

A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES

1ST. Thess. chapter 4

B. The resurrection of the dead (at Christ's second coming).

Now we will look at another aspect of the rapture.

1. At the time of Christ, there were two well known Jewish sects in Israel (among others), The Pharisees and the Sadducees. The primary difference between the two were their views of the resurrection. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead and the Sadducees didn't. This divided opinion still exists today in both Judaism and Christianity. But what does the Bible teach and what should the Christian believe today? Let's look at 1st. Cor. chapter 15, the resurrection chapter, for the answer.

(a) Notice verses 12-14, & 17, & 20-23. Paul spoke emphatically here that Jesus did in deed rise from the dead. And if He did not rise from the dead then there is no hope for any of us and our faith is in vain. IE the hope of all Christians is based on the fact that *Christ* rose from the dead. these scriptures are contrary to the Jehovah's witnesses, who believe Jesus never *literally* rose from the dead. (When asked what happened to His body if He was never resurrected from the dead they usually say "we don't know. Nobody does". To which I always reply "I do, I know what happened. Let me tell you about it".) Note: The resurrection *has* to refer to the *body* since that is the only part of us that dies and therefore the only part that can be resurrected.

(b) verses 35-44. Here Paul challenges those who would argue that the resurrection is simply impossible. "But some man will say how are the dead raised up?" Paul then proceeds to answer it with the common illustration of planting A seed and it growing out of the earth as A plant. The plant, he explains, is different then the seed. It is one object when it is put in the ground and another object (with a different shape, form, or *body*) when it begins to grow. So also are our bodies when we come forth in the resurrection." It is sawn a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body".(vs. 44)