

A Concentrated Article

## ***The Resurrection Of The Body***

Compiled/Formatted By Tom Stephens

"But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" 1 Cor. 15:35

The resurrection of the body is an important and essential doctrine in the Scriptures. It refers to God's raising of a body from the dead and reuniting it with the person's soul and spirit, from which it was separated during the intermediate state.

**1)** The Bible reveals at least three reasons why the resurrection of the body is necessary. **(a)** The body is essential to man's total personality; he is incomplete without a body. Thus, the redemption Christ offers applies to the whole person, including the body (Rom. 8:18-25). **(b)** The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19); it will become once more a temple of the Spirit at the resurrection. **(c)** To undo the result of sin at all levels, man's final enemy (death of the body) must be conquered by the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:26).

**(2)** Both the O.T. Scriptures and the N.T. Scriptures (compare Heb. 11:17-19 with Gen. 22:1-14; Ps. 16:10 with Acts 2:24ff; cf. Job 19:25-27; Is. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; Hosea 13:14) and the N.T. Scriptures (Luke 14:13-14; 20:35-36; John 5:21,28-29; 6:39-40,44,54; 1 Cor. 15:21-23; Phil. 3:11; 1 Thes. 4:14-16; Rev. 20:4-6,13), teach the future bodily resurrection.

**(3)** Our bodily resurrection is guaranteed by the resurrection of Christ (Mat. 28:6; Acts 17:31; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12,20-23).

The resurrection of Jesus is one of the central truths of the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-8). What is the importance of Christ's resurrection to those who believe in Him? **A)** It proves He is the Son of God (John 10: 17-18; Rom. 1: 4). **B)** It guarantees the efficacy of His redemptive death (Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 15:17). **C)** It verifies the truth of Scripture (Ps. 16:10; Luke 24:44-47; Acts 2:31). **D)** It is proof of future Judgment upon the wicked (Acts 17: 30-31). **E)** It is the foundation for Christ's giving the Holy Spirit and spiritual life to His own people (Jn. 20: 22; Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 15:45) and for His heavenly ministry of intercession for the believer (Heb. 7: 23-28). **F)** It assures the believer of his future heavenly inheritance (1 Pet. 1:3-4) and of His Resurrection or translation when the Lord returns (See Jn. 4:3; 1 Thes 4:14-18)—

**NOTE:** The event described by Paul in these verses is often referred to as "The Rapture of the church." He inspires hope in the Thessalonians, *not* by telling them to prepare for martyrdom during the period of "The Day Of The Lord" (1 Thes. 5: 2-10), i.e., the tribulation (Rev. 6-19), but by informing them of the Rapture (vv. 14-17; John 14:3; 1 Cor. 15: 51-58). By the knowledge of this proven doctrine, the Thessalonians would be able to *comfort one another*. **G)** It makes available the presence of Christ and His power over sin in our everyday experience (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1: 18-20).

Paul said, "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*" (Gal. 2:20).

Paul said, "*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19) And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, 20) Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.*" Eph. 1:18-20).

**(4)** In general terms, the believer's resurrected body will be like the Lord's own resurrected body (Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:20, 42-44,49; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2). More specifically, that means that the resurrected body will be: **A)** a body possessing continuity and identity with the body of this life and

therefore recognizable (Luke 16:19-31); **B**) a body changed into a heavenly body adapted for the new heaven and new earth (1 Cor. 15:42-44,47-48; cf. Rev. 21:1); **C**) an imperishable body, free from decay and death (1 Cor. 15:42); **D**) a glorified body, like Christ's (1 Cor. 15:43; Phil. 3:20-21); **E**) a powerful body, not subject to disease or weakness (1 Cor. 15:43); **F**) a spiritual (i.e., not natural, but supernatural) body, not bound by the laws of nature (Luke 24:31; John 20:19; 1 Cor. 15:44); **G**) a body capable of eating and drinking (Luke 14:15; 22:14-18,30; 24:43).

(5) When believers receive their new bodies, they put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:53). Scripture indicates at least three purposes for this: **A**) so that believers may become all that God intended for humans at creation (cf. 1 Cor. 2:9); **B**) so that believers may come to know God as fully as He wants them to know Him (John 17:3); **C**) so that God may express His love to His children as He desires (John 3:16; Eph. 2:7; 1 John 4:8-16).

*“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9) In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another. 12) No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us.” 13) Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit. 14) And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 15) Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16) And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”*

(6) The faithful who are still alive at the return of Christ for His followers will experience the same bodily transformation as those who have died in Christ prior to the day of resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51-53). They will be given new bodies identical to the new bodies given to those raised from the dead at that time. They will never experience physical death.

Paul said, *“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. 52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”* (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

(7) Jesus speaks of a resurrection of life for the believer and a resurrection of judgment for the wicked (John 5:28-29).

**Jesus said,** *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, 29) And shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”*<sup>1</sup>

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