

No one but the Father knows when Jesus will come back
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- No one knows the time of Christ's Second Coming.
- 1 Thessalonians 4 describes the Rapture, when we meet Him in the sky.
- 1 Thessalonians 5 describes the next event, the Second Coming, which happens after the Tribulation.
- The Second Coming is the Day of Judgment, the time when Jesus comes to separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31–46), the wheat from the chaff (Matthew 3:12; 13:30).

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- This is the day when Christ will “gather his elect from the four winds” (Matthew 24:31).
- On that day, those who have already been raptured with Christ will come with Him on the clouds.
- But there will also be believers on the earth – those who became Christians during the Tribulation.
- Those believers will see Him coming on the clouds, along with all the believers who were raptured.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- In this section, Paul said the Thessalonians didn't really need anyone to write to them about the Second Coming because they already knew the signs of the end times.
- In the immediately preceding passage (4:13–18), Paul clarified a detail of the Second Coming, a specific question the Thessalonians had about what would happen to those who had already died in Christ.
- Paul was saying here that the Thessalonians didn't need an explanation of the timeline of the Second Coming about "the times and seasons" (5:1).

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- They already knew it would come as a surprise, like a thief in the night (5:2) or a pregnant woman's labor pains (5:3).
- The apostles had taught the Thessalonians this when they were with them in Thessalonica and first established the church and trained the Thessalonians in basic Christian doctrine (2 Thessalonians 2:5).
- When Paul and other missionaries converted new believers, they spent time teaching them theology, including the sayings of Jesus. The Second Coming was one of the topics they made sure to cover.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- The Second Coming would be a surprise for everyone. No one but the Father knows the day or the hour, not even Jesus Himself (Matthew 24:36).
- It will be as in the days of Noah, when people went about their regular lives – eating, drinking, getting married – and were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away.
- People will think everything's fine – “there is peace and security, then sudden destruction will come on them.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- Destruction? Birth pangs? A thief breaking into your house?
- None of these things sound good. We often think of the Second Coming as a great thing.
- The Bible talks about believers longing for the day Christ will return.
- But that is because the Second Coming will be a day of great joy for us.
- It will be a day of great terror, however, for those who do not know Jesus as their personal Savior.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- In Christ's First Coming, He came not to judge the world but to save it (John 3:17).
- In His Second Coming, He will come in judgment (Matthew 25:31–46).
- Like any judgment, it will be a good day for those who receive justice and a bad day for those who receive a “guilty” verdict.
- For believers, it will be a day of unspeakable joy. For those who do not know the Lord, it will be a day of destruction from which “they will not escape.”

1 Thessalonians 5:4-7

- Believers won't be surprised in the same way as unbelievers because they will always live awake and ready.
- The Second Coming will surprise Christians because no one, except the Father, knows the day or hour (Matthew 24:36), but it will not surprise us like a thief because we do not live in darkness; we are children of the light.
- For us it will be a good surprise, because for us the Day of Judgment is a good day, not a bad one. Because we are children of the light, not children of darkness (verse 4).

1 Thessalonians 5:4-7

- The phrases “children of the light” and “sons of the light” are used often in the New Testament (Luke, John, Ephesians, 1 John).
- The metaphor of light versus darkness is about good versus evil (John 3:19).
- People still use this metaphor today, even in the secular world, especially in movies and books.
- “God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5) means God is 100-percent good; there is not a bit of evil in Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-7

- Staying awake and sober is an extended metaphor of this idea of staying in the light, walking in the light, and abiding in Christ.
- It's not actually about not getting drunk, though the Bible certainly condemns drunkenness in several other places (Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19–21; Ephesians 5:18).
- We know it's a metaphor because we can't literally stay awake indefinitely. Staying awake, alert, and sober is about staying in the light—so we are always ready for Jesus to return.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

- We will always be ready if we put on the armor of God.
- The key passage about the armor of God is found in Ephesians 6:10–18.
- Ephesians 5 used this same language of walking as children of the light.
- In Ephesians, Paul was encouraging believers to stand firm, to persevere.
- We need spiritual armor to protect ourselves from the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

- The breastplate of faith and love protects our bodies, and the helmet of the hope of salvation protects our minds.
- There is no offensive weapon or talk of the battle here as in Ephesians.
- Paul's focus is not on fighting, but on the hope of salvation because the context is about being ready for the Second Coming.
- Our hope is in salvation because we are children of the light.
- We are not marching toward wrath like the children of darkness.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

- Paul uses this last play on words, “whether awake or asleep,” to refer to their earlier question about those who had already “fallen asleep” in Christ.
- In this section thus far, he has been talking about “staying awake” as in staying alert and ready for Christ’s coming.
- Now he flips back to “awake” versus “asleep” to talk about those who are still alive in Christ and those who have passed away in Christ, “that whether we are awake or asleep, we might live with Him” (verse 10).

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

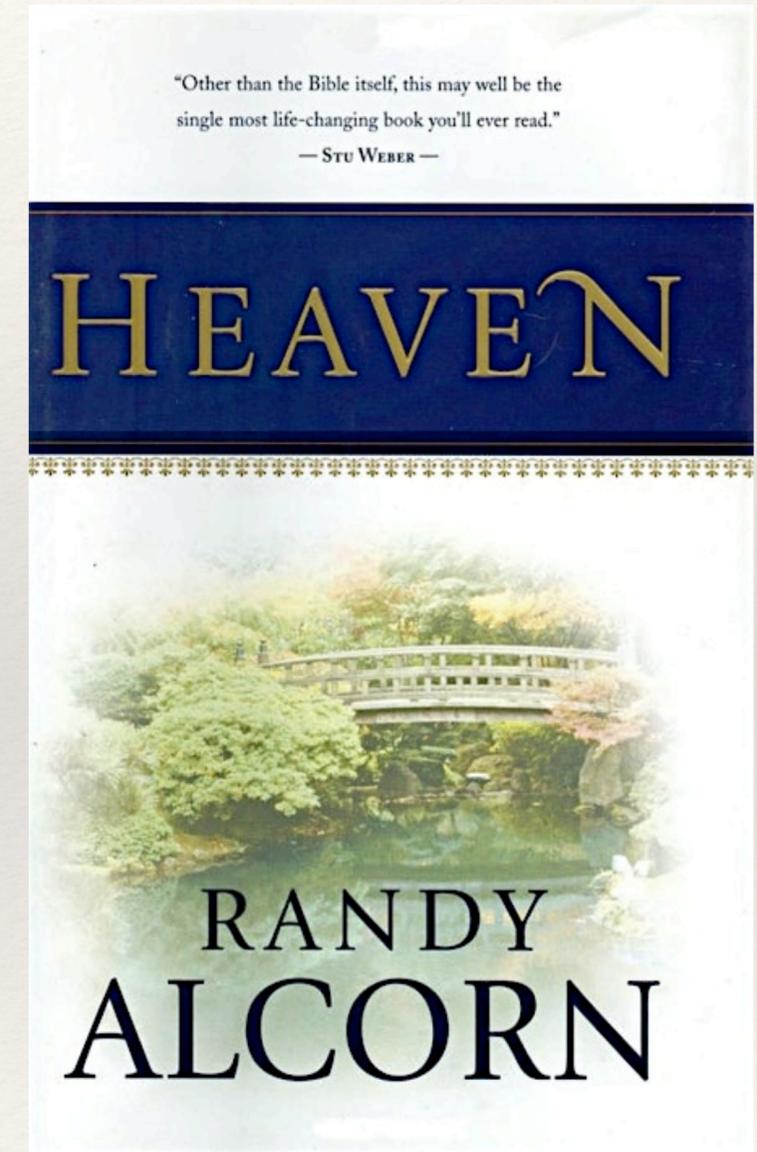
- All of this should be encouraging news for believers (verse 11).
- They could continue to encourage one another as they have been doing.
- As we go through the battles of this life, believers can encourage one another to set our minds on the heavenly prize; this will help us press on. (Philippians 3:14).
- Encouragement and community are crucial in this life of walking in the light.
- We are fighting a spiritual battle together as the body of Christ.

Ask Kerby



ASK KERBY

Heaven Questions



Resurrection Bodies

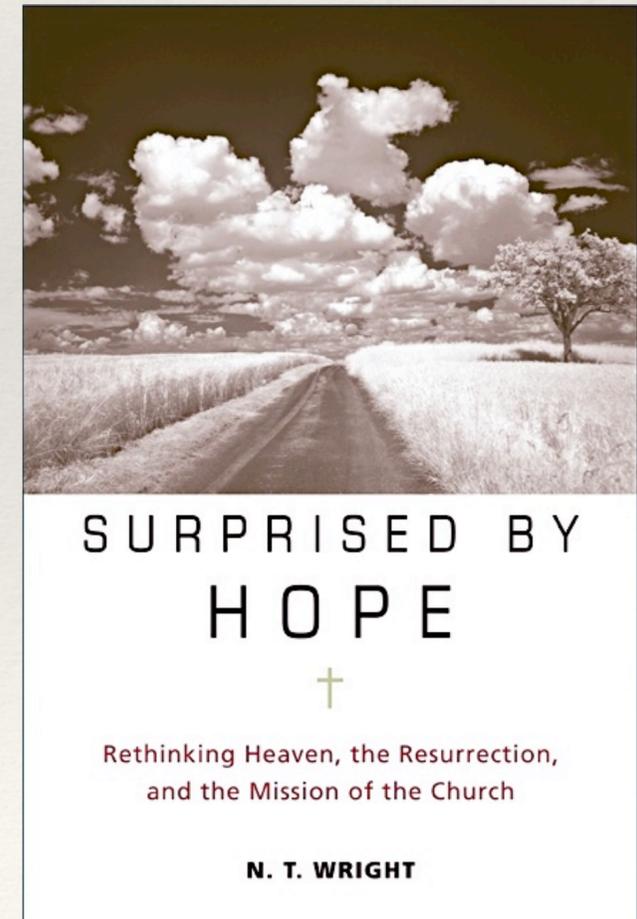
- Job 19:25-27
- Daniel 12:2-3
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-58
- Philippians 3:21
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- Revelation 20:4-6

Resurrection Bodies

<i>Earthy Body</i>	<i>Resurrection Body</i>
<i>Sown perishable</i>	<i>Raised imperishable</i>
<i>Sown in dishonor</i>	<i>Raised in glory</i>
<i>Sown in weakness</i>	<i>Raised in power</i>
<i>Sown a natural body</i>	<i>Raised a spiritual body</i>

Resurrection Bodies

- The resurrected body of Jesus is a prototype of our resurrection bodies.
- The Bible in 1 John 3 tell us that when Jesus appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Our bodies will be like Jesus.
- Jesus wasn't immediately recognized a few times.
- Jesus ate food in his resurrection body (Luke 14:15; 22:18).
- He will eat and drink in heaven.
- There will be no hunger or thirst in heaven (Revelation 7:16).



Resurrection Bodies

- Jesus tells the disciples to touch Him (Luke 24:39) and see who He is.
- Jesus called people in Heaven by name (Luke 16:25) - Abraham, Lazarus, etc.
- Unique - Heaven rejoices over each and every person (Luke 15:4-7, 10).
- When someone is ill, we say they are a “shadow of their former self.”
- A Christian in this present life is a mere shadow of his or her future self.
- This is our resurrection body.

Beautiful Bodies

- Our bodies will shine:
 - We will “shine brightly” (Daniel 12:3)
 - The “righteous will shine like the sun” (Matthew 13:43).
- Bodies at the Transfiguration:
 - During Christ’s transfiguration, his clothing “became as bright as a flash of lightning” (Luke 9:29).
 - Moses and Elijah “appeared in glorious splendor” (Luke 9:31).

Eat in Heaven?

- “Will not drink again until the Kingdom of God comes” (Luke 22:18).
- Feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven (Luke 8:11).
- Wedding supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).
- When still on earth, Jesus ate with disciples (Luke 24:40-43; Acts 10:40-41),

Drinking in Heaven?

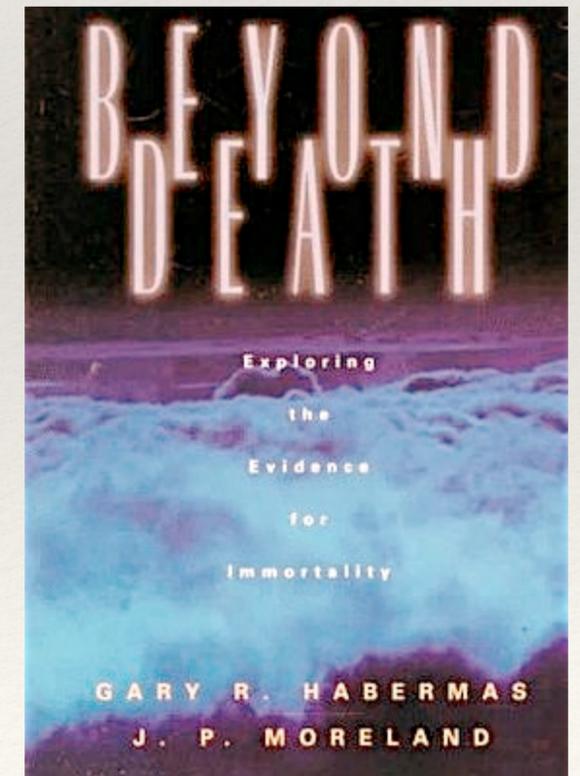
- On the New Earth, we will drink from the spring of the water of life (Revelation 21:6).
- God will prepare for us “a banquet of aged wine” finest wine (Isaiah 25:6).
- We will drink wine and eat from the fruit trees (Revelation 22:2). Drink juice from the 12 fruits from the tree.

Animals in Heaven?

- Horses (2 Kings 2:11; Revelation 6:2-8).
- Animals in millennial kingdom will probably also be in New Heaven and New Earth. Isaiah 11 - wolf, lamb, lion, ox, leopard, goat, calf, cobra.
- Like humans, animals were formed from the ground.
- God breathed a spirit into Adam's body (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word is *nephesh* - meaning soul or spirit.
- The same Hebrew word is used for animals and for people.

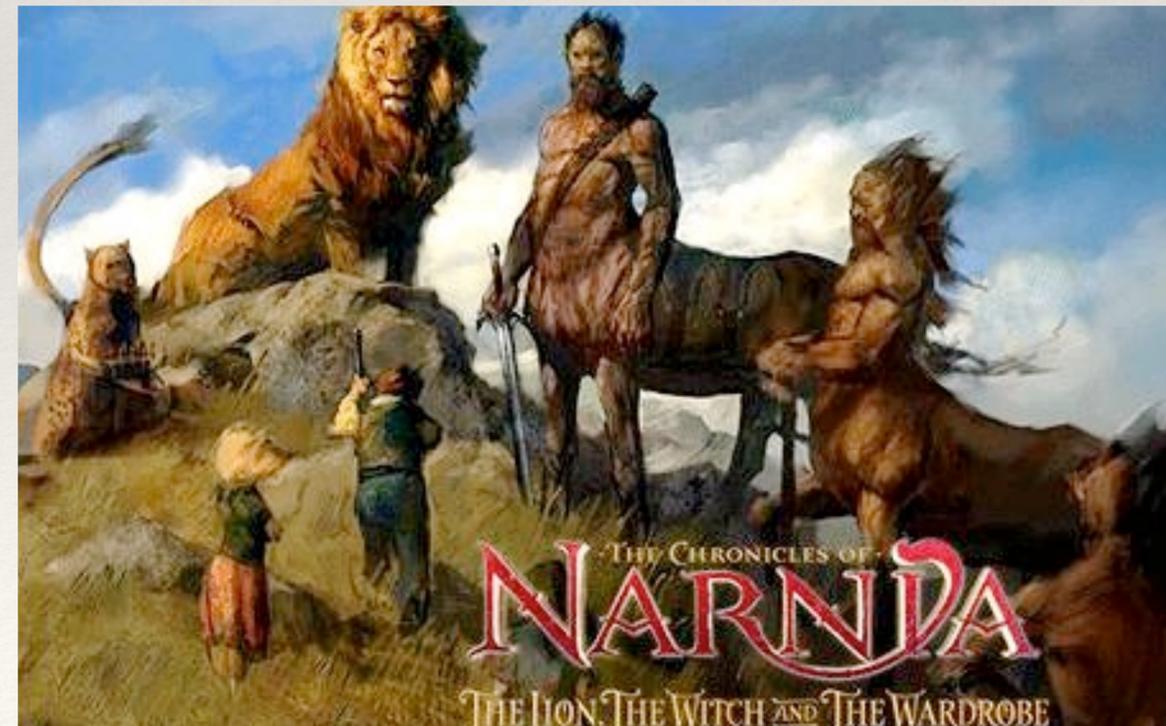
Animals in Heaven?

- Gary Habermas and J.P. Moreland
- “It wasn’t until the advent of the seventeenth-century Enlightenment . . . that the existence of animal souls was even questioned in Western civilization . . . the doctrine that animals, as well as humans, have souls.”
- Do animals have a human soul? No
- Are animals and humans different? Yes
- The Bible seems to teach that animals have a soul of some type.



Animals Talk?

- He taught a spiritual lesson to Balaam through his donkey (Numbers 22).
- Satan used a serpent to tempt Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1), but after the Curse animals could not talk.
- Revelation 8:13 - an eagle calls out in a loud voice.
- Every creature will praise God (Revelation 5:13).



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