

The following questions are meant to help prepare you to read through *Resurrection Hope and the Death of Death* by Mitchell L. Chase and then reflect on what you have read. Because the first set are designed to help you benefit from the reading, it is best if you do not skim the pages, look at subheadings, etc., before answering the questions. The first set of questions are designed to prepare you for the intake, and so they should be read and answered or thought through *before* reading the chapter. These questions are almost identical for each chapter and are simply designed to help engage your knowledge of the books you're preparing to study. *After* the "break" are some Scripture passages you can consider reading as well as another set of questions that aim to stimulate further contemplation on the content of the chapter and the Scripture's teaching on resurrection.

To clarify, the Old Testament portion of the book is arranged according to Hebrew ordering. That order goes: Law, Prophets, and Writings. The Law (Torah) is the first five books of the Bible. The Prophets is Joshua through 2 Kings, but you skip Ruth, and then Isaiah through Malachi, but you skip Daniel (Chase shows the order on p. 41). The Writings (or Psalms) is Ruth, 1 Chronicles through Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and Daniel. (In the Hebrew Bible, the order of the Writings is a little different, as is clear by the inclusion of Ruth, Lamentations, and Daniel. Of particular importance is that 1-2 Chronicles ends the Old Testament canon. Chase shows the order on p. 61).

### **Before You Start**

1. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “resurrection?”
2. If you had to go to one place in Scripture to develop a doctrine of resurrection, where would it be?
3. Do you think of the resurrection when you read the Old Testament?
4. What does resurrection mean for your daily life?
5. Do you often think of the resurrection when you consider the Lord’s Day, or is it something you have to be purposeful about?
6. Do you think of the resurrection when you think of sharing the gospel?
7. Do you tend to only think of the resurrection on (or around) Easter?
8. Come up with *one question* you have about resurrection.

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## Before Chapter 1

1. What is the one passage *in the Law* (Torah, Genesis–Deuteronomy) that you would most associate with resurrection?
  - a. What other passages would you associate with resurrection?
2. What part of the Law would you be most surprised to find relating to resurrection?
3. Spend time thinking about the way *the Law*—in particular—speaks about **death**. What in the Law would you say contributes to your understanding of the Bible’s teaching on **death**?
4. Can you think of any New Testament uses of *the Law* as grounding the doctrine of the resurrection?
5. Which is greater, the avoidance of death or the overcoming of death?

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Read Genesis 2, 5–9 (Matt. 3:13–17; 1 Pet. 3:20–21), 15:1–5 (Rom. 4:16–25), 22, 50:22–26 (Heb. 11:17–22); Deuteronomy 18:15–19 (Acts 3:17–26)

1. What are some ways the Bible depicts death? Are any of these new to you?
2. Why is it important to understand the Bible’s broader depiction of death when considering the doctrine of resurrection?
3. Is there a sense in which we may say death is absence from the presence of the Lord? What cautions must we maintain if we use this language?
4. What does death and resurrection have to do with tabernacle/temple?
5. Can you think of any passages in the Law that point to resurrection that Chase did not mention?

## Before Chapter 2

1. What is the one passage *in the Prophets* (Joshua–2 Kings except Ruth, and Isaiah–Malachi except Lamentations and Daniel) that you would most associate with resurrection?
  - a. What other passages would you associate with resurrection?
2. What part of *the Prophets* would you be most surprised to find relating to resurrection?
3. Spend time thinking about the way the Prophets—in particular—speaks about **death**. What *in the Prophets* would you say contributes to your understanding of the Bible’s teaching on **death**?
4. Can you think of any New Testament uses of *the Prophets* as grounding the doctrine of the resurrection?

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Read 2 Samuel 22 (Acts 13:22–33); 2 Kings 4, 13; 20:1–11; Isaiah 25; 26:16–21; Ezekiel 37; Hosea 6:1–2; Jonah 1:17–2:10 (Matthew 12:40)

1. How does the Bible connect death and resurrection to the nation/people? Is this new to you?
2. Why must we be able to move from the individual distress and deliverance to corporate distress and deliverance and back again?
3. Did you notice Chase’s focus on “third-day” statements? Are you growing in your vision of the “third day” being “according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:4; this will come up again later)?
4. Spend some time in the book of Jonah thinking about how the concept of resurrection is deeply embedded in the text as a whole. Can you think of ways resurrection is depicted in chapters 1, 3, & 4? Do you think you would connect Jonah 2 with resurrection if Jesus hadn’t done so?
5. Consider also some cross-references from Jonah 2 to the Psalms (e.g., Psalm 18:1-6; Psalm 69; Psalm 124). Can you think of ways the depiction of deliverance in the Psalms are given a “resurrection depth” by their resonances in Jonah 2?
6. Can you think of any passages in the Prophets that point to resurrection that Chase did not mention?

### **Before Chapter 3**

1. What is the one passage *in the Writings* (Ruth, 1 Chronicles–Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Daniel) that you would most associate with resurrection?
  - a. What other passages would you associate with resurrection?
2. What part of the Writings would you be most surprised to find relating to resurrection?
3. Spend time thinking about the way *the Writings*—in particular—speak about **death**. What in the Writings would you say contributes to your understanding of the Bible’s teaching on **death**?
4. Can you think of any New Testament uses of *the Writings* as grounding the doctrine of the resurrection?

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Read Psalms 16; 22; 107; Proverbs 8:32–36; Job 19:23–29; 42:10–16; Ruth 1:19–22; 4:13–17; Daniel 3; 6; 12

1. On p. 63, Chase says “death will not thwart God’s design.” Have you considered the idea that death is an enemy *of God*? What confidence ought that to bring to Christians?
2. If the Psalms are something like “sung prayers” (like hymns), what role should the resurrection have in your prayer life? Has it impacted the content of your prayer life before now? Will it do so going forward?
3. Do the teachings of Proverbs fail since those who seek to walk according to them eventually meet their death? How does the doctrine of resurrection help to overcome this dilemma? (See p. 70)
4. A few times in this chapter, Chase mentions “vindication.” Have you associated resurrection and vindication in the past? In what ways does this help to fill out your understanding of both concepts (resurrection and vindication)?
5. How does the resurrection relate to the unbeliever and what does that mean for your thinking about the doctrine?

## Before Chapter 4

1. What is one passage in the Gospels **other than Jesus's resurrection** that you would most associate with resurrection?
  - a. What other passages (besides Jesus's resurrection) would you associate with resurrection?
2. With the previous studies in mind, what events *in the Gospels* are you expecting to appear in chapter 4?
3. Spend time thinking about the way *the Gospels*—in particular—present **death** (Jesus's, but also others'). What *in the Gospels* would you say contributes to your understanding of the Bible's teaching on **death**?
4. Can you think of any uses of particular Old Testament passages that appear *in the Gospels* as grounding the doctrine of the resurrection?

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Read John 5:22–29; 6:22–71; 11:1–44; Luke 24 (bonus: read all four accounts of the resurrection)

1. Read the Benedictus (Luke 1:68–79), Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55), and Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:25–32) and reflect on the way each one connects to the resurrection. How, then, does the Incarnation assume the Resurrection?
2. Thinking about the development earlier in the book, why does Chase begin by speaking about Jesus's miracles and exorcisms rather than jumping straight to something more immediately obvious, like the raising of Lazarus?
3. Chase discusses the texts about the final judgment (p. 85ff.). Do you tend to reflect on the general resurrection (the resurrection on the last day) when you read these passages? What passages *in the Gospels* besides those he mentioned can you think of and in what way do they now make you think of the general resurrection?
4. How is the event of Matthew 27:51–53 connected to Old Testament promises and what caution does Chase provide to help us avoid overstating what happened (p. 93)?
5. What are several differences between Jesus's resurrection and other resurrections that appear in Scripture?

## Before Chapter 5

1. What is the one passage *in the Acts of the Apostles* that you would most associate with resurrection?
  - a. What other passages would you associate with resurrection?
2. What part of Acts would you be most surprised to find relating to resurrection?
3. Spend time thinking about the way *Acts*—in particular—speaks about **death**. What in Acts would you say contributes to your understanding of the Bible's teaching on **death**?
4. Can you think of any uses of the Old Testament *in Acts* as grounding the doctrine of the resurrection?

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Read Acts 2, 9, and 17.

1. What is the particular difference noted between Enoch/Elijah and Jesus?
  
2. Look at the three items that Chase draws out on Peter's preaching of the resurrection (pp. 98–100; Acts 2). What are the three components in your own words? Would you only connect those three, or could you incorporate more into what is entailed in Peter's statements?
  
3. From the various sermons by Peter and the Apostles in Acts, what does the resurrection mean for those who oppose Christ and the gospel?
  
4. From the teaching of the Apostles in Acts, complete this sentence with as many responses as you can think of: "If Christ is risen, then..." (or, if you prefer: "Since Christ is risen,...")
  
5. A few times in the chapter, it is noted that the resurrection is offensive to the people encountered by the Apostles (particularly Paul). Do you think the doctrine of resurrection is offensive to people today? If so, what makes it offensive now? If not, why do you think it is no longer offensive?
  
6. What are the connections between the resurrection and the covenants (e.g., Abrahamic covenant, Davidic covenant)?

## Before Chapter 6

1. What is the one passage—besides 1 Corinthians 15—in *the Epistles* that you would most associate with resurrection?
  - a. What other passages would you associate with resurrection?
2. Where in *the Epistles* would you be most surprised to find a connection to resurrection?
3. Spend time thinking about the way *the Epistles*—in particular—speak about **death**. What in *the Epistles* would you say contributes to your understanding of the Bible’s teaching on **death**?
4. Can you think of any particular texts in *the Epistles* that use the Old Testament as grounding the doctrine of the resurrection?

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Read Romans 5–6; Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 15; Ephesians 2:1–10; Philippians 1:19–26; Philippians 3:17–4:1

1. What is the relationship between the ministry of the gospel and the resurrection? How does this apply to what we call “ordinary” ministers (in contrast, or perhaps in connection, to the “extraordinary” ministers, such as the Apostles; p. 115)?
2. Reflect on the way this study has helped you to further appreciate Paul’s meaning when he says that Christ was raised “in accordance with the Scriptures.”
3. What is the relationship between the resurrection and the mediation of Christ (p. 118)? What does that add to the way the resurrection affects your understanding of Christian life?
4. Luther used to counsel Christians who were struggling to “look to [their] baptism!” How is the connection of baptism to resurrection (e.g., pp. 119-20) a means of equipping you in looking at your baptism as a means of comfort and assurance?
5. Chase associated resurrection with various doctrines in this chapter (such as the work of Christ, sanctification, the Trinity, predestination, eschatology, etc.). What other doctrines can you think of and how would you connect it to resurrection? In what ways would you expand on the doctrines Chase associated it with?



## Before Chapter 7

1. What is the one passage *in Revelation* that you would most associate with resurrection?
  - a. What other passages would you associate with resurrection?
2. What part of Revelation would you be most surprised to find relating to resurrection?
3. Spend time thinking about the way *Revelation*—in particular—speaks about **death**. What in the *Revelation* would you say contributes to your understanding of the Bible’s teaching on **death**?
4. Can you think of any uses of the Old Testament *in Revelation* as grounding the doctrine of the resurrection? Can you think of any particular connections of Revelation to other New Testament writings?

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Read Revelation 20–22

1. The opening of epistles, the phrase often occurs, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” John’s version is much more elaborate (p. 133). Since the former phrase is also often used as a ministerial greeting at the beginning of the worship service, how should this affect our understanding of what is happening when we gather to worship?
2. How ought the doctrine of resurrection to affect the Ephesian church (p. 135)? How, then, ought it to affect *your* life as a Christian and our life together in the congregation? (i.e., make personal application & connect it to resurrection)
  - a. Reflect, similarly, on the statements made to the church in Smyrna.
  - b. Reflect, similarly, on the statements made to the church in Thyatira.
  - c. Reflect, similarly, on the statements made to the church in Sardis.
3. Reflect on how your interpretation of the millennium affects your understanding of resurrection (and vice versa)?

Write out your own summary of the Bible's teaching on the resurrection. Perhaps you could begin with, "I believe . . . [that] on the third day He rose again from the dead . . . [and in] the resurrection of the body" (Apostles' Creed) or "I believe . . . [that] the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, . . . [and] I look for the resurrection of the dead" (Nicene Creed). You could also include, "At [Christ's] coming, all men shall rise again with their bodies" (Athanasian Creed). Ensure you look at your Confessional standard (2 LBCF 31). Be sure to include the Old Testament (Law, Prophets, and Writings) and the New Testament (Gospels, Acts, Epistles, and Revelation) in your summary. Consider your answers to these questions from the beginning of the study:

1. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "resurrection?"
2. If you had to go to one place in Scripture to develop a doctrine of resurrection, where would it be?
3. Do you think of the resurrection when you read the Old Testament?
4. What does resurrection mean for your daily life?
5. Do you often think of the resurrection when you consider the Lord's Day, or is it something you have to be purposeful about?
6. Do you think of the resurrection when you think about sharing the gospel?
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