



*Yours in Jesus,
David Bartley.*

MAN REDEEMED
FROM SIN AND DEATH
—THE—
BIBLE DOCTRINE
—OF THE—
RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

BY THE HOLY SON OF MAN

—O—
"I am the Resurrection, and the Life."

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BY
DAVID BARTLEY
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DEDICATION.

To them who are on pilgrimage to the "better country;" to them who desire to be delivered "from this present evil world;" to them who hope to "obtain a better resurrection;" "to them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality;" and to them who live and believe in Jesus, "the Resurrection, and the Life," this work is affectionately inscribed, and the blessing of the Father and the Son and the Spirit invoked upon them and it, by their fellow-pilgrim,

THE AUTHOR.

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|---|---------|
| INTRODUCTION | 5-11 |
| I. | |
| MAN | 12-29 |
| II. | |
| SON OF MAN | 30-84 |
| III. | |
| JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION | 85-106 |
| IV. | |
| RESURRECTION OF THE UNJUST | 107-124 |
| V. | |
| MAN IN BROTHERHOOD WITH CHRIST | 125-145 |
| VI. | |
| REDEMPTION SECURES RESURRECTION | 146-182 |
| VII. | |
| BAPTISM ASSURES RESURRECTION | 183-202 |
| VIII. | |
| RESURRECTION OF THE BODY | 203-225 |
| IX. | |
| WITNESSES FOR RESURRECTION | 226-270 |
| X. | |
| THE BODY SLEEPS IN JESUS | 271-290 |
| XI. | |
| JESUS WILL COME TO RAISE THE DEAD | 291-318 |
| XII. | |
| RESURRECTION-GLORY, AND HEAVEN | 319-342 |

INTRODUCTION.

AS BORN WITH LIFE, BUT BORN TO DIE, the reader will go with me, while we take a view of "the valley of the shadow of death," and speak of the certainty of the "better country" beyond, and, with me, feel a deep personal interest in the contemplation of these solemn and wonderful realities. For life and death are as certain to each of us as the rising and setting of the sun, or as summer and winter.

Life dawns upon us as the spring-time morning, full of promise, and we develop into youthful bloom like sweet and lovely summer blossoms and fruits, beautiful and goodly to behold; but as spring and summer give place to autumn frosts and winter snows, putting an end to the harvesting of grain and fruits, so will the winter-time of life find us all gathered in by the reaper, Death. "And the doors shall be shut in the streets, and all the daughters of music

shall be brought low, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." So says the Preacher.

Death, then, is a separation between the spirit and the body of man; and the body is the earthly house in which the spirit dwells on earth. The body and the spirit together constitute man a living soul. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul;" Gen., ii, 7.

Now, is death everlasting? or, in other words, is the separation between the spirit and the body of mortal man, when one shall return to God and the other to the earth, forever and ever? To living and dying men and women, whom the great Creator thus mysteriously formed and wonderfully endowed with a body and spirit as a living soul or being, this question is all-important; because, if the body were lost by death, then man loses himself. There-

fore this little work is devoted to a careful, prayerful and scriptural examination into the truth of the final resurrection of the God-given body of man, after it shall have returned to the earth. And, so far as the Lord may graciously enable me, it shall be, on my part, a work of faith and labor of love to the household of faith every-where, to whom it is sent forth, and also to every one who may give it favor enough to read it. May God, who made man, bless both the writer and reader, and endue us with wisdom and understanding, that we may glorify him in the truth, and be made free from error.

That a work plainly setting forth, maintaining, and proving the Bible doctrine of the resurrection of the dead is needful, and may be divinely sent to the good of many, is evident; and my mind has been moved to write upon this sublime doctrine, and put it in a book. For, while the friends of God's revealed truth have written many good books upon various other important themes of the holy Scriptures, I know of not one book devoted

to a defense of the truth of the resurrection. Only incidentally and partially has it been presented and dwelt upon, either by pen or tongue, outside the testimony of patriarchs and prophets, Jesus, apostles and evangelists. Consequently its great and vital importance has been either dimmed, or quite lost sight of, in the view of many professing Christians. Not only this, but unbelief has so far prevailed, that many have spoken, and others have written against the resurrection of the dead, either denying it altogether, or saying it is past already; thereby overthrowing the faith of many. This latter form of unbelief,—that the resurrection is past already with all the children of the regeneration, and that our mortal and dead body shall never be quickened and made a living, spiritual body,—is widely and alarmingly prevailing, until it is accepted generally by some orders who admit the truth of Christianity, and by many of our Baptist people, as the true doctrine of the resurrection. With this large and increasing class of professing Christians, who believe that only the spirit of man shall be saved

in glory, or lost in perdition, the good old-time doctrine of our fathers, that the graves shall be opened, and the bodies of the saints which are asleep shall arise, and come out of the graves, and enter into the new Jerusalem, is an exploded belief, and quite out of date. But this new theology was introduced into the churches of the saints in the times of the holy apostles, and they, as princes and judges in the gospel kingdom, vetoed it.

In this is seen the wisdom and goodness of the great Head of the church, by thus arming his true and faithful followers and soldiers with the weapons of divine truth, that they may be able to stand in the evil day against the wiles of Satan. For every device of Satan, and all false doctrines with which the church of Christ has been attacked and troubled since the days of the apostles, came up and were tried while they were yet on the earth, and were met and defeated by them, through Christ, who gave them the victory. This victory is for the church, and is ours. Therefore we may with bold con-

fidence and meek courage withstand the armies of the aliens, as valiant soldiers for the truth of the gospel of salvation.

Then let us turn to the stronghold of Zion, the more sure word of prophecy, the word and testimony of the Lord; for this can not fail, and herein we may safely trust. How thankful we should be that God our Father has been pleased to make known unto his children his blessed word and holy will, that we might have strong comfort and good hope. For without this we should grope in darkness and dismay, doubt and despair. But God has graciously given us the holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation; "Whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts."

In this work the divine testimony, as found throughout the grandly sublime volume of God's revealed truth, touching the resurrection of the dead, is faithfully bound up and presented to the disciples of the Lord Jesus, with the single desire that

they may be established, strengthened, and comforted in the assurance of THE RESURRECTION FROM DEATH.