

The Resurrection of the Body

Questions of the First Order

- Where did I come from?
- Why am I here?
- What happens to me when I die?
- Is there life after death?

The resurrection of Jesus is the single most defining event in all human history.

It is the foundation of all that we believe about our redemption, our forgiveness, our justification, and our eternal life. (I Corinthians 15: 14 and 17)

And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain.
And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins.

The word for resurrection in the Greek means to literally, “to stand up out of” (death)

What Happens to People Who Died Before Jesus?

Luke 16:19-26 – Lazarus and the Rich Man – 5 truths – This is not a parable as some teach.

1. They did not lose their identity
2. They could recognize each other and Abraham
3. They had memory of their life on earth
4. They were aware of where they were
5. There was a complete separation between the righteous and unrighteous

From this we learn the following –

All departing spirits before Jesus went to Hades or Sheol– the unseen realm

They were divided into two regions – one for the righteous and one for the unrighteous

What Happen to Jesus When He Died?

Jesus had a

- Spirit – never dies
- Soul – never dies
- Body – does die, and this is the focus of this study – Resurrection of the Body.

Jesus’ Spirit went to the Father – Luke 23:46

Jesus’ Soul went to Hades – Acts 2:25-26 (quoting Psalm 16:10); also, I Peter 3:18-19

Jesus’ Body went into the tomb – John 19:40-42

When Jesus rose from the dead, he was a complete person, body, soul, and Spirit

1. The righteous no longer go to Hades.
 Acts 7: 57ff – stoning of Stephan
 Philippians 1:23 Paul torn between going to be with the Lord or staying behind.
2. Those righteous in Hades are released to be with Jesus
 Ephesians 4:8 – those in captivity were taken captive by Jesus to be with Him.
 The penalty for sin was paid for by the cross
 They had put their faith in the promises of hope (Hebrews 11 and 12)
 When the sacrifice was made, they were released
3. The resurrection of Jesus guarantees our resurrection. Colossians 1:18
4. With Jesus we are eagerly awaiting the transformation of our bodies
 Phil 3:20-21 – eagerly awaiting the saviors return
 I John 3:2,3 – purifying ourselves, we will be like Him

What is our New Body Like?

I Corinthians 15:35 – 38

We are sown as a seed
 We are given a body consistent with the nature of the seed
 But we have a very different body in form as the seed becomes what God intends
 There is continuity – apple seed sown
 There is radical change – apple tree

Was Jesus' New Body Different?

Yes – not limited to the dimensions of the earth
 No – He still had the nail prints in His hands, feet, and side

Will Our New Body Be Different?

Yes – we will be like Him – supernatural body
 No – we will be recognized as He was

5 Changes Mentioned by Paul; 1 Corinthians 15: 42- 44; 52-53

1. Sown in corruption – raised incorruptible (no longer subject to decay)
2. Sown in dishonor – raised in glory
3. Sown in weakness – raised in power
4. Sown in natural/soulish – raised in spiritual
5. Sown in mortality – raised in immortality – never to die again

The Attestation for the Resurrection of the Body – two main pieces of evidence

1. Scripture
 - a. I Peter 1:1-12 – the prophets of the OT foretold this
 - b. Ps 22:16
 - c. Isaiah 50: 6

- d. Ps 16: 8
 - e. Ps 71: 20-21
 - f. Isaiah 53
 - g. Hosea 6:1-2
2. The Eye Witnesses
- a. I Corinthians 15: 1-8

The Importance of the Resurrection

1. God's vindication of Jesus – overturned secular and religious courts – declared innocent
2. Basis for our Justification – Romans 4:25-26
3. Basis for our Salvation – Romans 10: 9-10
4. Guarantee of Christ's ability to save us – Hebrews 7:25
5. Completes our redemption – not complete until we receive our new bodies
 - a. Phil 3:10
 - b. Romans 8:23
6. Our consummation and union with Jesus – 1 Thess 4:17
7. It is the foundation for all redemption – I Corinthians 15: 14, 17

The Work of the Trinity in our Redemption

- Incarnation – The Father, thru the Holy Spirit, brings forth the Son
- Ministry of Jesus – The Father, anoints Jesus with the Holy Spirit
- Death of Jesus – The Son, thru the Holy Spirit, offers Himself to the Father
- The Resurrection – The Father, thru the Holy Spirit, raises Jesus from the dead
- Pentecost – Jesus receives from the Father the Holy Spirit to give to us