

Q38: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?  
A38: **At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.**

**Scripture References:** 1 Corinthians 2:9, 13:12, 15:42; Matthew 25:33-34, 10:32; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Psalm 16:11; John 5:28-29

DQ1: Is there resurrection for believers?

DQ2: What is the meaning of believers' resurrection?

DQ3: What benefits will the believers enjoy at resurrection?

DQ4: What is the meaning of "being raised up in glory"?

DQ5: What is the meaning of "openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment"?

DQ6: What is the meaning of "made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity"?

DQ7: Why is the resurrection of believers important?

**Notes:**

Believers' resurrection is one of the central truths of the Bible and cannot be separated from the redemptive plan of God and the redemptive work of Christ. The certainty of believers' resurrection is founded upon the resurrection of Christ and His promise of our resurrection. No true faith could deny resurrection as such is not true faith but mere self-conviction. Christians must, by necessity, possess faith grounded in the Bible and looks forward to resurrection. Only such a faith could lead us to redemption wrought to us in the grace of God. If one claims to have faith but does not look forward to resurrection, he has no faith at all for there is certain resurrection to Christians.

The Biblical resurrection is not conceptual but a resurrection that raises the body from the dead and renewal of the body of the living when Christ returns. Upon death, the body returns to the ground and becomes totally unrecognizable. But, the Bible tells us that our body will resurrect and reconstituted anew. Our soul's dwelling place disintegrates but God rebuilds a new dwelling place thus restoring His creation to its original glory.

Alas, many deny the resurrection. They claim that resurrection of the dead is neither based on common sense nor scientific as it is a mystery that cannot be explained. Ironically, they are correct in their claims. First, resurrection does not make sense. Why? It is not a natural phenomenon but a supernatural act of God. Second, resurrection is not scientific. While the historical fact of Jesus' resurrection can be proven using the tools available to man as sufficient evidence exists in the Bible alone. However, how rotted and disintegrated human body could come back to life cannot be scientifically explained. If science could explain how God in the beginning created the universe, perhaps science might have a chance to providing some

explanation as to resurrection. But, since science could not possibly explain God's creation, science also could not possibly explain resurrection.

People often believe that, if they could not understand it, God could not accomplish it. They believe in that way because they know neither God nor His attributes and characteristics. The mysteries of resurrection belong to God. God has never revealed the details of chemical and mechanical processes of resurrection anywhere in the Bible. God created the universe by His powerful Word and, by His power and wisdom, resurrection is made possible.

Believers' resurrection is precious. A38 says that believers will be raised up in glory. Non-believers, however, are not raised up in glory. Both believers and non-believers experience the same physical deaths but their resurrections are strikingly different. "Glory" is a word used in the Bible only in conjunction with God and often denotes the presence of God, i.e., the glory of God is where He is. Believers' resurrection leads into the presence and glory of God. Non-believers' resurrection has nothing to do with the glory of God.

In short, the benefits of believers' resurrection are: first, being raised in glory; second, to be declared righteous; and third, being able to perfectly enjoy God.

When believers are raised up in glory, they come to know all things more clearly. They will be able to know and experience God in ways that are incomparable to what we know and experience now. Resurrection is glorious. Imagine the beggar Lazarus resting in the bosom of Abraham and enjoying him. If it seems like a wonderful sight for a beggar to be in the arms of Abraham, then imagine how glorious it would be for believers to be held in the arms of God upon resurrection.

Believers' glorious resurrection will cause the transformation of the corruptible body into incorruptible body. Upon resurrection, the body that was susceptible to sin would no longer be susceptible even to temptations of sin. Further, the weak body will become the perfect body. Believers' resurrected bodies will resemble that of the body of Christ in glory. (1 Corinthians 15:45-49) This is being raised up in glory.

At resurrection, Christ will have come as the Judge. All will stand before the Judge. But, the verdicts will be quite different for the believers and non-believers. To the believers, a verdict of an eternal inheritance of the heaven will be given. To the non-believers, a verdict of an eternal damnation in hell will be given. The contrast will be vivid and stark.

Believers, by justification, adoption and sanctification, have already become God's children. On the judgment day, in view of the multitudes, the Judge will officially declare once and for all that the believers shall belong to God. The verdict and the pronouncement of the verdict were promised in advance to the believers and were guaranteed by the blood of Christ and work of the Holy Spirit. The final verdict will leave no doubts about where the believers and non-believers stand. Thus, God completes His redemptive plan and work.

Upon resurrection, we shall see as we see face to face and enter into the perfect and peaceful relationship with God. We will be able to enjoy God perfectly. You will recall that Q1's answer was: "to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." A1 says two things. You should return to the

Notes and refresh those two things. The important thing is that there is nothing more beneficial to us than to enjoy God forever.

We are not saved because we believe. We are saved because of the hand of God that has brought salvation to us. God chose us to save us and gave us as a free gift our faith, which enables us to believe in God. Our Christian living is a consequence of having been touched by God. Nonetheless, there are amazing benefits to those who believe. The chief among them is the capacity to enjoy God forever. There is no better, more luxurious, more boastful and more precious gift than to enjoy God. Yet, on earth, the believers are unable to enjoy God perfectly because of unperfected and corrupt nature of the body. Everything is different at resurrection. The ecstasy of being able to see God face to face is an experience that we can never have on earth. It would be indescribable! At resurrection, we will all recognize God as God and will realize that God is a whole lot greater than the God as we once understood on earth.

We must look forward to resurrection. Resurrection is an absolute truth which must be trusted by the believers. Resurrection brings so many great benefits. Finally, as we live in this life, we must yearn for the return of Christ and the accompanying resurrection.

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**Westminster Confession of Faith**  
**CHAPTER XXXIII**  
***Of the Last Judgment***

**1. God hath appointed a day, wherein he will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ,[a] to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father.[b] In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged,[c] but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.[d]**

[a]. Acts 17:31

[b]. John 5:22, 27

[c]. Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4

[d]. II Cor. 5:10; Ecc. 12:14; Rom. 2:16; Rom. 14:10, 12; Matt. 12:36-37

**2. The end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of his justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord: but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.[e]**

[e]. Matt. 25:31-46; Rom. 2:5-6; Rom. 9:22-23; Matt. 25:21; Acts 3:19; II Thess. 1:7-10

**3. As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity:[f] so will he have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.[g]**

[f]. II Pet. 3:11, 14; II Cor. 5:10-11; II Thess. 1:5-7; Luke 21:27-28; Rom. 8:23-25

[g]. Matt. 24:36, 42-44; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-36; Rev. 22:20

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