

“Easter Raises Us All”
I Cor. 15:20-23

Easter is the day we celebrate Christ’s resurrection, but Easter is only the “beginning” of a resurrection of immense proportions, as Jesus’ resurrection guarantees the same for millions.

FACT (15:20)

For Paul the historicity of Christ’s resurrection is an indisputable fact, easily corroborated by numerous eye-witnesses, 15:5-8.

“first fruits” (20,23)

OT: Initial / early produce of the land offered to God in faith to support the priesthood. It honored God as source of their crops and also showed trust in God for future harvest (Dt. 18:3-5, 26:2, Ex. 23:19)

NT: Figurative use—Rom. 8:23, 16:5, Js. 1:18, Rev. 14:4 (Jer. 2:3 too)

POINT:

FATE (15:21,22)

Irreversible scenario is set up. . .

For since thru a man came death → resurrection come thru a man

For as all in **Adam** all die → all in **Christ** will be made alive

*Context is believers--“asleep” only a NT euphemism for believers. “In Christ” is Paul’s frequent designation only for believers (Eph. 2:6,7,13).

*A resurrection of unbelievers is infrequently addressed, Jn. 5: 28,29, Acts 24:14,15, w/o glory of 15:42f., and in a sad context, Rev. 20,5,6, 11f.

POINT:

FUTURE (15:23)

The timing of our resurrection is at the 2nd Coming. It coincides with the “Rapture” (I Thess. 4:13-18) and is not the same as Rev. 20:4,5a.

POINT: