13). The fleshly body of itself is death (Romans 7:24); for since time began, [initiated by Adam's sin], (Genesis 5:3), or, since the world began, these earthly tabernacles must corrupt and die and never exist again as flesh. But God's people have a better Hope (1 Corinthians 15:53).

While in the likeness of sinful flesh, (Romans 8:3), Jesus was not ashamed to be a part of the stinky grave clothes of Lazarus; for, from before the world began, [before Adam's sin], Christ's Love is without end for those in whom God shall Spiritually indwell (1 John 4:2-3; Romans 6:11). This is a great mystery. But for our joy and Hope, God is not a liar; all that the Father hath given to me shall come to me, and all who come to me I will in no wise cast out, Jesus declared, (John 6:37). Lazarus will come to Jesus.

In Jesus' great mercy, power, and Love, and on behalf of Lazarus, [who represents the elect], God exhibits how His people do become born again prior to departing this world permanently. The key phrase here to remember is, "departing this world permanently"; which Lazarus had not done by virtue of the fact that Christ resurrected him to live again in his sin tainted body. We would keep this in mind throughout the study. So, there is only one first resurrection! Lazarus who was resurrected from the earthly grave, but retained his sinful flesh, proves the first resurrection had to have happened to Lazarus, guaranteeing the second!

Lazarus physical resurrection, while in the likeness of sinful flesh, can assuredly prove Lazarus had experienced the first spiritual resurrection prior to his death, thereby justifying Jesus' call to him, "Lazarus come forth!" There cannot be two first resurrections! Unfortunately the idea of two resurrections comes from those who believe Christ paid for the sin of His people twice, which of course is amply contrary to all of scripture (Romans 6:9-11; Hebrews 9:28).

Lazarus could be raised the way he had been raised, because he had already experienced the first resurrection in His soul prior to his physical death, making him qualified for the second resurrection. Obviously he had not permanently departed the earth following his physical death, as he remains temporarily once again in the body of death – not the new spiritual body that comes on the last day – following the second resurrection. Lazarus was going to physically die again following his resurrection. There is only one physical death whereby the body is permanently removed from the sin cursed earth, [the first death]. For it is appointed unto men once to die and then the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). So what is Jesus showing us here with Lazarus' resurrection?

Jesus would teach something significant about Lazarus' physical resurrection where he continues in the earthly body of death! Are we who would be regenerated and who presently live in bodies of death any different than Lazarus was when he, [being spiritually born again], was physically in the grave? Spiritually, is not God showing how there is no difference! Or to put it another way:

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; THE FLESH PRFITETH NOTHING: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

This is not to discredit the works the regenerated shall do while remaining alive on the sin cursed earth in bodies of death; for we know the root of those works is spiritual! But to underscore the truth that once the elect have become born again, the flesh is irrelevant as far as physical death is concerned. Following physical death the elect are not dead! Though Christ hadn't revealed to Lazarus his new resurrected body, [as will be the case following the second resurrection], yet, in some eternal spiritual way, Lazarus had to have been with Christ following Lazarus' physical death, qualifying Jesus to call Lazarus forward into his carnal flesh again. Why? To show those whom Christ loves, Martha, and Mary, that, Christ, alone, is the Deliverer and the Savior who shall raise His people on the last day.

Through Lazarus' resurrection, Jesus will comfort Lazarus' family, while showing how He is the Christ sent by the Father to give eternal life. But, first, Christ will purposely delay his coming to Lazarus:

John 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. 6 When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

Jesus had heard of Lazarus' sickness days earlier, yet delayed His coming until Lazarus had been dead for four days. Though Jesus would purposely not be there before Lazarus' death, the Lord was not concerned about the soul of Lazarus. We can know from all of scripture that Lazarus had already been accepted by God in Christ before the world was. In His great kindness and compassion, Jesus will demonstrate this truth beyond mere words; so that by the Lord's earthly actions while in the likeness of sinful flesh, (Romans 8:3), Mary and her sister Martha shall know that Jesus is the Christ sent by the Father:

John 11:23-25 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

In, John 11:23-25, Martha is clearly referring to the 'second resurrection', which we read about in, Hebrews 9:28, where the Lord declares He shall raise His people a second time without sin unto eternal life! In, John 11:23-25, no information is being given that suggests in any way that Lazarus had not already experienced the 'first resurrection' prior to his first physical death. Rather, this verse underscores how Lazarus had to have received the first resurrection prior to his death, so that it is guaranteed he will experience the second resurrection on the last day by Christ who is the resurrection and the life.

We remember, that, we who are presently alive in the flesh are not alive because of the flesh which is actually death. We are alive from millisecond to millisecond because of the spirit that gives the flesh breath. The body by itself, [like Lazarus' body in the grave], is death.

Christ raising Lazarus body of death from the grave doesn't make Lazarus any different than a born again elect who presently remain in their own body of death, while spiritually born again.

From, John 11:25, the following three parts clearly show to represent Lazarus who we can know is in Christ; for Christ is in all of God's elect (John 17:26). It is in this context the Lord declares:

- (1) he that believeth in me
- (2) though he were dead
- (3) yet shall he live

Jesus will raise Lazarus to show how Lazarus is one of God's born again elect, and, therefore, 'shall he live'. Otherwise, the Lord could not raise Lazarus anymore than the Lord could raise a non-elect who never became born again! But the Lord, while in the likeness of sinful flesh, (Romans 8:3), is going to prove how He is the Deliverer and Savior who spiritually-eternally abides in His elect, even as they temporarily remain in sinful tabernacles of death.

Jesus, in His humble state as servant in the likeness of sinful flesh, (Romans 8:3), never ceased to be eternal God with His Father and the Holy Spirit! We remember the three days Christ's earthly body was in the tomb. Yet, Christ returned into the same flesh though it were dead which the people of that day witnessed. They witnessed the same exact death we witness today when a loved one dies. The fact that Christ's body did not decay is a separate matter, and does not subtract from the truth being witnessed here; unless the flesh of Jesus is our main focus; which I think is the case for many unknowingly! But as the scripture declares, Christ is the first of the elect pardoned by His Father, (Isaiah 53:10-12; Revelation 1:5), for Christ had no sin the Father could condemn (Acts 2:24). So Christ never needed to be born again, (Hebrews 7:27); but He died once for the sins of His elect (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:12). Because He was right with the Father before His death, when He said, "it is finished", He is the first qualified to rise from the dead having been born of a woman under the law in time. He is thus qualified to raise all of God's born again elect who also were born of a woman under the law in time.

But, wait minute, some will say: “didn’t Lazarus rise before Christ?” According to an earthly time line that would be true; but, would it be true according to eternity where there is no such thing as a beginning and an end where the God Head dwells bodily? And is not Jesus the embodiment of the God Head (Colossians 2:9), yet, not in His flesh which He took on temporarily for the spiritual saving and sanctification of the elect:

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

When Jesus, who is God, walked on the earth in the likeness of sinful flesh, (Romans 8:3), was He not also mysteriously in heaven with His Father? Or, was the man Jesus made of a woman, made under the law, a separate God from the Son of God who is eternally one with the Father? The fact is, the only way Jesus was separated from the Father was on the cross when He cried, “my God my God why hast thou forsaken me!” But ultimately wasn’t this for His elects sake:

Psalm 6: 1-4 O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. 2 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed. 3 My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? 4 Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

Psalm 31:9-10 ¶ Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly. 10 For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed.

Because God who is without sin humbled Himself in the flesh of a man born of a woman, does this mean that during that time Jesus was not simultaneously eternal God in heaven with the Father and the Holy Ghost?

The answer I see here, first, is, “yes”! Jesus who is eternal God is everywhere – omnipresent! But there’s another consideration: we may NOT try to figure out God! For I perceive this is the problem with many professing Christians today, and the cause of many false doctrines.

Many disputers ask the wrong questions; but not the children of God who are sensitive to all of God’s word. With that said, some proper questions could be asked: “Is it possible that Christ would not eternally rise from the tomb after His crucifixion?” The answer of course is no; it’s not possible God in Christ could fail to eternally rise from the grave! Rather, it is, ‘eternally impossible’, that Christ would not rise from the eternal grave He willingly suffered for His elects sake, while remaining eternal God, from everlasting to everlasting! So, is it, or is it not true that Christ is eternal God from everlasting to everlasting, who neither has beginning of days nor end of life (Psalm 90:1; Hebrews 7:3)? His word speaks for itself for those who have ears to hear! Finally, while presently in our sin tainted minds, is it possible for us to understand a God who when He thinks and acts does so without a beginning to each thought and act, and without an end to each thought and act (Job 9)?

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, ...

For by His very nature God is eternal having neither a beginning nor end. And so are His thoughts and deeds and everything He creates! After all, it is ‘eternal damnation’ the wicked shall receive, where there shall have been no beginning to it, nor end. Of course those who will argue that there is a beginning to hell can do so from that place with the Lord’s full permission. But the truth remains: while there is no end to the outer darkness where the thoughts of the wicked shall have perished, [eternal death], the beginning of such a death becomes less and less relevant as though any beginning could have ever existed. For in eternity where there is no end, ultimately there can be no beginning that could ever be identified. On the flip side, the same is the true for the elect. In the New Heaven and the New Earth it shall be as though the elect had always been there from everlasting to everlasting, as their Heavenly Father is with the Son and the Holy Ghost (Isaiah 65:17)!

Would any of us dare to say that Christ who is Almighty Infinite God from everlasting to everlasting, is incapable of spiritually paying for the sin of His elect while on the cross in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3); so that spiritually His earthly atonement covers the entire time line of History of His people from Alpha to Omega? Or, just how infinite “is” our God we profess?

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Following Jesus’ declaration that He is the resurrection and the life, Jesus declares, “he that believeth in me” ... ; you could temporarily leave out the phrase, “though he were dead”, [just for a second], and say, “he that believeth in me shall live”; and that would be a totally biblical statement! The phrase, “though he were dead”, which was true of Lazarus, is an occasion Jesus is going to capitalize on; but whether, God’s elect Lazarus was physically dead or physically alive, changes nothing spiritually about the fact that Lazarus had to have been born again. And so it is guaranteed that he shall be resurrected a second time after his permanent departure from this earth, which had not as yet happened as of his resurrection back into the flesh:

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Through the dead body of Lazarus Christ is going to prove how after the first death of His born again elect the second death shall have no power over them (Revelation 20:6).

For God’s elect, the first death is ultimately when they permanently depart this earth, which, in, ‘an eternal sense’, is as soon as they become born again when they simultaneously cease to be accountable to the judgment of the last day. Following their spiritual rebirth the future destruction of this earth no longer has any hold on them. In this sense, following the first resurrection, spiritually, [being born again], they have already experienced the last day of this earth; for they are eternally one with Christ who has neither beginning of days nor end of life (Hebrews 7:3).

Colossians 2:14 ... nailing it to his cross;

This is possible for Christ did it first in a glorious mysterious eternal manner that characterizes His heavenly majesty that is without beginning and without end, from everlasting to everlasting, and that not only includes but features God on an earthly cross while in the likeness of sinful flesh (Colossians 2:14; Romans 8:3-4).

Ask yourself the question: “if Christ had not physically and spiritually died on the cross and then rose again on the third day, would salvation for anyone exist? That is, according to God’s will and good pleasure, could He have subtracted the atonement on the cross, because, after all, [as some believe], He had paid for the sin of His people before the world was – right? Wrong! “Except when adding the ideas of men, or, when reading verses out of context, you will NOT find a verse, or verses in scripture that show Christ paid for the sin of His elect before the world began, [before Adam’s sin]. It does not exist!”

As the scripture declares, God is not liken to mankind, who of themselves are dishonorable thieves and robbers. God cannot condemn mankind for the sin of Adam before Adam is actually created very good and then sins physically and spiritually in the Garden of Eden. Because God knew that Adam and Eve would violate God’s law does not give God, according to the law, the right to judge mankind to eternal damnation prior to sin actually taking place.

Many who try to understand an infinite and Holy God who is from everlasting to everlasting, more often than not use earthly things such as time and calendars to explain spiritual things which in turn fosters all manner of false doctrine. Doctrines such as, Christ didn’t actually pay for the sin of His elect when He was on the cross, which will never square with all of scripture, and the declaration that no one can be saved following a man made calendar, neither of which has ever been proven from all of scripture. A doctrine that declares, May 21, 2011, Christ did not return physically, but returned spiritually, actually violates the whole counsel of God’s gospel program ordained from before the world began.

For Christ must come in the likeness, [physically], of sinful flesh, (Romans 8:3), so, that, He, Spiritually, would not only save His people from their sin, (Matthew 1:21), but so that, He, as God, who is from everlasting to everlasting, would become liken to His brethren in every way while they remain in earthen vessels of death, as they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who is one with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

When the Lord returns a second time without sin for His people, (Hebrews 9:28), it shall be bodily as well as spiritually:

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

For the ungodly left behind His return a second time shall also be bodily and spiritual:

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Some may debate about the quality of how one must show to ‘believe’ in order to have been born again, as some deviate from the main subject matter at hand, but this is not necessary here; for the Bible shows us Lazarus was an elect of God! And so when Christ is preparing to raise Lazarus from the grave, [an elect who had to have been born again], Jesus, in the likeness of sinful flesh, (Romans 8:3), verbalizes this in His declaration: “he that believeth in me”, [that was Lazarus God’s elect], “though he were dead”, [that was Lazarus who had been born again but is dead in the flesh], “yet shall he live!”

And so Lazarus comes forth from the grave as Jesus commanded; proving to Mary and her sister Martha, and those standing by, that Jesus is in deed the Christ who shall raise His people a second time on the last day as we read in, Hebrews 9:28:

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

From before the foundation of the world, [before Adams sin], it was impossible that Jesus would not give His soul on the cross for the sins of His people, when, in the likeness of sinful flesh, He would Spiritually Cry, “my God my God why hast thou forsaken me”, (Isaiah 53:10-12), to when He rose again in the same flesh in time so that He, as eternal God, is now eternally qualified to raise Lazarus in time, time, which God, ‘in Himself’, is never confined to. It is not an exact time that qualifies Jesus to Save whom He will; it is God’s Sovereign and Eternal will and good pleasure, that determines the fulness of times for each elect’s regeneration!

2 Corinthians 5:16 ¶ Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

God in Christ is no longer on the earth in the likeness of sinful flesh. Yet by the Comforter who He has sent, who is the Spirit of Truth, shall He abide in His elect, past, present, a future, [from the first Adam to the last Adam], which God can justify eternally following Christ, who is eternal God, permanent and victorious departure from the sin cursed earth following His eternal death and resurrection:

John 16:7 ¶ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Christ’s first resurrection is witnessed by the eye witnesses of His disciples following the third day after His crucifixion (Acts 1:3). His second resurrection is witnessed when He is taken up into the clouds, which He promises His elect will experience on that last day, when they will judge the world along side Christ.

His earthly resurrection from the grave, [the first resurrection], and His being taken up a second time into the clouds, [the second resurrection], were both witnessed by His elect disciples. And so do His elect throughout the fulness of times witness His resurrection in their hearts and souls who have been made one with Christ.

When Christ was on the earth in the likeness of sinful flesh, as, Romans 8:3, assures us, it was for the comfort and intimacy He would show His people, not only then, but now as He abides in His elect's earthly tabernacles spiritually from Heaven, where He has always been. It is His eternal Holy Spirit, [that has no beginning and no end], that performs His work of salvation and sanctification, from the first Adam to the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45).

Then who would dare to declare that, Christ, who is eternal, who is infinite Holy God, is not able to perform His work from the foundation of the world, [following Adam's sin], to the last day, simultaneously, to be featured on the cross (Ephesians 1:10-14; Colossians 2:14)? Surely this is what is meant when the Lord declares in, Revelation 1:8:

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

The phrase, 'which is, and which was, and which is to come', is, not, a single date on the gospel calendar, but the whole calendar simultaneously as the fulness of times! Or, would we dare declare, "Oh no, Christ who is eternal God from everlasting to everlasting is not able to do that!"

The Bible shows how Jesus, who is eternal God, prays for His own according to the names the Father hath given Him from every nation before the world was (John 17:1-9). In this biblical account of Lazarus, Jesus purposely prays out loud for Mary and Martha prior to the Lord raising Lazarus. So that not only they, but all the elect who experience this account shall know from the Spirit of Truth that is in them, how Jesus is the Son of God sent by the Father to Deliver His people who sincerely cry out to him day and night:

John 11:41-44 And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. 43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Earlier Martha had exclaimed to Jesus how Lazarus must stink after being dead for four days:

John 11:39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

The number four (4), in the phrase, “he hath been dead four days”, can typify the nations of the world’s people who are spiritually dead, except they be born again, except they receive the first resurrection. A resurrection that guarantees their flesh shall be transformed into a new spiritual body as it is resurrected a second time without sin (Hebrews 9:28).

God uses Lazarus to demonstrate this truth so that Mary and Martha, and all who belong to Christ may be comforted in knowing that Christ indeed is able to do all that He declares throughout His word. No, Lazarus was not resurrected into his new spiritual body; but the Lord raising Lazarus from his physical stinking dead body, [which is what Christ does for all who become born again], is enough proof for us to know Lazarus is indeed one of God’s born again elect who shall receive His new resurrected body on the last day!

John 11:21-24 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. 22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. 23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

By raising Lazarus Jesus not only confirms Lazarus' place with God from before the world was, but, by the faith of Christ, His elect, Mary, and Martha, also are spiritually comforted. What the Lord is demonstrating with Lazarus is, that, just as it is impossible that Christ could fail to rise from an eternal death on behalf of God's elect people which had been ordained before the world began, [before Adam's sin], it is impossible that each and every child of God will not experience the second resurrection without sin, following their physical death (Hebrews 9:28). If Christ can raise elect Lazarus from his stinking grave, He can also raise Him on the last day and given him a new spiritual body that never dies:

John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Though Lazarus was physically dead, but he was not spiritually dead prior to his physical death; and therefore arose upon Christ's call to him to come forth.

“So is there proof that God's people while in their sin tainted bodies of death actually become resurrected in their hearts, souls, and spirit, [the first resurrection], which guarantees they shall be resurrected a second time without sin? Look at Lazarus!” According to his own word, the Lord could not have had the authority to raise Lazarus; except Lazarus had been baptized into the eternal mind of God through Jesus' death, [which covers the fulness of times], planted together with Christ in the likeness of His death; ordained from before the world was! To make this point, Jesus ensures Lazarus is dead for four days before Christ, while in the likeness of sinful flesh, shall exhibit His eternal truth we read about in, Romans 6:3-5:

Romans 6:3-5 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

So, is it eternally possible that Christ could fail to give His eternal soul which has no beginning and which has no end unto eternal death before His heavenly Father who shall be eternally satisfied, (Isaiah 53:10-12)? The answer is no! It is eternally impossible that Christ would fail to give His perfect and eternal life for the sins of His chosen elect, and rise again!

Concerning the Lord's atonement, ordained from before the foundation of the world, [before Adam's sin], it was as good as if it had already been accomplished, that, Christ, who is eternal God, would physically and spiritually pay for the sins of His elect, so that in every way He would be the eternal comforter for His chosen people who temporarily remain in bodies of death. And it is in this context the Lord provides us with phrases like, "before the world began", [Before Adam's sin]; "from the foundation of the world", [immediately following Adam's sin]; "from before the foundation of the world", [Prior to Adam's sin], etc. Adam and Eve's sin, and Christ's forgiveness of their sin, by which all elect shall follow, shall bring in the virgin birth of Christ who is the foundation of the world, from the first Adam to the last Adam (Luke 3:38; Romans 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:45).

In regards to salvation and sanctification, Christ, as eternal God, is not confined to the elements of this sin cursed earth, nor being Holy God was He confined to these elements when He was on the cross. This is an eternal truth God underscores in, Genesis 2:1-4, where Christ's work encompasses the fulness of times throughout every generation from Alpha to Omega! "The Lord Jesus Christ can raise whom He will when He wills and nothing of God's word shall show to be violated!"

The Lord gives us the account in, Jude 1:9, where the devil disputes with God about bringing Moses resurrected body, [with Elijah], to the mount of transfiguration to comfort Jesus before the cross. God answers the devil, and all who dispute God's sovereignty; "the Lord rebuke thee."

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

The stinking grave clothes with the corruption and stink of death that initially clung to Lazarus typifies the elect who temporarily retain the stink of this sin cursed earth in the flesh, and, yet, Christ abides in them spiritually-eternally. It is the mystery of the gospel! Perhaps it is the main cause of their inability to fully express His new life in them; “except from His Holy Word”. Lazarus is a true picture of the elect who presently remain in bodies of death, and why in, Isaiah 64:6, the Lord declares:

Isaiah 64:6 ¶ But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

If we have been raised from eternal death into the New Life that is Jesus Christ, yet, from the worlds point of view, we can manifest the stink of this world while in these earthly tabernacles of death? Our comparison here is ‘not’ ourselves next to others; for as all have sinned ... (Romans 3:23)! But our comparison is always with ourselves first next to Holy God where there is no comparison! For of ourselves, at least outwardly, we stink of death, while Christ who is the embodiment of the God Head, in Himself, is the very essence of eternal Faith, Hope, and Love, from everlasting to everlasting. If we are regenerated, yet, while in these earthly tabernacles, in part, we sustain a reminiscence of our previous existence prior to salvation.

Hebrews 13:1-3 ¶ Let brotherly love continue. 2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels [messengers] unawares. 3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

None of us come with the same back pack of sins prior to our change. There is not one mold of how a true Christian should look. But God’s word alone keeps His elect humble, according to His way, truth, and life. So, if we be raised, [the first resurrection], yet, to an on-going degree, we may retain the same stink that encompasses the unbelieving world, where-by God, commands us to, “mortify the deeds of the body, [the flesh]”. And God’s children will do this.

Surely all who cry unto the Lord day and night for His comfort and strength unto eternal life, 'pray without ceasing'. That they might indeed be included in the Kingdom of God in the New Heaven and the New Earth; and not only they, but all of whom they pray for. God will take care of His judgment on the ungodly which must soon come to pass. But while it is called, Today, the elect would shine the light of Christ as the Lord gives it to each one to do. For as they pray for themselves, they would loose the grave clothes of their brothers and sisters as the Lord wills; so that they too might go free in Christ. They would not judge, except those things which are clearly contrary to the whole council of God.

For they would be as Lazarus who of himself was a stinking corps, yet is alive forever more to witness the new life from the pages of God's Holy word. So that as God said about Abel, and as He says about Lazarus, He says about every elect in the pages of divine revelation: "though they being dead yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4).

May it be that, we, though being dead, [to sin], will yet speak according to the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ, according to the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

To God be all the glory. Amen.