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# THE BODILY RESURRECTION

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George Battey

## Questions:

- 1) What is "death"?
- 2) Who was Plato and what did he teach about the afterlife?
- 3) What is the difference between resurrection and reincarnation?
- 4) Did Jesus' flesh-and-bones body come back to life when He resurrected?
- 5) When Paul saw Jesus on the Damascus road, what did he see?
- 6) Why couldn't the servants of Elisha find the body of Elijah?
- 7) Will Bruce Jenner be a man or a woman in the next life?
- 8) Why should you be embarrassed for David Brown and Don Tarbet?
- 9) Why will Gehenna Hell be worse than the suffering of the intermediate state?

## INTRODUCTION

The Westminster Confession of Faith states the following concerning the resurrection:

**32:2** At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed (1 Cor 15:51, 52; 1 Th 4:17): and all the dead shall be raised up, ***with the selfsame bodies and none other***, although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever (Job 19:2, 27; 1 Cor 15:42-44).

**32:3** The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour: the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honour; and be made conformable to His own glorious body (John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor 15:42; Phil 3:21).

*Westminster Confession*, Chapter 32: "Of the State of Men After Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead" (QuickVerse 2005 program)

The restoration preachers debated Calvinists on many doctrines – but there were no debates concerning the resurrection of the body. In fact, they seemed to agree on this doctrine.

Alexander Campbell:

**NOTE:** As I read this quote from Campbell, let me give you a heads-up about what we're reading. Campbell will make a reference to Plato. Plato was a Greek philosopher who believed in an afterlife for the spirits of men, but he did not believe in the physical bodies of men being raised back to life. So Plato believed men would be bodiless spirits forever after this life is over. Keep this in mind as I read Campbell's remarks.

Immortality, in the sacred writings, is never applied to the spirit of man. It is not the doctrine of Plato which the resurrection of Jesus proposes. **It is the immortality of the body** of which his resurrection is a proof and pledge. This was never developed till **he became the first born from the dead, and in a human body entered the heavens. Jesus was not a spirit when he returned to God.** He is not made the Head of the New Creation as a spirit, but as the Son of Man.

*Christianity Restored, pp. 277-278.*

Many among us have never heard such things. Are these things true? That's what this study is all about.

## **MY SURVEY**

I have been having conversations with church members over the past several years concerning the resurrection. In my conversations, here is what I am hearing over and over again:

- Most of our members do not believe the actual, physical body of Christians will be raised back to life.
- Most believe that when a Christian dies – that Christian is finished with his/her fleshly body and it doesn't matter what happens to that body.

## One Christian told me:

*"When I die, I want to donate my body to science. They can dissect my body, dismember it, burn it, grind it up – I don't care, because when I die I'm done with this body and will have no use for it again."*

- Such conversations could be multiplied.
- These conversations are all saying the same thing: ***The fleshly body of Christians will NOT be raised back to life.***

I decided to do a survey among several of our congregations.

- I asked **12 congregations** to participate.
- **274** members took part.
- I believe this survey fairly represents what our brotherhood believes.

## Here's what I learned:

- **82%** of our people believe Jesus' physical body was raised back to life.<sup>(Q1)</sup>

(Does this bother anyone? Shouldn't 100% of our people believe this?)

- **Only 31%** of our people believe Jesus ascended in His resurrected body.<sup>(Q2)</sup>

- **Only 22%** believe Jesus still has His resurrected body.<sup>(Q3)</sup>
- **53%** do NOT believe the fleshly bodies of Christians will be raised back to life.<sup>(Q4)</sup>
- **55%** believe Christians will live in heaven as angelic-spirit-beings with no physical bodies.<sup>(Q6)</sup>
- **59%** believe it doesn't matter what we think about the resurrection to begin with.<sup>(Q13)</sup>

So I'm battling an up-hill battle: **59%** of my brethren don't think my topic even matters.

- I hope that doesn't describe anyone here.
- However, if it does describe you, I hope I can change your mind by the end of this study.

## **WHAT IS DEATH?**

Let's begin our study with a basic question:

### **Q: What is death?**

(Resurrection is a reversal of death, so we need to know what death is.)

To answer this question, let's go to the very first time this appears in the Bible:

## **Genesis 2:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

<sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"

Here is the first mention of death.

## **James 2:26**

<sup>26</sup> ... *the body without the spirit is dead ...*

**"Death"** = "*separation*"

When the spirit leaves the body, death has occurred. Notice: ***It is the body that dies, not the spirit.***

So God was telling Adam, "*If you eat the forbidden fruit, you will die – your spirit will leave your body and your body will die.*"

(cf. 2 Kings 2:37)

## **PHYSICAL IMMORTALITY**

Here's the point I want you to focus on: ***Adam was immortal before he ate that fruit.***

- I mean his soul was immortal.
- I mean his body was immortal.

If Adam had not eaten that fruit, he would have lived forever.

- His body would not get old.
- His body would not get sick and die.

**NOTE:** Adam and Eve teach us an important concept: *It is possible to be immortal in a fleshly body.*

## **DAVID BROWN'S BOOK**

In the year 2000 the cups-brethren hosted a lectureship on Roman Catholicism. David Brown was the coordinator of that lectureship. One of the presentations was given by **Don Tarbet** entitled, "***The Doctrine of Physical Immortality.***"

Don Tarbet:

We believe that the doctrine presented [by Dr. Larry West] during [a] campaign was FALSE, which amounted to the doctrine of "**Physical Immortality.**" **That in itself is a contradiction of terms**, for nothing physical can be immortal. PHYSICAL is material, which is temporary, or mortal (subject to death). ... The doctrine of "Physical Immortality" has its roots in Catholicism.

Roman Catholicism, pp. 536-537.

My friends: ***Physical immortality is NOT a contradiction of terms.***

- If Adam had never sinned he would have lived eternally in his fleshly body.
- If Eve had never sinned she would have lived eternally in her fleshly body.

(I'm embarrassed for Don Tarbet for not knowing the story of Adam and Eve.)

(I'm embarrassed for David Brown (the editor) for not knowing better than to print this material in his book.)

Not only does Adam prove physical immortality is possible, but we also learn this:

- If Adam had never sinned he would have been an immortal of the male gender living forever in a fleshly, male body.
- Eve would have been an immortal of the female gender living forever in a female body.
- Being immortal does not remove gender.

(Whatever gender God made us, that is the gender we will be throughout all eternity – Bruce Jenner to the contrary notwithstanding).



## **REVERSING THE PROCESS**

When Jesus came, He came to undo all the damage that Adam created.

- This is what Rom 5:12-21 is all about.
- This is what 1 Cor 15 is all about.
- These are parallel passages.

### **Romans 5**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and **death** through sin, and thus **death spread to all men**, because all sinned —

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment ***came to all men***, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift ***came to all men***, resulting in justification of life.

**Death** = physical death

- Calvinism says death = spiritual death.
- The death here is physical death.

When Jesus came to earth, He undid all the damage Adam created. In the margin of Rom 5:12, 18 write 1 Cor 15:20-21. These passages are parallel.

## **1 Corinthians 15:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>21</sup> For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

Adam brought in (a) sin and (b) death. Jesus undid both of these problems:

- When Jesus died on the cross, He took care of sin by shedding His blood.
- When He resurrected from the grave, He took care of death (physical death).

## **TWO KEY TERMS**

Two key terms.

### **1) "Resurrection"**

**"Resurrection"** (ἀνάστασις) – "*to stand up*"

Resurrection is as literal or symbolic as the death under consideration.

- If the death under consideration is ***spiritual-death***, then the resurrection under consideration is ***spiritual-resurrection*** (the spirit experiences a rebirth – Rom 6:5).
  - If the death under consideration is ***physical-death***, then the resurrection under consideration is ***physical-resurrection*** (the physical body is made to stand up).
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- When Jesus died on the cross, He died physically.
- His physical body was buried in the tomb.
- On the first day of the week, it was His physical body that was resurrected.
- When the apostles spoke of the "resurrection of Christ," they were speaking of a physical-resurrection (the Lord's physical body was "*raised up*.")

### **Acts 2:31**

<sup>31</sup> [David] spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that ***His soul*** was not left in Hades, nor did ***His flesh*** see corruption.

Look at the word "*flesh*" in that verse. Jesus' fleshly body was raised up.

### **John 20:27**

<sup>27</sup> Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

The body that was raised is the same body that died on the cross. The Lord's risen body still had the crucifixion marks in it.

**Q:** Was that resurrected body still made of flesh?

**Luke 24:39**

<sup>39</sup> [Jesus said] Behold ***My hands and My feet***, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have ***flesh and bones*** as you see I have."

- Jesus was not a spirit.
- A spirit does not have flesh and bones.
- To speak of a "***spirit-body***" is to contradict what Jesus just said.
- Jesus' body of flesh and bones was resurrected.

**NOTE:** A person must believe Jesus' physical, fleshly body came back to life in order to be saved.

**Romans 10:9**

<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and ***believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead***, you will be saved.

- For the **18%** of our brothers and sisters who do not believe this, I encourage them to believe and be saved.<sup>(Q1)</sup>

**NOTE:** When the body of Jesus was raised, it was then changed.

According to the dictionary *the word "change"* can mean several things:

- *Exchange for another*
- *Transform*

Many of our people believe Jesus' body was exchanged for something else. This is not true. His body was transformed.

**Matthew 17:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;

<sup>2</sup> and ***He was transfigured*** before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

When Jesus was transfigured (transformed):

- He did not exchange one body for another.
- He retained the same body He always had – but it was altered.

What happened in Mt 17 was a prefigure of what was going to happen when the Lord was resurrected.

This brings up our next term we need to define:

## **2) "Reincarnation" (re + incarnation)**

**Incarnation** = "to inhabit a fleshly body"

### **John 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, ...

This verse described the "**incarnation**" of Jesus – His spirit entered into a fleshly body.

**Re-incarnation** – "the belief that the soul, upon death of the body, comes back to earth in another body."

(The Free Dictionary by Farlex)

**NOTE:** Reincarnation is a pagan belief. It is not taught in the Bible.

When brethren believe: *God's people will exchange their original-body for an entirely different body* – when they believe that – they believe the pagan philosophy of reincarnation rather than the Biblical doctrine of resurrection.

- ***If Jesus*** exchanged His first body for another one, He would have been reincarnated.
- ***If Christians*** exchange their first body for another one, they will have been reincarnated.
- The Bible doesn't teach reincarnation.

- It teaches resurrection – *the same body coming back to life again and then being transformed.*

## **JESUS' RESURRECTION**

Let's return to the Lord's resurrection for a moment.

### **1) Jesus' fleshly body was raised to life.**

This is a cardinal doctrine. It must be believed in order to be saved (Rom 10:9).

### **2) Jesus showed His fleshly body to various disciples for 40 days.**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

<sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

<sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

<sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

When these witnesses saw the Lord, they were looking at a body of flesh and bones.

**Luke 24:39**

<sup>39</sup> [Jesus said] **Behold** My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and **see**, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as **you see** I have."

Now watch:

**1 Corinthians 15:8**

<sup>8</sup> Then ***last of all He was seen by me also, ...***

The apostle Paul saw the same thing all the other disciples saw.

**Q:** What did all the other disciples see?

**A:** They saw a body of flesh and bones. They saw the nail-prints in His hands and feet.

**Q:** Therefore, what did Paul see?

**A:** He saw the same thing. He saw a body of flesh and bones with nail-prints ...

Therefore, when Jesus ascended, He retained His resurrected body.



## **Acts 1:11**

<sup>11</sup> [Two angels said to the disciples], "... ***This same Jesus***, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

**Q:** What went into heaven?

**A:** Jesus in His resurrected body.

**Q:** What did Paul see on the Damascus road?

**A:** He saw Jesus in His resurrected body.

**Q:** What do we know about the Lord's return?

**A:** "*This same Jesus who was taken up will so come in like manner.*"

**Therefore:** Jesus still has His resurrection body in heaven right now.

- **Only 22%** in our brotherhood believe this.
- We've got to get back to the basics.

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**ARGUMENT:** Jesus cast off His fleshly body as He ascended. Now He is pure spirit as before the incarnation.

**A:** The servants of Elisha reasoned this way – Elijah could not have ascended bodily into heaven. They were confident that if they searched, they would find his body

somewhere. They searched, but did not find his body (2 Kings 2:15-18).

**Q:** Why didn't they find his body?

**A:** They couldn't find it because it went to heaven.

**NOTE:** If Elijah's spirit separated from his body, then Elijah would have died. Remember: **Death = separation**. Elijah didn't die. Enoch didn't die. Therefore, their spirits never left their bodies. They entered into heaven in their fleshly bodies.

**Q:** Why is this story in the Bible?

**A:** To demonstrate that if God wants to transport a flesh-and-bones body into heaven – He can do it.

If God could do this with Elijah, He could do it with Christ.

### **3) Jesus is still a man right now.**

In my survey:

- **50%** believe Jesus stopped being a man when He resurrected.
- Only **14%** of our people believe is a man right now.

**Q:** What does the Bible say?

## **1 Timothy 2:5**

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus*,

Jesus was still a man when Paul wrote this. To be a man, Jesus had to have a physical body like men have.

## **Holman Christian Standard Bible**

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God  
And one mediator between God and humanity,  
Christ Jesus, *Himself human*

**"mediator"** – one who intervenes between two in order to bring peace. In order for Jesus to be a mediator, He must be both (a) God and (b) man. If He is still our mediator, He must still be a man.

**NOTE:** I remember hearing brother Lynwood Smith preach one time. He read 1 Tim 2:5 and forcefully emphasized that Jesus is still a man. That point always stuck with me.

## **1 John 4:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that *Jesus Christ has come in the flesh* is of God,

<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that *Jesus Christ has come in the flesh* is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

**"has come" (ἔληλυθότα)** – perfect participle of ἔρχομαι. The perfect tense means a past action stressing the abiding results.

Literally, the passage is saying:

<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that ***Jesus Christ has come [and remains] in the flesh*** is of God,  
<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that ***Jesus Christ has come [and remains] in the flesh*** is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

Are we ready to take this passage seriously?

Jesus had already gone back into heaven when John wrote this epistle. John is saying:

- *If someone does not confess that Jesus came in the flesh,*
- *And remains in the flesh even now,*
- *This person has the spirit of Antichrist.*

**NOTE:** If Jesus' spirit separated from His body, that would be death (Ja 2:26). Jesus didn't die again. "He destroyed him who had the power of death" (Heb 2:14).

**NOTE:** As long as Jesus' spirit remains in His resurrected body, death will have been conquered. If His spirit ever leaves His resurrected body, He will have died again and death will not have

been conquered. Therefore, as 1 Jn 4:2-3 teaches, **Jesus came in the flesh and remains in the flesh.**

John was battling a false doctrine (Gnosticism) in its beginning stages. This doctrine said:

- All flesh is evil.
- But Jesus was good.
- Therefore, Jesus was not flesh.

The epistle of 1 John stresses the fact that Jesus was a man with flesh and bones.

- He came in the flesh (1 Jn 1:1-3).
- His fleshly body died (1 Jn 5:6-8).
- His fleshly body resurrected and ascended back into heaven (1 Jn 4:2-3; 2 Jn 7).
- Anyone disagreeing with this has the spirit of Antichrist.

**Q:** Is this this topic relevant? Does it make a difference?

- **59%** in the survey said it doesn't even matter.<sup>(Q13)</sup>
- I hope Christians will read 1 John and change their minds.

#### 4) Jesus' is the "firstfruits" of the resurrection.

##### **1 Corinthians 15:20**

<sup>20</sup> But now *Christ* is risen from the dead, and has become *the firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep.

This simply means that what happened to Jesus is going to happen to the rest of us.

Since His fleshly body was raised, so will our fleshly body be raised back to life.

**REMEMBER:** We will NOT exchange our original bodies for different bodies. That's reincarnation and the Bible doesn't teach that. The Bible teaches resurrection.

##### **1 Corinthians 15:42-44**

<sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead.

**The body is sown** in corruption, **it is raised** in incorruption.

<sup>43</sup> **It is sown** in dishonor, **it is raised** in glory.

**It is sown** in weakness, **it is raised** in power.

<sup>44</sup> **It is sown** a natural body, **it is raised** a spiritual body. ...

Four times we are told, "*it is sown*" and four times we are told again, "*it is raised.*"

**Q:** What's being raised?

A: The very body that is being sown in the grave.

**"It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body"** (v44) – some interpret this to mean that Christians will receive **spirit-bodies** that are immaterial.

- Paul did **NOT** write, "*It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spirit-body.*"
- A spirit doesn't have a body according to Jesus (Lk 24:39).
- Paul wrote, "*It is raised **a spiritual body.***"

**"spiritual body"** = "*supernatural body*"

### **Isalah 40:28-31**

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The everlasting God, the LORD,

The Creator of the ends of the earth,

Neither faints nor is weary.

His understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> ***He gives power to the weak,***

***And to those who have no might He increases strength.***

<sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the LORD

Shall ***renew their strength;***

***They shall mount up with wings like eagles,***

***They shall run and not be weary,***

***They shall walk and not faint.***

When the body is raised in resurrection:

- It is raised **repaired**.
- It is **immortalized** so it will not grow old and die.
- It is **energized** so it will not get weary.
- It is **strengthened** so it will not get weak.

## **BODILY RESURRECTION**

**Q:** What Bible passages clearly teach that the actual physical body of the saints will be raised back to life?

I'm going to give six passages.

### **Passage #1: Job 19:26-27**

#### **Job 19:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,  
That ***in my flesh I shall see God,***  
<sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself,  
And ***my eyes*** shall behold, and not another. ...

If Job's "*skin is destroyed*" (i.e. he dies), how will he see God "*in my flesh*"? The only way for this to happen is for him to be physically raised from the dead.

A bodily resurrection is envisioned.



## **Passage #2: Isaiah 26:19**

### **Isaiah 26:19 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> But your dead will live;

***their bodies will rise.***

You who dwell in the dust,  
wake up and shout for joy.

Your dew is like the dew of the morning;

***the earth will give birth to her dead.***

**"the earth will give birth to her dead"** – refers to dead bodies buried in the earth.

Plainly: A bodily resurrection.

(cf. NASV; RSV; NRSV)

## **Passage #3: Matthew 10:28**

### **Matthew 10:28**

<sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill ***the body*** but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy ***both soul and body*** in hell.

Q: What body can men kill?

A: The fleshly, physical body.

Q: What is God able to do?

**A:** He is able to take that body and cast it into hell.

Since hell is an everlasting punishment, Mt 10:28 is teaching that wicked people will possess their physical bodies and those bodies will be transformed so as to be able to endure eternal hell.

This explains why Gehenna Hell is going to be worse than the intermediate state for wicked people.

- In Gehenna Hell, men and women won't just be bodiless spirits suffering.
- They will have physical, fleshly bodies which have been transformed so as to endure eternal torment.

**NOTE:** If the wicked have physical bodies that have been transformed to endure eternal hell, the implication is that the saints will have physical bodies that have been transformed to enjoy heaven.

#### **Passage #4: Matthew 27:51-53**

##### **Matthew 27:51-53**

<sup>51</sup> Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

<sup>52</sup> and ***the graves were opened***; and many ***bodies of the saints*** who had fallen asleep ***were raised***;

<sup>53</sup> and ***coming out of the graves*** after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Is there any clearer description of a bodily resurrection than "*graves opened*" and "*bodies of the saints ... coming out of the graves*"?

- Why were the "graves opened"?
- To emphasize that what had been placed in the graves (literal bodies) came out alive.
- Bodily resurrection.

### **Passage #5: Romans 8:11**

#### **Romans 8:11**

<sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give *life to your mortal bodies* through His Spirit who dwells in you.

This passage is powerful.

- It shows the kind of resurrection Jesus experienced – His mortal body was raised.
- It shows the kind of resurrection Christians will experience – their mortal bodies raised.

### **Passage #6: 1 Corinthians 15:42-44**

We've already read this:

## **1 Corinthians 15:42-44**

<sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead.

**The body is sown** in corruption, **it is raised** in incorruption.

<sup>43</sup> **It is sown** in dishonor, **it is raised** in glory.

**It is sown** in weakness, **it is raised** in power.

<sup>44</sup> **It is sown** a natural body, **it is raised** a spiritual body. ...

Clearly: What is being buried is being raised.

**SUMMARY**: Christians will experience a fleshly, bodily resurrection and then their bodies will be changed.

## **"WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED"**

Let's talk about this "*change*."

**BTW**: We are going to read in 1 Cor 15. Be aware of the two groups under discussion:

<b>Living</b>	<b>Dead</b>
"We"	"Those asleep"
"Mortal"	"Corruptible"
"Flesh and bones"	"Corruption"

## **1 Thessalonians 4:15**

<sup>15</sup> ... ***we who are alive*** and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede ***those who are asleep***.

These same two groups are seen in 1 Cor 15.

## **1 Corinthians 15**

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: **We** shall not all **sleep**, but we shall all be changed —

***Two groups.*** Not everyone is going to die, but everyone will be "*changed*."

**NOTE:** "Changed" doesn't mean "exchanged." It means ***transformed***.

## **1 Corinthians 15**

<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and ***the dead*** will be raised incorruptible, ***and we [the living]*** shall be changed.

***Two groups.***

- ***The dead*** = (a) raised and (b) then transformed.
- ***The living*** = transformed.

## **1 Corinthians 15:50**

<sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that ***flesh and blood [the living]*** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does ***corruption [the dead]*** inherit incorruption.

***Two groups.***

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**NOTE:** v50 is NOT teaching *flesh and bones* cannot go to heaven.

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- Jesus was flesh and bones when He resurrected and that resurrected body went into heaven.
- Enoch and Elijah went into heaven in their fleshly bodies.

**REMINDER:** **If the spirits of these men separated from their fleshly bodies, they would have died.** Neither Enoch, nor Elijah, nor Jesus died when they left the earth and went into heaven. Therefore their bodies went into heaven with them.

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**Q:** What is 1 Cor 15:50 saying?

**A:** It's saying that unaltered (untransformed) flesh-and-blood cannot enter into heaven. There must be a transformation first.

## **"Sweet Hour Of Prayer"**

I would suggest not singing the 4th stanza of Ellis Crum's version of "*Sweet Hour Of Prayer*" (p. 23 in *Sacred Selections*).

***This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise***

To seize the everlasting prize ...

No! We do not "*drop the robe of flesh.*" We keep our flesh and it is transformed into immortal flesh like Adam had before he sinned.

### **1 Corinthians 15:53**

<sup>53</sup> For *this corruptible [the dead]* must put on incorruption, and *this mortal [the living]* must put on immortality.

*Two groups.*

**"put on"** (ἐνδύω) – "*put on, clothe one's self*" (Thayer). (cf. Mt 6:25)

(This says nothing about "*taking off*" flesh or anything else.)

**NOTE:** If I say Ron Courter "*put on*" a coat to go outside, this does not mean he first takes off his shirt. To "*put on*" means to add to what you already have. So Ron will now have a shirt + a coat.

When the "*corruptible puts on incorruption*" it doesn't mean they take off their flesh.

- ***The dead*** now have flesh + incorruption.

- **The living** will have flesh + immortality.

Adam and Eve (before they sinned) demonstrated this is possible.  
The damage done by Adam and Eve will be reversed.

### **1 Corinthians 15:54-55**

<sup>54</sup> So when **this corruptible [the dead]** has put on incorruption, and **this mortal [the living]** has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

<sup>55</sup> "**O Death [living]**, where is your sting?  
**O Hades [dead]**, where is your victory?"

**Two groups.**

**"O Death, where is your sting?"** = spoken in reference to **those who are living** (facing death) when Jesus returns. The living will not have to experience the death of their physical bodies.

**"O Hades, where is your victory?"** = spoken in reference to **those who are dead** when Jesus returns. The grave will not hold the bones of the dead any longer.



## **IS IT INCREDIBLE?**

Does it seem incredible that our physical bodies will be resurrected and transformed to live forever? It shouldn't.

### **Acts 26:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> [Paul said] I stand and am judged for **the hope** of **the promise** made by God to our fathers.

<sup>7</sup> To **this promise** our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, **hope** to attain. For this **hope's** sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.

<sup>8</sup> Why should it be thought incredible by you that **God raises the dead?**

Unbelievers view the resurrection of the body as incredible. Let us not think it incredible.

**NOTE:** The raising of the dead is called "***the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers.***"

This brings me to my last point:

## **THE ONE HOPE**

The resurrection of our bodies is the "**one hope**" we are called upon to have.

### **Ephesians 4:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in **one hope of your calling**;

<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all ...

**Q:** Does the "*one hope*" of this passage matter?

- **59%** of my brothers and sisters think this doesn't even matter.
- What about the "*one body*"? Does that matter?
- What about "*one Spirit ... one Lord ... one God*"? Do these things matter?

### **2 Timothy 2:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> [The] message [of false teachers] will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

<sup>18</sup> who have strayed concerning the truth, **saying that the resurrection is already past**; and they overthrow the faith of some.

To not believe in the bodily resurrection:

- Is "to stray concerning the truth."
- Is "to overthrow the faith of some."

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion: **59% of our brethren** surveyed do not believe this subject even matters. But listen to Paul:

### **1 Corinthians 15:13-19**

But if there is no resurrection of the dead [ones],

- 1) Christ is not raised [and stayed raised].
- 2) Our preaching is empty
- 3) Your faith is also empty.
- 4) We are found false witnesses
- 5) You are still in your sins!
- 6) Those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
- 7) We are of all men the most pitiable.

Here are 7 reasons why believing in the bodily resurrection matters.

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# FAQ

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## **Gen 2:17 - "In the day you eat ... you die"**

**Q:** Did Adam die physically the day he ate the forbidden fruit?

### **Genesis 2:17**

<sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for ***in the day that you eat*** of it ***you shall surely die.***"

Hebrew idiom for an oath = "***the day you do this, you seal your fate.***" On that very day Adam will have done something that cannot be reversed.

### **1 Kings 2:36-37**

<sup>36</sup> Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere.

<sup>37</sup> For it shall be, ***on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die;*** your blood shall be on your own head."

- Three years passed.

- Shimei crosses the Brook Kidron in search of runaway slaves.
- Comes home.
- He did not die within 24 hours of leaving the city.

This was an oath.

### **1 Kings 2:42-43**

<sup>42</sup> Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "***Did I not make you swear by the LORD, and warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die'?***" And you said to me, 'The word I have heard is good.'

<sup>43</sup> Why then have you not kept ***the oath of the LORD*** and the commandment that I gave you?"

Therefore: Gen 2:17 is an oath (promise) that Adam will have sealed his fate the day he eats the forbidden fruit.

- He would die several hundred years afterwards.
- His fate was sealed.
- Nothing he could do to change his fate.

To describe something that happens exactly "ON" a certain day we have the following wording:

### **Ezekiel 24:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Again, *in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month*, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, write down the name of the day, ***this very day*** — the king of Babylon started his siege against Jerusalem this very day.

### **Luke 13:31**

<sup>31</sup> ***On that very day*** some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You."

### **Luke 23:12**

<sup>12</sup> ***That very day*** Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

### **Romans 11:8**

<sup>8</sup> Just as it is written:

"God has given them a spirit of stupor,  
Eyes that they should not see  
And ears that they should not hear,  
***To this very day.***"

This kind of wording is NOT used in Gen 2:17.

### **Mt 22:32 – How does this passage prove the resurrection?**

**Q:** How does Mt 22:32 prove the resurrection?

### **Matthew 22:32**

<sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? **God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.**"

**"Prophetic future-tense"** = something so sure to happen that it is spoken of as if already accomplished.

It is so certain that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be brought forth alive that God speaks as if it were already an accomplished feat.

### **Romans 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed — ***God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;***

Look at Rom 4:17 carefully. This is divine commentary on Mt 22:32. God speaks of those who are dead as if they were actually alive.

### **Mt 22:32 – Why did Jesus quote from Ex 3:6?**

**Q:** Why did Jesus quote from Ex 3:6 to prove the resurrection when there were plenty of other OT passages which were more explicit?

**A:** Because the Sadducees (who were asking the question about resurrection) did not accept the entire OT as inspired. They accepted only the first 5 books as

authoritative. Hence, Jesus quotes from one of the first 5 books to prove the resurrection.

**1 Cor 15:37 - "What you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be."**

**Q:** Does 1 Cor 15:37 prove the physical body is not raised up?

**1 Corinthians 15:37**

<sup>37</sup> And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain — perhaps wheat or some other grain.

**Q:** Is this saying, "The body that dies is NOT the body raised?"

**A:** No!

In this very chapter we are taught the body buried is the body raised:

**1 Corinthians 15:42-44**

<sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead.

**The body is sown** in corruption, **it is raised** in incorruption.

<sup>43</sup> **It is sown** in dishonor, **it is raised** in glory.

**It is sown** in weakness, **it is raised** in power.

<sup>44</sup> **It is sown** a natural body, **it is raised** a spiritual body. ...



Clearly: What is being buried is being raised. V37 is teaching the body buried ≠ the body in its changed/final form.

### **1 Corinthians 15:51**

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed** —

Changed = transformed.

### **Philippians 3:21**

<sup>21</sup> who will **transform our lowly body** that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

### **1 Cor 15:50 - "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom."**

Q: Does 1 Cor 15:50 prove flesh-and-bones bodies cannot go to heaven?

### **1 Corinthians 15:50**

<sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

"flesh and blood" – contrasted with "corruption"

- "flesh and blood" = the living when Jesus returns
- "corruption" = the dead when Jesus returns

The point being made:

- Unaltered dead people cannot inherit incorruption.
- Unaltered living people cannot inherit immortality.

This verse is *NOT* saying flesh-and-bones bodies cannot go to heaven.

## **2 Cor 5:1-4?**

### **2 Corinthians 5:1**

<sup>1</sup> For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**Q:** Does this teach a different/separate body made by God – awaiting us in heaven?

**A:** It's describing the resurrected, changed body.

- The body will be resurrected (1 Cor 15:42-44).
- The resurrected body will be changed (1 Cor 15:51-52).
- This resurrected, changed body will be "*a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*"

This passage cannot be interpreted in a way to contradict all the plain passages which teach a bodily resurrection.

### **2 Corinthians 5:2-5**

<sup>2</sup> For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,  
<sup>3</sup> if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

<sup>4</sup> For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but ***further clothed***, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

**"further clothed"** = the body is not replaced (exchanged), but "further clothed" with immortality.

### **1 Tim 2:5 - Jesus had to have a physical body to be a man?**

Yes He did.

### **Hebrews 2:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, ***He Himself likewise shared in the same***, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,  
<sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

<sup>16</sup> For indeed ***He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.***

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, in all things ***He had to be made like His brethren***, that He might be a merciful and

faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

<sup>18</sup> For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

## **1 John 3:2 - "It has not yet appeared what we shall be."**

### **1 John 3:2**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and **it has not yet been [fully] revealed what we shall be**, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

I believe "fully" is implied here because there are several things that have been revealed.

- We will not marry nor be given in marriage (Mt 22:30).
- We will be like Jesus (Phil 3:21).
- We will have flesh and bones bodies (Lk 24:39).
- We will have incorruptible and immortal bodies (1 Cor 15:53).

### **Luke 24:39**

<sup>39</sup> Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have **flesh and bones** as you see **I have**."

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>21</sup> who will **transform our lowly body** that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

We will have bodies like Jesus.

### **AD 70 Theory**

**Q:** How does the resurrection disprove hyper-preterism (the AD 70 theory)?

### **John 6:44-45**

<sup>44</sup> **No one** can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and **I will raise him up at the last day.**

<sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, 'And **they shall all be taught by God.**' Therefore **everyone** who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

If "the last day" here refers to AD 70, then no one has/can be saved after AD 70.

- "Everyone" and "all" must be taught by God in order to come to Jesus.

- "Everyone" and "all" who come to Jesus will be "*raised up in the last day.*"
- Clearly this refers to the end of the world.

### **John 11:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> 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 at the last day.**"

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

Martha refers to "*the resurrection of the last day.*" This is the same resurrection Jesus spoke of in Jn 6:44-45. Neither Jesus nor Martha were envisioning AD 70.

### **"Change" = "transformed"???**

**Q:** Does "change" really mean "transformed" rather than "exchange"?

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>21</sup> who will **transform our lowly body** that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

## **"Death" = "separation"**

**Q:** Is death really a "separation" of the spirit from the body?

### **James 2:26**

<sup>26</sup> For as *the body without the spirit is dead*, so faith without works is dead also.

## **"Death" = "separation"**

### **1 Kings 17:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, *let this child's soul come back to him.*"

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and *the soul of the child came back to him*, and he revived.

### **Psalms 146:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> *His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;*  
In that very day his plans perish.

### **Ecclesiastes 12:7**

<sup>7</sup> Then the dust will return to the earth as it was,  
And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

### **Luke 8:55**

<sup>55</sup> Then *her spirit returned*, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat.

## **Cremation**

- 1) **God is able** to re-assemble a body which has been cremated. His power is not in question.
  - 2) Cremation lends to the attitude, "*When I die, I'm done with this body and will never need it again.*" If that doesn't describe you ... GOOD, but you are in the minority.
  - 3) God's people in the past buried the bodies of their loved ones in hope of a resurrection. This is how they demonstrated their belief in the resurrection.
- Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah to bury Sarah (Gen 23).

Jacob said this:

### **Genesis 49:29-31**

<sup>29</sup> ..."I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

<sup>30</sup> in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

<sup>31</sup> There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.



Joseph gave these instructions:

### **Genesis 50:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

According to the NT, this was done to demonstrate a "*hope in a better resurrection*":

### **Hebrews 11**

<sup>22</sup> *By faith Joseph*, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and ***gave instructions concerning his bones***.

<sup>35</sup> Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, ***that they might obtain a better resurrection***.

Cremation was something practiced by pagans.

### **Amos 2:1**

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD:  
"For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because ***he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime***.

## Q: What about the servants of Saul?

### **1 Samuel 31:8-13**

<sup>8</sup> So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

<sup>9</sup> And they cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim it in the temple of their idols and among the people.

<sup>10</sup> Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

<sup>11</sup> Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,

<sup>12</sup> all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and ***took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons*** from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and ***burned them there***.

<sup>13</sup> Then ***they took their bones and buried*** them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

- This does not show divine approval or disapproval. This is merely an account of action.
- This does not say why the bones were burned. (Some scholars think the soldiers wanted to prevent the Philistines from reacquiring the bodies and desecrating them further.)
- The burning was not a matter of economics (the primary motive for cremation today).

- These men didn't have the idea, "*Saul and his sons are done with their bodies and will never need them again.*"
- They risked their lives for something they considered valuable.
- They didn't grind the bones and scatter the leftover ashes.
- They buried the bodies in respect.

Conclusion: Each person will have to decide for themselves. I will not advise cremation because it lends to the thought, "*I'm done with this body and will never need it again.*"

### What age? Scars? Etc.

Q: When we are raised in fleshly bodies, what age will we be? Will we have scars? Will we have wrinkles? Will we have missing teeth? Will we be baldheaded?

#### **1 John 3:2**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has **not yet been [fully] revealed what we shall be**, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

I believe "fully" is implied here because there are several things that have been revealed.

- We will not marry nor be given in marriage (Mt 22:30).

- We will be like Jesus (Phil 3:21).
- We will have flesh and bones bodies (Lk 24:39).
- We will have incorruptible and immortal bodies (1 Cor 15:53).

So the passage is saying, "*It has not been fully revealed what we shall be.*"

### **Greeks believed in afterlife, but not resurrected bodies.**

#### **Acts 17**

<sup>18</sup> Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?"

Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and **the resurrection**.

<sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all **by raising Him from the dead.**"

<sup>32</sup> And when they heard of **the resurrection of the dead**, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."

Alexander Campbell:

Immortality, in the sacred writings, is never applied to the spirit of man. It is not the doctrine of Plato which the resurrection of Jesus proposes. It is the immortality of the

body of which his resurrection is a proof and pledge. This was never developed till he became the first born from the dead, and in a human body entered the heavens. Jesus was not a spirit when he returned to God. He is not made the Head of the New Creation as a spirit, but as the Son of Man.

*Christianity Restored, pp. 277-278.*

## **Jesus: Not recognized by disciples (?)**

**Q:** Was Jesus not in the same body because the disciples did not recognize Him?

### **Luke 24:16**

<sup>16</sup> But **their eyes were restrained**, so that they did not know Him.

The disciples could not recognize Jesus because a miracle was being performed upon their eyes.

## **Jesus: Body immaterial (?)**

Some think Jesus did not have material body of flesh because:

- He walked thru closed doors (Jn 20:19).
- He vanished from the sight of disciples (Lk 24:31).

This does not prove He had immaterial body. Notice miraculous events which occurred before His death – when everyone agrees He had a fully, fleshly body:

**Luke 4:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

<sup>29</sup> and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.

<sup>30</sup> ***Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.***

**Matthew 14:25**

<sup>25</sup> Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, ***walking on the sea.***

Furthermore, watch what happened with the apostles who were in fully, fleshly bodies:

**Acts 5:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said,

<sup>20</sup> "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

<sup>21</sup> And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

<sup>22</sup> But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported,

<sup>23</sup> saying, "***Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!***"

<sup>24</sup> Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be.

<sup>25</sup> So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

### **Acts 8:39**

<sup>39</sup> Now when they came up out of the water, ***the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away***, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

Neither Philip, nor the apostles, nor Jesus had immaterial bodies in the above passages. These passages speak of miracles as do the passages in question.

### **Jesus - When was the body of Jesus changed?**

**Q**: When was Jesus' body transformed (changed)?

The Lord's fleshly body was transformed so it would never die again, but it remained flesh and bones. The change which comes upon a resurrected body occurs "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*":

## **1 Corinthians 15:52**

<sup>52</sup> *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be *changed*.

There is no other scripture indicating when this change occurs after the body is raised.

Therefore, if Jesus is our "*firstfruits*," and "*what happened to Him happens to us*," then His body was changed "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*" and *it was a changed body which the disciples were beholding in the post-resurrection appearances*.

## **Jesus – Did the disciples see a changed body when they saw Jesus?**

See note above: "*Jesus – When was the body of Jesus changed?*"

## **Enoch, Elijah, Jesus.**

### **James 2:26**

<sup>26</sup> For as *the body without the spirit is dead*, so faith without works is dead also.

**"Death" = "separation"**



If death means separation, then these men (Enoch, Elijah and Jesus) entered into heaven in their fleshly bodies and their fleshly bodies will never die.

### **Hebrews 11:5**

<sup>5</sup> By faith *Enoch* was taken away so that *he did not see death*, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch's spirit was never separated from his fleshly body.

When Jesus resurrected, His spirit returned from Hades and re-entered into His fleshly body:

### **Acts 2:31**

<sup>31</sup> he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that *His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.*

- As long as Jesus' spirit stays in His resurrected body, death will have been conquered.
- If His spirit ever leaves His resurrected body, that body will die and death will not be conquered.

### **1 Corinthians 15:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

<sup>26</sup> The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Jesus cannot "*destroy death*" by allowing His own resurrected body to die, disintegrate, or disappear.

## **Hope = bodily resurrection**

**Q:** Is the "one hope" (Eph 4:4) really the bodily resurrection?

### **Acts 23:6**

<sup>6</sup> But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning **the hope and resurrection of the dead** I am being judged!"

### **Acts 24:15**

<sup>15</sup> **I have hope** in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

### **Acts 26:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> And now I stand and am judged for **the hope of the promise** made by God to our fathers.

<sup>7</sup> To **this promise** our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, **hope** to attain. For this **hope's** sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.

<sup>8</sup> Why should it be thought incredible by you that **God raises the dead?**

### **Acts 28:20**

<sup>20</sup> For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for **the hope of Israel** I am bound with this chain."

## **Mormon doctrine (?)**

**Q:** Is the bodily resurrection Mormon doctrine?

**A:** No.

If teaching a physical, bodily resurrection for Jesus is equivalent to Mormon doctrine, then:

- All believers of the Westminster Confession of Faith are advocating Mormon doctrine – but they are not teaching such doctrine.
- Alexander Campbell advocated Mormon doctrine – but he did not advocate such doctrine. (Campbell more than others would know about Mormon doctrine because of Sidney Rigdon.)

Mormons teach:

- God the Father is flesh and bones.
- He has sex in heaven with women to produce the spirits of humans.
- Those humans are then sent down to earth in their own bodies.

The bodily resurrection is teaching none of these things.

Bodily resurrection means:

- Jesus is the only member of the Godhead who was incarnated.

- Death means the separation of the spirit from the body (Ja 2:26).
- When Jesus died, His spirit went to Hades, His body was buried in the grave (Acts 2:31).
- When He resurrected, His spirit came out of Hades, re-entered His body and He was alive again (Acts 2:31).
- He entered into heaven in His resurrected body which was made of flesh and bones (Lk 24:39; Acts 1:11).
- If His spirit ever separates from His resurrected body, He will have experienced death again (Ja 2:26).
- The future resurrection and eternal life of all humanity depends on Jesus never dying again (1 Cor 15:20-22).

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>21</sup> For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so ***in Christ all shall be made alive.***

We cannot be made alive by Jesus dying again.