

# What Will Your Resurrected Body Be Like?

*(1 Corinthians 15:35-58)*

In the first half of this chapter, Paul explains the importance of the resurrection. Since our bodies rot, decay, and decompose, some people wonder how resurrection is possible. Besides, who wants his or her decomposed body raised from the dead? To clarify, Paul now describes **three** facts about the resurrected body.

## **It will be beautiful (15:35-41)**

The key word in this passage is *body*. It is used ten times in this passage, but not at all in the first half of this chapter. What does Ecclesiastes 3:20 reveal about what happens to our physical bodies when we die?

Paul writes: *But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? (15:35)*. In other words, how will God reconstruct our dead bodies if they have returned to dust? To Paul, this seems like a foolish question because the answer should be obvious. To explain the resurrection, Paul writes that what is sown is not the resurrected *body* but just a *grain* of what is being planted. Then, God gives it the new body He wants it to have (15:36-38).

When you plant a seed, the plant that emerges is much different from the seed. If God can do this with a seed, He can also do it with a human body.

Paul continues by explaining that just as there are different kinds of seed, *All flesh is not the same flesh*. There is *one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds (15:39)*. In verses 40-41, Paul points out that God also created all kinds of *celestial bodies*, each having its own *glory*. I don't know exactly what my resurrected body will be like, but knowing God's creative power, it will be something spectacular. How does Ecclesiastes 3:11a express this fact?

Your resurrected body will be **beautiful** and ...

## **It will be spiritual (15:42-50)**

Now, Paul comes to his next point and explains three differences between our present bodies and resurrected bodies. First, *It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption (15:42)*. This means our mortal bodies, which are destroyed by age, disease, and death, will be raised *in incorruption* to live forever.

Second, our bodies are *sown in dishonor* but will be *raised in glory (15:43a)*. After a few days, a dead body is repulsive. When Jesus arrives at Mary and Martha's home to raise their brother Lazarus from the dead, He tells the mourners to remove the stone from Lazarus' tomb, but Martha doesn't think that's a very good idea. Therefore, what does she say to Jesus (John 11:39c)?

We bury dead bodies to get them out of sight and smell. However, our dead, decaying, stinking bodies will be *raised in glory*. The word translated *glory* (DOXA, dox'-ah) means dignity, honor, and praiseworthy, and the *glory* will all belong to God.

Third, our bodies are *sown in weakness*, with all our abilities lost. Yet, they will be *raised in power* (15:43b), endowed with supernatural energy and abilities. Our *natural* bodies (of flesh and blood) belong to this natural world. They are “earth suits,” designed only to live and function in this world. However, we will be *raised a spiritual body*, having “heaven suits” designed for eternity (15:44c). What did Jesus say about our resurrected bodies in Luke 20:36a?

This means that our resurrected bodies will be created and equipped for supernatural living for all eternity. Paul concludes: *There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body* (15:44b). This means just as surely as there are *natural* bodies, there are *spiritual* bodies. It is called a *spiritual body* because it is a material body that has been designed for eternity, living on a New Earth.

Paul continues, *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit* (15:45). Our physical life began with the first human man, *Adam*. All human beings share his physical characteristics. However, the *last Adam*, Christ, gives us eternal life. Therefore, *the spiritual body* did not come first; the *natural body* did (15:46). Every resurrected person in heaven will have been a natural, or physical, person first.

This is because *the first man* [Adam] *is of the earth, earthy; the second man* [Christ] *is the Lord from heaven*. <sup>48</sup>*As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly* (15:47-48, explanation added). This means our physical bodies are like the first Adam, but our resurrected bodies will be spiritual, like that of the resurrected Christ (15:49). When Jesus brings everything under His authority, what will He do, according to Philippians 3:21a?

Our resurrected bodies will be spiritual because *flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption* (15:50). This means our perishable, physical bodies are not suited for God's eternal kingdom. Since heaven is a spiritual, not physical, place, it is impossible for our bodies of *flesh and blood* to go there.

Your resurrected body will be **beautiful, spiritual, and ...**

### **It will be eternal (15:51-58)**

Therefore, Paul writes: *Behold, I shew you a mystery* (15:51a). The word translated *mystery* (MYSTĒRION, mis-tay'-ree-on) refers to what was once concealed but now revealed. The *mystery* is not that not all will *sleep*, which is a biblical euphemism for death, *but we shall all be changed* (15:51b). This means some on earth will be living when Christ returns and will receive their spiritual bodies without experiencing death.

This change, or transformation, will happen *in a moment* (15:52a). The word translated *moment* (ATOMOS, at'-om-os) is the word from which we get our word "atom." It means that which cannot be divided or the smallest possible part. Therefore, *moment* could be translated "nanosecond," which is one billionth of a second. The phrase *in the twinkling of an eye* (15:52b) means in the blink of an eye. We blink our eyes so fast we can't see it happen.

This will all happen *at the last trump* (15:52c). Throughout Israel's history, God summoned His people with a trumpet (Num. 10:2). This will be the final time God will summon His people with the sound of a trumpet. The Lord Jesus will come down *from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel* (1 Thess. 4:16a-b). Then, what will happen (4:16c-d)

*At the last trumpet call of God, the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed* (15:52d). At that time, our physical, *corruptible* bodies will be transformed into our *incorruptible*, spiritual bodies, which are eternal. Our *mortal* bodies will *put on immortality* (15:53-54). Then, the prophecy in Isaiah 25:8, *Death is swallowed up in victory* (15:54), will be fulfilled.

Next, Paul paraphrases Hosea 13:14: *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?* (15:55). For those who do not know Christ as Savior, death has a terrifying *sting*, meaning it is fatal. *Victory* refers to the apparent triumph of Satan in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:13). However, because of Christ, *death* no longer has a *sting* or *victory* over Christians; it has become the doorway to eternal life, complete with spectacular, spiritual, eternal bodies.

The thing that makes death fatal is *sin*; *and the strength of sin is the law* (15:56b) because all sin is breaking God's Law. The Law reveals God's standard, of which we all fall short (Rom. 3:23). Even though we are all sinners, God gives *us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (15:57). The *sting* of death comes through one man's *disobedience* (Adam's), so we are all *made sinners* (Rom. 5:19a). However, what does Paul write in Romans 5:19b?

By one man, Adam, we were all *made sinners* and are condemned. But, by one man, Jesus Christ, we can all be *made righteous*, or saved. This is the great *victory* we have through Christ. In Christ, we will one day be resurrected with our beautiful, spiritual, eternal bodies. This being the truth, Paul writes: *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord* (15:58a-d). Why, according to the last phrase of verse 58?

Everything you do for the Lord in this life has eternal benefits. When He returns, Jesus promises He will have His reward with Him, and He will reward you according to what you have done in His name (Rev. 22:12). Part of your reward will be your resurrected body, which will be **beautiful, spiritual, and eternal**.