



## Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

### Short Study 045: The "I Am" Statements of Jesus 4. The Resurrection and the Life

Study Author: Michael Button

Read John 11:1-26

**Passage Introduction.** The context of this statement of Jesus is the raising of Lazarus, who had died four days earlier. It differs from the other "I Am" statements in that Jesus' claim was substantiated by the miracle that followed. Why does this particular miracle prove the divinity of Jesus (which, of course, is implied in all the "I Am" statements) (see Gen 2:7)?

#### 1. The incident is a lesson in faith.

(i) *Martha's Faith.* Notice how Martha's faith increased in three stages during her brief conversation with Jesus: (1) vs 21-22; (2) v24 (compare 1 Thess 4:16-1); (3) v27. In what ways did Martha's faith rise above her grief ?

(ii) *Mary's Faith.* Both Mary and some of the onlookers believed Jesus could have saved Lazarus from dying (vs 32 and 37), but now it appeared too late for Jesus to act. Do you think there was an underlying rebuke of Jesus here for his delay in arriving? How is your faith challenged, and how does it stand up, to delays in God's action?

(iii) *The Disciples' Faith.* vs 15, 42 & 45. How was this affected by the delay, the words of Jesus, and the miracle?

**2. The incident was to the glory of God.** It may not be apparent that God is glorified when tragedy strikes, but that seems to be the purpose of this incident (v40). In what ways was God glorified?

**3. The claim of Jesus (v25).** This was a double statement of Jesus: (1) Resurrection; (2) Life. The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* paraphrases this: "*The whole power to restore, impart, and maintain life, resides in Me.*" Logically, 'resurrection' must precede 'life' since death had already taken place, not only to Lazarus, but to us all (see Romans 6:23). Why, and what does the atoning work of Jesus on the Cross have to do with this

**4. Our Hope.** What bearing does the resurrection of Jesus have on our future (see 1 Cor 15:21-23)?

**To think about:** Why did Jesus say that Lazarus had "fallen asleep"? What does that say about the death of a believer? Where else did He say this about another person who had died (see Matt 9:24).

**To dig deeper:** Read and meditate on 1 Corinthians 15, with the aid of a commentary.