

What Will Our Resurrected Bodies Be Like?

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1. Two \_\_\_\_\_ about our resurrected bodies  
(15:35-36a)

2. Three \_\_\_\_\_ contrasting our present bodies  
with our future bodies (15:36-41)

a. As different as a \_\_\_\_\_ is from a seed (vv. 36-38)

b. As different as a \_\_\_\_\_ is from other creatures  
(v. 39)

c. As different as the \_\_\_\_\_ is from the sun, moon,  
and stars (vv. 40-41)

3. Four \_\_\_\_\_ between our future and present  
bodies (15:42-50)

a. \_\_\_\_\_ rather than perishable (v. 42)

b. \_\_\_\_\_ rather than dishonor (v. 43a)

c. \_\_\_\_\_ rather than weakness (v. 43b)

d. \_\_\_\_\_ rather than natural (vv. 44-50)

4. Three \_\_\_\_\_ of our future resurrection (15:51-  
58)

a. We will be \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 51-52)

b. Death will be \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 53-57)

c. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_! (v. 58)

### Questions for Discussion/Reflection on 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

1. How do the following passages describe the resurrection? John 6:39-40; Acts 24:15b; Job 19:25-26; 1 Thessalonians 4:16
2. What comes to mind when you think of heaven and life after death? Do you tend to think of it in vague, “spiritual” terms? How does the description of resurrected bodies in 1 Corinthians 15 challenge that view?
3. What are the two questions that are asked in v. 35? How would you summarize the way that the passage answers each question?
4. What do a seed and the plant that grows from it have in common? What is different about them? How does that help explain our resurrected bodies? (15:36-37)
5. How have you most acutely experienced the perishing and weakness of your body? (15:42-43)
6. In what way did Jesus (the “last Adam”) become a life-giving spirit? (15:45) See John 6:35-58.
7. How do the following verses explain what is meant by “the last trumpet” in v. 52? Zechariah 9:14; Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Corinthians 15:24
8. How does the content about the resurrection in chapter 15 lead to the conclusion in v. 58?

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### Intro

The resurrection is not a fringe doctrine but comes up frequently throughout scripture.

All 58 verses of 1 Corinthians 15

**John 6:39-40** "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

**Acts 24:15b** there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

**John 11:23-24** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Martha new from the OT that there would be a resurrection

**Job 19:25-26** "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. <sup>26</sup> "Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;

**Isaiah 26:19a** Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** and the dead in Christ will rise first.

That's good because the breakdown of our bodies from injury and illness and our eventual death is not a fringe experience. We experience it frequently.

Two common questions come up though when we talk about the resurrection – how is this possible? What will our resurrected bodies be like?

Paul encountered those same two questions and answered them in our last section of chapter 15 on the resurrection.

#### 1. Two questions about our resurrected bodies (15:35-36a)

##### a. Two questions

- i. How will this happen?
- ii. What will our bodies be like after they are raised?

##### b. Those are the questions people ask today.

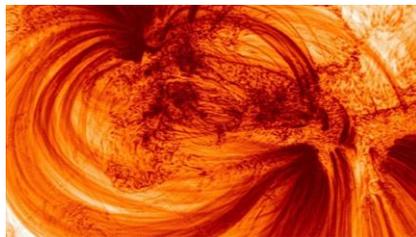
- i. How will it happen if their bodies are decomposed, if their ashes are scattered over the ocean, etc.
  1. May seem inconceivable to you as well based on the power that it would take to raise millions, hundreds of millions, of people from the dead.
  2. Some that have been buried for centuries, their bodies long decayed, the material turned into compost, and then trees, and then eaten by insects
  3. Some that have been cremated and their ashes spread into the wind, carried across dozens of square miles.
  4. Some destroyed in the horror of war
- ii. What will our bodies be like?
  1. Will a child still be a child?
  2. Will we recognize each other?
  3. Will we be in perfect health?

4. Will we be able to hurt ourselves? If not, can we just jump off a cliff and land on our heads or hit our finger with a hammer as hard as we want?
  - c. His stinging rebuke shows the questions weren't in good faith.
    - i. They must not have been questions of those really wanting answers but more like "gotcha" questions.
    - ii. Still, he answers their two questions with three analogies and four contrasts. Then the long chapter ends with three implications of our future resurrection.
2. Three ***analogies*** contrasting our present bodies with our future bodies (15:36-41)
- a. As different as a ***plant*** is from a seed (vv. 36-38)
    - i. A seed that is sown in the ground appears lifeless and small. It bears little resemblance to what grows from it.
    - ii. The head of wheat is dried out and brittle and brown, little resemblance to the stalk of wheat that will come from it. Brown and small vs green and tall.
    - iii. There's a transformation that takes place that is common in nature. Why are we shocked or disbelieving when God says something similar will happen with us?
    - iv. And yet there is still continuity with plant life – a seed of wheat doesn't grow into barley or a banana tree? It grows into wheat. Likewise, you won't become an angel. You won't be changed into a different kind of being, but rather will become even more fully human.
  - b. As different as a ***human*** is from other creatures (v. 39)
    - i. Just as people, animals, birds, and fish are different from each other even though we all have "bodies," so your new body will be different from your present body.
  - c. As different as the ***earth*** is from the sun, moon, and stars (vv. 40-41)
    - i. Some reflect light, others give light; some are larger, some are smaller – all have a particular glory about them.
    - ii. New images of Jupiter this week

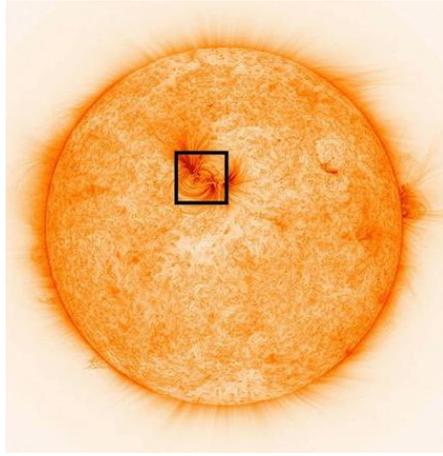


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- iii. High resolution images of the sun in 2020



1.



2.

- iv. Each of these strands are superhot, electrified gas more than 300 miles wide.
  - v. The more we learn about the universe God made, the more we see His glory on display.
  - vi. God has made incredible variety and power on a micro and macro scale, isn't He capable of recreating something marvelous in your new body?
3. Four **contrasts** between our future and present bodies (15:42-50)
- a. **Imperishable** rather than perishable (v. 42)
    - i. Your body now is described in 2 Corinthians 5 as a temporary tent
      - 1. **2 Corinthians 5:1-2** For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,
      - 2. Camping is great but only for short periods of time.
      - 3. That's another way of describing that our bodies are perishable. They come with an expiration date, we just don't know what that date is. But God knows the number of our days.
      - 4. This week I poured some milk into a cup and was met with the dread "glub glub" of milk that had perished. It wasn't yet at the printed expiration date, but the texture and smell told me otherwise. It perished!
    - ii. In contrast, our new bodies will be imperishable.
  - b. **Glory** rather than dishonor (v. 43a)
    - i. Our present bodies are affected by the fall. They have the marks of a broken world all over them in their deterioration. We use them to sin. We use them to hurt others.
    - ii. But they will be raised in glory, no longer marked by the taint of sin, no longer vessels used for harm.
    - iii. **Philippians 3:20-21** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
      - 1. We will radiate in glory but the glory will come from Him and will ultimately point back to His greater glory.
  - c. **Power** rather than weakness (v. 43b)

- i. Even the strongest among us are weak in many ways – eventually declining physical strength and endurance, susceptibility to disease and injury. We struggle with various mental health challenges of worry, anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts.
- ii. In contrast, our new bodies will be characterized by power. It doesn't spell out what this power will be like. I don't think we'll be superheroes. But in the ways in which we are weak now, we won't be then.

d. ***Spiritual*** rather than natural (vv. 44-50)

- i. These words could be misunderstood because of how we commonly use the words.
  - 1. We think of "spiritual" in contrast to "material" or "physical." But that isn't the way it is being used here. We partly know that by the comparison throughout of our future bodies with Jesus' body after His resurrection. He still had a physical body that could walk around, be seen and touched, and eat.
- ii. The word for natural is *pseuche*. It's the same root word translated as "living soul" in v. 45 in describing Adam.
  - 1. God gave Adam life, but it was a natural life suited for this world.
  - 2. All of us are born with natural bodies, which is why in v. 46 he says the natural comes first. Even Jesus in His incarnation had a natural body. His was a normal body that grew tired and hungry and required sleep. But then he had a resurrected "spiritual" body suited for eternal life.
  - 3. It's described in vv. 47 and 48 as "from the earth, earthy."
  - 4. Our bodies are built for and suited for this life.
- iii. But in contrast they will be replaced by bodies suitable for eternal life with God on a new earth.
  - 1. Imperishable rather than perishable, strong rather than weak, glorious rather than dishonorable.
  - 2. These are the bodies that are suitable for the "kingdom of God" in v. 50
  - 3. **2 Peter 3:13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
  - 4. That's good because I don't want to be in this broken-down body forever! Several years ago there was a movie about a potion that enabled people to live forever, but their bodies could still be broken and damaged! What kind of existence would that be?
- iv. Wayne Grudem: "The fact that our new bodies will be "imperishable" means that they will not wear out or grow old or ever be subject to any kind of sickness or disease. They will be completely healthy and strong forever. Moreover, since the gradual process of aging is part of the process by which our bodies now are subject to "corruption," it is appropriate to think that our resurrection bodies will have no sign of aging, but will have the characteristics of youthful but mature manhood or womanhood forever. There will be no evidence of disease or injury, for all will be made perfect. Our resurrection bodies will show the fulfillment of God's perfect wisdom in creating us as human beings who are the pinnacle of His creation and the appropriate bearers of His likeness and image. In these resurrection bodies we will clearly see humanity as God intended it to be."
  - 1. We will be *more human* not *less human*.

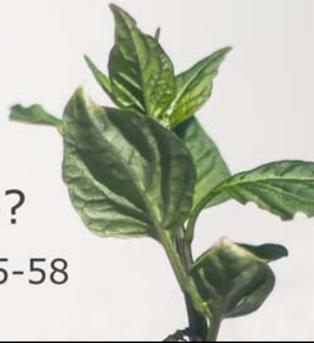
4. Three ***implications*** of our future resurrection (15:51-58)

- a. We will be **changed** (vv. 51-52)
  - i. The “mystery” is referring to something not formerly revealed but now made known. The resurrection is not a new revelation, the fact that some will not pass through death is what is new here.
  - ii. We will all be changed
    - 1. But some believers will be alive when Jesus returns and will be transformed directly into their resurrected bodies.
    - 2. Those who have already died will be “raised imperishable.” (v. 52)
    - 3. But we will all be changed.
  - iii. Twinkling of the eye is a figure of speech referring to the speed at which this will happen. We might say, “in the blink of an eye.”
- b. Death will be **defeated** (vv. 53-57)
  - i. Then death itself will be finally defeated.
    - 1. Perishable puts on the imperishable
    - 2. Mortal puts on immortality
  - ii. Death is swallowed up in victory (v. 54)
    - 1. Isn’t that a great phrase? Not merely that there is no more death, but it is swallowed up by the resurrection.
      - a. It will have no more victory. It will have no more sting.
      - b. The sting of death is sin, in that the reason death entered is because of sin and the reason we fear death is because of the consequences of sin. But God has overcome sin and death in Jesus.
  - iii. An old gospel booklet contained the following:
    - 1. There is a preacher of the old school but he speaks as boldly as ever. He is not popular, though the world is his parish and he travels every part of the globe and speaks in every language. He visits the poor, calls upon the rich, preaches to people of every religion and no religion, and the subject of his sermon is always the same. He is an eloquent preacher, often stirring feelings which no other preacher could, and bringing tears to eyes that never weep. His arguments none are able to refute, nor is there any heart that has remained unmoved by the force of his appeals. He shatters life with his message. Most people hate him; everyone fears him. His name? Death. Every tombstone is his pulpit, every newspaper prints his text. And someday everyone of you will be his sermon.
  - iv. Death is inescapable, kind of. There is one way of escape, and that is through Jesus. We will still die, unless we are those alive at His return. But if we have placed our trust in Jesus who conquered death, then we will experience His victory over death.
- c. Therefore, **persevere!** (v. 58)
  - i. Be steadfast – firm, settled in our thinking
  - ii. Be immovable – same idea of firm
  - iii. Always abounding in the work of the Lord

1. Future hope motivates present sacrifice and service.
2. If your best life is NOW then you are motivated to pursue pleasure at all cost NOW. If, on the other hand, your best life is yet to come, it's worth it to sacrifice NOW.
3. Our toil isn't in vain – it isn't worthless, or meaningless.

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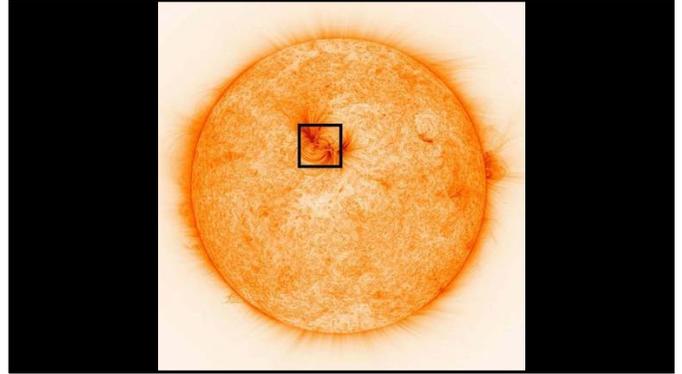
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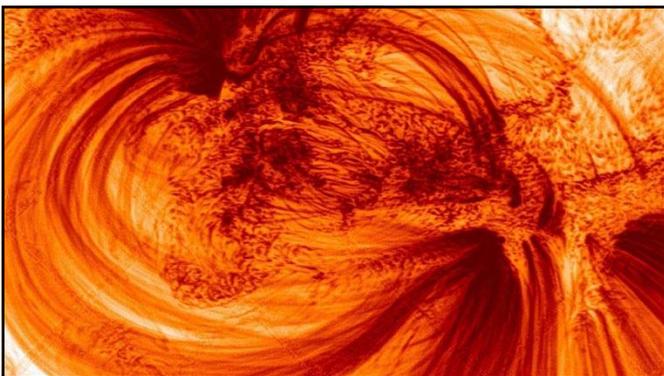
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