



Special Thanks from the Hargrove Family To All

Any questions
on our current studies on
historiography and resurrection,
death, the two-stage afterlife, the
interim state, heaven?

These slides are available at
www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html
by undershepherd Don Hargrove

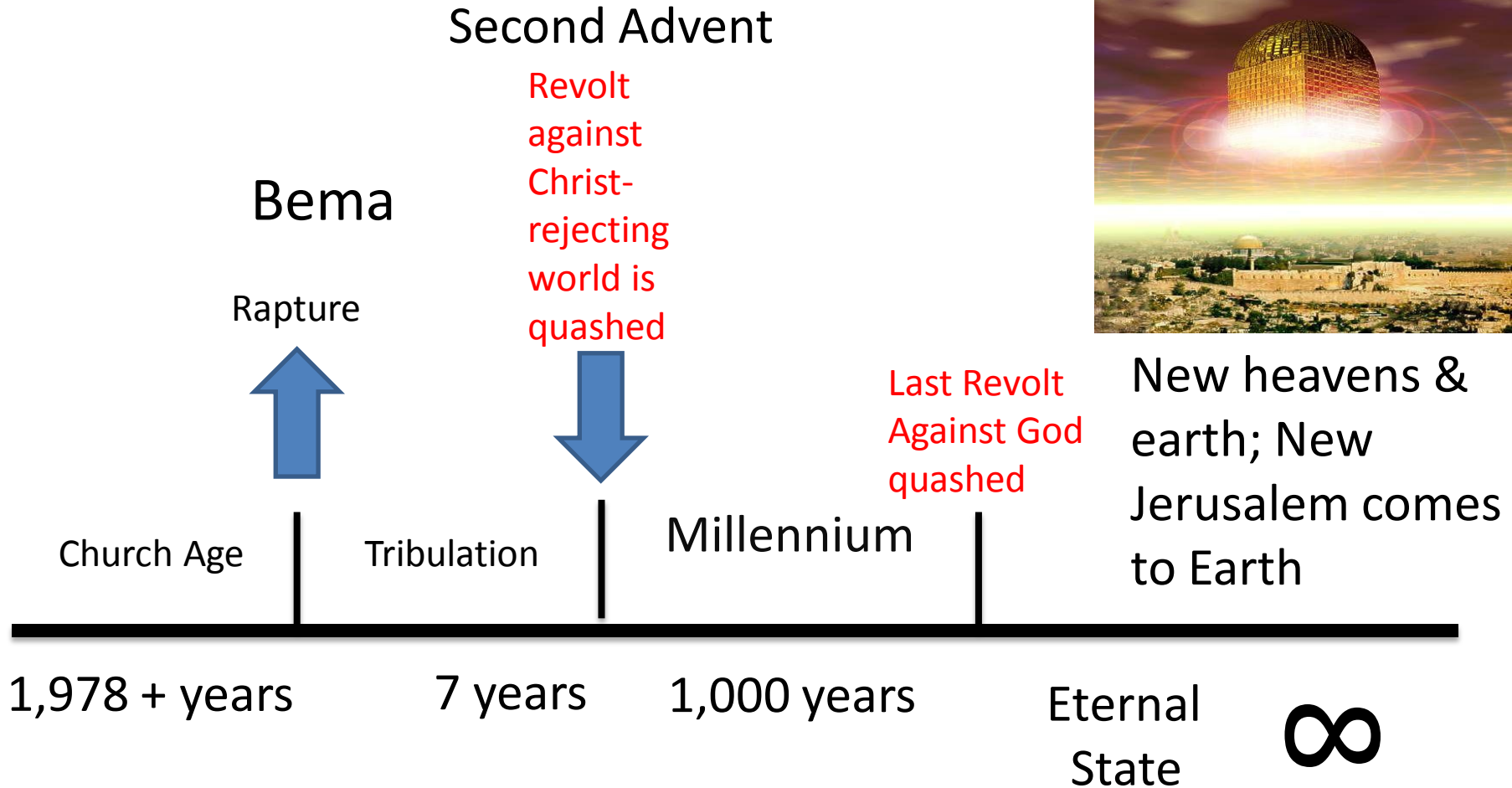
A word about the ministry and philosophy of FBC:

- ✓ The need to build a vast—broad and deep—*foundation* for the spiritual life.
- ✓ The curse of other *methodologies*, e.g., devotionalism, emotionalism, spiritual narcissism.
- ✓ The need to establish your foundation in Truth through your own thinking—in contradistinction to letting others do your thinking.

Theological-Doctrinal Foundations : Eschatology (17)

Life in the Eternal State

When Heaven and earth come together for Eternity



The New Jerusalem in the Eternal State

Open the Word of God to Revelation 21:1-4, 22:1-4.



Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

#1: Salvation

Acts 16:30-31 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in (Πίστευσον ἐπὶ) the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."

- ✓ "Believe" (Πίστευσον) is aorist active imperative. The significance of the aorist.
- ✓ "in" (ἐπὶ) demonstrates the nature of the faith. It includes more than just believing that He existed.
- ✓ The significance of the imperative. If anyone is going to be saved this is the one mandated way—OT and NT!

Preparation for Bible Class - Spiritual Life Foundations

#2: Fellowship – God working in you and the SFL

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work (ὁ ἐνεργῶν ἐν ὑμῖν = the one who is working/energizing inside you) in you, both to will (τὸ θέλειν) and to work (τὸ ἐνεργεῖν/energy) for *His* good pleasure.

- Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;
- Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control

Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

#3: Spiritual Maturity & + Happiness

Philip 4:12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity (περισσεύω); in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

Two choices in life:

- ✓ Supergrace. Growth in +H through spiritual maturity which give you capacity to enjoy life regardless of the circumstances of life.
- ✓ Reversionism as characterized by FSH. A journey of inner emptiness seeking to find happiness in circumstances of life. Sure, there is *fun* from time to time, but as a stimulus to escape the pain and boredom of life that lacks true capacity for life. FSH is very deceptive.

Resurrection Special #17: **Women and the Empty Tomb**

1. Mark 16:1-8 (verses 9-20 are not part of the original). Two current foci:
 - a) Women—and by extension marriage.
 - b) The empty tomb – and by extension historical evidence for the resurrection of Christ.

2. Women—and by extension marriage.

- ✓ If you have made mistakes, acknowledge them, forget the past, and move forward, Philip. 3:13.
- ✓ One of the worst things a teacher of BD can do is compromise teaching because of “sensitive” issues.
- ✓ Do not get uptight when I cover these things, there are others in the congregation who perhaps have not made those mistakes that need to hear the message.
Remember, grace is always greater than any sin!
- ✓ What is going on in a person who loves to hear all of the arguments that prove that the Bible is the Word of God but do not care for turning to pages in the Word of God that deal with marriage?
- ✓ If I hit a sensitive area, play poker. Understand my job and passion is truth/BD—I am not after you!

3. The empty tomb and by extension apologetics.
- ✓ To build deep and extensive foundations for the spiritual life requires not only BD, but apologetics and philosophy (hard/accurate thinking).
 - ✓ Apart from BD (and apologetics/philosophy) the believer is not only unable to give a reason for the faith, he is one dimensional with someone else doing his thinking about the most important things of life.
 - ✓ The aim of this one-year study, from Resurrection Sunday 2011 to 2012, is to build a vast understanding of resurrection and how it relates to the Christian faith, the spiritual life, heaven, and eternity. Many other issues will be covered as we ground ourselves in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ What does “playing church” mean?

4. Christ rejected all male chauvinistic philosophies. He exalted women in a way unheard of throughout history and during a time when women were depreciated, disrespected, and viewed as nothing more than “objects” by men. The negative view of women was true in paganism as well as in Judaism, cf. Luke 8-1-3 and Acts 16 w/Josephus.

5. Women are created in the image of God:
 - ✓ **Genesis 1:27** And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

6. Jesus Christ not only broke with society's negative view of women, He also broken with "traditional" views of women in marriage. He raised women to a totally new level in the Christian marriage. This has resulted in wonderful benefits throughout Western Civilization. It was Christ who made the conscious decision to mandate husbands, to understand, lead, protect, and honor their wives, Eph. 5:23-31; 1 Pet. 3:7.

➤ **1 Peter 3:7** You husbands likewise, live (συνουκοῦντες) with *your wives* in an understanding (κατὰ γνῶσιν) way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

7. It was Christ who reestablished the standards of marriage by going back to original creation:

Matthew 19:4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh'?"

- ✓ The single most important person in marriage is your spouse! Not you!!!
- ✓ In what ways do you bring Christian blessings in your marriage?

- ✓ We now live in a time when gender roles and family are under assault on an unprecedented level. The idea that men and women have different roles is scoffed in society—most notably in the universities. Kids are suffering terribly due to the breakup of families (this does not mean that they are doomed for a life of problems). What is happening to the family and the home? What are the effects on the children?
- ✓ What are the major benefits of divine institution #2.

- ✓ Dr. Keith Ablow on *4 Reasons Why Marriage IS a Dying Institution*, “marriage is one of the leading causes of major depression in the nation. . . . Marriage is a dying institution . . . Because it inherently deprives men and women of the joy of being ‘chosen’ on a daily basis.”
 - The need for a no holds barred teaching on the divine institution of marriage.
 - What are some of the reasons that marriage has become a major cause of depression?
 - How can one transform a depressing marriage into a blessed marriage—into the single greatest human relationship it was designed to be?

8. How does a Christian husband's attitude toward his wife reflect his attitude to BD?

- ✓ What is the issue?
- ✓ Is it possible for a husband to grow into the man God wants him to be apart from being the spiritual leader of his family? Why?
- ✓ What is the kind of man that God wants him to be in marriage?
- ✓ If he is not growing into the man God would have him be, what are the effects on the wife?

9. God designed men and women to be different. In marriage a man and woman come together and are stronger and better than apart from each other. They are designed to affect each other positively.

- What are the chief differences between men & women.
- What are the beneficial effects of a husband on a wife?
- What are the beneficial effects of a wife on a husband?
- What are the beneficial effects of a mother and father (the family) on children?
- What are the beneficial effects of a traditional marriage (one man and one woman) on society?

- What are some of the benefits that the state receives in exchange for tax benefits for marriage?
- Why can't we not agree with GLBT without being vilified. Why all of the hate-filled narrow-minded bigotry against Christianity?
- What does the Bible say about a generation where good is called evil and evil is called good? (Rom 1:32).
- Who suffers the most from GLBT?

10. Divine design before and after the Fall: It was not good for man to be alone so God created woman.

✓ Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good (לֹא-טוֹב) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper (עֲזָרָה) suitable for him(כְּנֶגְדּוֹ)."

➤ Meaning of "helper."

➤ Concept in "suitable for him." God even has a right man/woman for unbelievers:

✓ Ecc 9:9 Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.

11. Divine prophecy of the battle of the sexes:
Genesis 3:16 . . . Yet your desire (תַּשׁוּקָה) shall
be for your husband, But he shall rule (לְשַׁלֵּט)
over you."

- ❖ Her desire is both negative (Gen 4:7)
and positive (Song 7:10). It all depends
on the SL.
- ❖ His rulership is both positive and
negative. It all depends on the SL.
Historically, mostly negative as women
have been and continue to be
dominated, mistreated, and taken
advantage of by man.

- ✓ This curse of the battle between the sexes can only be turned into blessings through a spiritual life that is undergirded by F/HS and BD; only this can create a true “Christ-centered marriage.” The key is to live and orient to the NT horizons.
- ✓ It is an evil/pagan mindset to reject God’s emphasis (e.g., “I know better than God”). It is also the reason for so much depression in marriage and trouble for the children.

Only by being serious about BD and the spiritual life will the husband develop the capacity to advance in his love for his wife—a love that parallels Christ’s love for the church. There are at least 8 aspects to this love:

1. Spiritual leadership, Eph. 5:23.
2. Sacrificial giving of self, 25.
3. Sanctifying her (ἵνα αὐτὴν ἁγιάσῃ) —setting her apart to God, 26.
4. Cleansing her (καθαρίσας)—avoidance of moral filth, 26.

5. Nourishing her (ἐκτρέφει) – 29.

6. Cherishing her (θάλλει αὐτήν) – 29.

7. Being one with her (οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν) – 31.
This includes rejecting the “advances” and “flirts” of all others.

8. Loving her and thinking of her as he does himself (ἀγαπάω ὡς ἑαυτόν) —33 . She never becomes a casual interest.

- ✓ No husband can expect to have a healthy, growing, and thriving marriage if he does not grow spiritually. This gives him the capacity to love, value, and cherish his wife according to the dictates of the Word of God.
- ✓ This is a growing process. All marriages are moving in one direction or the other each day.

- ✓ The husband who does not make spiritual growth a priority will not understand his wife. This will negatively affect his spiritual life:
 - 1 Peter 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
 - Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.

- ✓ During difficult times in marriage, it is important to redouble your focus on your spiritual life. The husband who has an unresponsive or rebellious wife must focus on his continuing responsibilities. The wife who has an unresponsive husband must focus even more on the Lord, 1 Pet 3:1-6.
- ✓ The way of the OSHGEN and KD leads to cursing—millions start out with fun and end with great disappointment. With BD and HS, any relationship can be turned around & become the most blessed relationship in life: beyond all you could ask or imagine, such is the plan of God.

- ✓ With BD and the FHS, marriage does indeed get better and better and better, year after year!!!! It becomes the blessing for which it was designed.
- ✓ It requires an enormous amount of genuine humility and Bible doctrine before a marriage can be the fantastic blessing as designed by God. No one can fulfill the mandates for the wife or husband apart from humility. Takes humility to submit and takes humility to love unconditionally. Of course, it takes a lot of humility to make the necessary adjustments in life.
- ✓ The single greatest killer of marriage is arrogance and self-will. Arrogance turns marriage into a battle of wills instead of a life of love, companionship, and blessings.

Historiography: Empty Tomb + Resurrection Appearances

1. There are two ways of entering into the reality of the historicity of Christ and His resurrection:

1) Existential. Vast majority of Christians have not based their faith on the LJC on historiographical considerations. Rather, they have based their faith on an accurate presentation of the gospel. When the gospel is given, the HS enables the believer to understand the issue (John 16:7-9), and the believer makes a decision trust Christ for salvation. There are a number of things going on here, but in the final analysis they trust Christ as their personal savior. This is entirely legitimate. This is not to be confused with soft-headed liberal theologians who say evidence does not matter.

2) Historiography. This is also legitimate and much needed in our Post-Enlightenment culture with its hubristic prejudice against God, miracles, and the LJC.

Historiography and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

1. There is no greater significant issue in life than the resurrection of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

2. The uniqueness and the “scandal” of Christianity rests in the mediation of revelation through historical events. It has been called scandalous because the truth of Christianity is bound up in historical facts. If those facts can be disproved, then Christianity would be false. This is what makes Christianity unique. Totally unlike any other system. History makes Christianity falsifiable.
 - Virtually all *critical* scholars accept Christ’s death by crucifixion, burial, and that He was believed to have been seen as bodily raised from the dead. This bodily resurrection brought about a total transformation of the different witnesses.

3. There is only one rational reason anyone could give for the rejection of the resurrection of Jesus Christ: rejection of the existence of God. That's it! However, a *priori* naturalism brings far more problems: creation ex nihilo, the soul, freewill, morals, values, dignity, meaning of life. No one can consistently live with the ramifications of atheism.

4. If Jesus did not rise bodily from the grave, then Christianity is a fairy tale that no rational person should believe.
 - In this case Christianity would be no better than believing in Santa Clause. People might love to believe in what Santa represents, but they do not believe in him.
 - If Jesus was not raised, then we should not believe in Him or worship Him—though many might still believe in some of the things He stood for.

- Failure to recognize this leads to degeneration of church into some sort of social club—no more!
- We should not trust our lives to Him if He did not rise from the dead. We should not keep going to church. We might as well find some pixy dust and think of the happiest things as we go off to neverland (Peter Pan theology). Facts matter!!! It is not rational to love, trust, and worship someone who is not there.

Historicity on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

1. There are 4 historical facts that must be explained by any adequate or credible hypothesis on Jesus Christ.

#1, Jesus burial.

#2, The discovery of His empty tomb.

#3, His post-mortem appearances.

#4, The origin of the disciples belief in His resurrection.

2. The best (and only credible) explanation of these four historical facts is that Jesus rose bodily from the dead.

3. Fact #1, Jesus burial. Jesus' burial by Joseph in a tomb after His crucifixion. Why even the most *critical* scholars accept the empty tomb as an historical fact.
- a) Jesus burial is multiply attested in several independent and early eyewitness testimonies (5).
 - b) The existence of Joseph of Arimathea, who was part of the Sanhedrin who condemned Jesus. He would not have been invented by Christians. Further, it would have been easy to refute or deny the fact by the enemies of Christianity. He was part of the highest ruling body in the land.

4. Fact #2 – Jesus tomb was found empty Sunday after the crucifixion. Why critics accept this as certain history:
- Women witnesses. Very patriarchal society. Why not create male witnesses. What is the best explanation?
 - Enemy attestation, Matt. 28:12-13 (consider what this charge tells us about the body). The earliest Jewish polemic presupposes an empty tomb as it seeks to explain the empty tomb.
 - The Jerusalem factor. No corpse could be produced.
 - Multiple early independent attestation.
 - Attested very early as per Mark's primitive/simple source. There is no resurrection, no theological motifs, no dazzling appearances, no Sheol, or grand titles).

5. Fact #3 – on different occasions and circumstances different individuals and groups of people experienced appearances of Jesus as bodily alive from the dead. Why this is universally acknowledged by NT critics:
- Paul's very early listing in 1 Cor and Galatians.
 - The conversion of unbelievers James and Paul.
 - The disciples who knew Him, Paul, James and over 500 appearances, 1 Cor 15.
 - Multiple attestation (9 sources). Consider how many saw the Risen Lord?
 - Appearance narratives based on independent sources. Great breadth of attestation here.

6. Fact #4: the original disciples suddenly came to believe that Jesus was risen from the dead despite every predisposition to the contrary.

- They knew He was dead and Jews had absolutely no expectation of death and resurrection of Messiah (defeated by pagans).
- Nevertheless, the disciples came to believe so strongly that God had raised him from the dead, they were willing to die. What caused them to believe such an un-Jewish and outlandish thing? Why such a powerful transformation?
- Total of 16 sources of their belief and willingness to suffer.

7. The best explanation for the resurrection “hypothesis” is that Jesus rose bodily from the dead. It is the only hypothesis that passes all tests or canons.

a) Great explanatory scope. The resurrection of Christ explains why the tomb was empty, why the disciples saw post-mortem experiences, why the Christian faith came into being.

b) Great explanatory power. The resurrection of Christ explains why the body of Jesus was not in the tomb, and why people repeatedly saw Him alive—despite public execution.

c) Plausibility. Given His unparalleled life, wisdom, His claims, and prophecy of Him. The resurrection serves as divine confirmation of those claims.

d) It is not ad hoc. It is not contrived; it only requires one hypothesis: God exists. Even that need not need to be an additional if you already believe in God.

e) It is in accord with accepted beliefs. Christians readily accept that *naturally* dead men do not rise. Thus, it is in accord with accepted beliefs.

f) It far outstrips all rival theories in meeting the canons of 1-5 above. Consider the theories that continue to be abandoned for the last 200 years (hallucination, stolen body). This is precisely why all other theories have not attracted wide scholarship and most “pop” theories have been almost universally rejected.

8. Consider the hallucination theory. Does not meet the canons of history as to the best explanation.
 - a) Narrow explanatory scope.
 - b) Weak explanatory power.
 - c) It is ad hoc in a number of ways.
 - d) Implausible in various respects.
 - e) Incompatible with certain accepted truths.