

## 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

### Jesus is the Firstfruits

- ἀπαρχή aparche - from harvest or firstborn child or animal
- Jesus is not the only one who will rise from the dead - he is the firstfruits of the harvest of resurrection
  - *and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. // Leviticus 23:11*
  - *' But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. // Luke 24:1*
  - *"so Christ's resurrection was the pledge that all who had fallen asleep in him would be physically raised as he was." // Lockwood, G. J. 1 Corinthians (p. 568). Concordia Pub. House.*

### Jesus is a better Adam

- δι' ἀνθρώπου θάνατος ... δι' ἀνθρώπου ἀνάστασις—Literally, "through a man death ... through a man resurrection.
- Paul in multiple letters will use the argument that Jesus is the better Adam.
  - *Romans 5:12-21*
  - *"Christ's resurrection was not only for his own benefit; through this Man the resurrection from the dead had become the destiny of all believers." // Lockwood, G. J. 1 Corinthians (p. 568). Concordia Pub. House.*
  - *"For the main and best part of this has already come to pass, namely, that Christ, our Head, has arisen. But now that the Head is seated on high and lives, there is no longer any reason for concern. We who cling to Him must also follow after Him as His body and His members. For where the head goes and abides, there the body with all the members must necessarily follow and abide. As in the birth of man and of*

all animals, the head naturally appears first, and after this is born, the whole body follows easily." // Martin Luther (1 Corinthians Commentary)

- *"At no point in 1 Cor 15:20–28 does Paul refer to the fate of unbelievers; his concern is to bring comfort and hope to the believers." // Lockwood, G. J. 1 Corinthians (p. 569). Concordia Pub. House.*
  - *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. // 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*

### Jesus is coming back

- παρουσία parousia - coming, advent, arrival
  - Always used in reference to the second coming of Christ in the New Testament
- At HIS parousia...
  - Resurrection of those asleep in Christ
  - Resurrection of those in Christ on earth
  - Final defeat of Satan and his demons
  - Death is swallowed up forever
  - All things are made new

### Jesus has a footstool

- *The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! // Psalm 110:1-2*
- *You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet // Psalm 8:6*
  - *"putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything*

*in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. // Hebrews 2:8-9*

- “Humankind fears death as a hostile and destructive force (Heb 2:15) and the punishment for sin.” // Lockwood, G. J. *1 Corinthians* (p. 570). Concordia Pub. House.
- “Thus these enemies [the flesh, the devil, the world, sin, and the Law] can deal with us only here on earth; after that they have to cease. Death, however, survives all the others and holds us in his power” // Martin Luther ( *1 Corinthians Commentary*)
- *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. // Philippians 3:20-21*

### **Jesus and the Father**

- “In Scripture the Father is not only called the Father but also the God of Christ (John 20:17; 2 Cor. 11:31; Eph. 1:3; Col. 1:3). That He is the God of someone involves the idea of greater and lesser, superior and inferior. Christ, therefore, is lesser or inferior to the Father in glory, not however according to His deity but according to His humanity (1 Cor. 11:3). The husband is the head of the wife, but the Head of every man is Christ. Indeed, He is Head of all the angels (Eph. 1:21–22). But God is the Head of Christ. However, according to His deity the Father is not the Head of Christ, for Christ is equal with God (Phil. 2:6). Paul thus shows that the human nature in Christ has been exalted above all creatures, but is below or lower than God...In 1 Cor. 15:28 Paul also shows that the human nature in Christ is below or less than or inferior to God, not only when in the state of humiliation He says, “My Father is greater than I” [John 14:28], or when after the resurrection He says, “I ascend to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God” [John 20:17],

but even after the Last Day when He will have handed over the kingdom to God and His Father.” // Martin Chemnitz, *The Two Natures in Christ*

- *For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. // John 6:38,40*
- *And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” // Mark 14:36*
- *I and the Father are one. // John 10:30*