

John 5:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Analysis

'Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.' The 'hour is coming, and now is' describes inaugurated eschatology—future realities breaking into the present. The dead who hear are spiritually dead, awakened by Christ's word. 'Hearing' implies more than auditory reception—it means receiving with faith. Those who truly hear Christ's voice pass from death to life.

Historical Context

Jesus speaks of spiritual resurrection—the dead coming alive through His voice. This was happening in His ministry and continues through gospel proclamation. Physical resurrection awaits (verses 28-29), but spiritual resurrection occurs 'now' as people believe. The 'voice of the Son of God' gives life.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean for the spiritually dead to 'hear' Christ's voice?
2. How does spiritual resurrection in the present anticipate physical resurrection in the future?

Interlinear Text

ἀμὲν	ἀμὲν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	ἔρχεται	ὥρα	καὶ	νῦν
Verily	Verily	I say	unto you	G3754	is coming	The hour	and	now
G281	G281	G3004	G5213		G2064	G5610	G2532	G3568
ἐστὶν	ὅτε	οἱ	νεκροὶ	ἀκούσαντες	τῆς	φωνῆς	τοῦ	
is	when	G3588	the dead	shall hear	G3588	the voice	G3588	
G2076	G3753		G3498	G191		G5456		
υἱοῦ	τοῦ	θεοῦ	καὶ	οἱ	ἀκούσαντες	ζήσονται		
of the Son	G3588	of God	and	G3588	shall hear	shall live		
G5207		G2316	G2532		G191	G2198		

Additional Cross-References

John 5:28 (Parallel theme): Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

Ephesians 2:5 (Parallel theme): Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Ephesians 5:14 (Parallel theme): Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

John 4:23 (Parallel theme): But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Revelation 3:1 (References God): And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

John 8:47 (References God): He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

Colossians 2:13 (Parallel theme): And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Ephesians 2:1 (Parallel theme): And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Romans 6:4 (Parallel theme): Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

John 5:21 (Parallel theme): For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.