



*the* **HOPE** *of Easter*

# Corinth



# Heavenly Bodies

- Our earthly bodies are just a seed of our heavenly bodies
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-41
- Paul used a form of ancient Greek rhetoric called the diatribe, in which the writer anticipates objections people may have to their argument and answers them one by one.

# Heavenly Bodies

- Opening with “someone will ask” shows us that these questions aren’t necessarily ones the Corinthians had asked but ones Paul may have heard from other people.
- He was answering the objection before they raised it.
- It sounds very reasonable, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body?”

# Heavenly Bodies

- Paul's answer about the seed's having to die shows us that the question wasn't just about the type of body we will have in when Jesus returns.
- It was an objection people were making to the very idea of resurrection of the dead in general, even to Jewish rabbis at the time.

# Heavenly Bodies

- What if the body were decapitated, completely burned, or otherwise severely damaged?
- In their mind, these examples “proved” that resurrection was a ridiculous concept.
- The Jewish rabbis answered this by saying the body would be resurrected from a particular bone in the neck they believed was indestructible.

# Heavenly Bodies

- Paul responded by using a seed as an analogy.
- A seed has to “die” to “come to life” as a plant.
- Sowing a seed in the ground is like burying a body.
- The kernel of the seed has to break open for the plant to grow out of it.

# Heavenly Bodies

- The seed and the plant are connected to one another, but they are not the same thing.
- The plant is the full, complete outgrowth of the seed.
- This is a very different concept than being raised again in a healed but otherwise unchanged body.

# Heavenly Bodies

- Paul described the heavenly body as radically transformed from the earthly body.
- The earthly body is just a “seed” of the heavenly body.
- The two are certainly connected; but they are not the same thing.

# Heavenly Bodies

- Our heavenly bodies will still be us; they will be recognizable to our friends and family. But they will not be just like our earthly bodies.
- They will be a whole new level, as a plant is to a seed or a chicken is to an egg. This is transformation, not just restoration. It's a new creation blooming out of the old, not just a return to the original creation.

# Heavenly Bodies

- Paul used another comparison to explain. There are different kinds of “flesh” for different creatures on earth – human, birds, animals, fish.
- These are the same categories of creatures listed in the creation (Genesis 1), which points us ahead to the idea that the resurrection of the dead is part of the new creation (Revelation 21–22).

# Resurrection Body

- The resurrection body is imperishable, powerful, and honorable
- 1 Corinthians 15:42-44
- In the analogies section, Paul gave us three examples of differences: 1) different kinds of flesh – humans, animals, birds, fish; 2) different kinds of bodies – earthly, heavenly; and 3) different kinds of glory – sun, moon, stars.

# Resurrection Body

- The “So it is” in verse 42 is the crucial hinge phrase that connects the analogies to the application.
- Paul was not introducing a new, contradictory idea.
- He was explaining resurrection using the analogy of differing glories – what is sown (seed) versus what is raised (full plant).

# Resurrection Body

- The repeated phrases “it is sown ... it is raised,” show continuity of identity.
- It’s the same person, but in different modes of existence.
- Earthly body transforming to resurrection body; earthly glory transforming to heavenly glory:

# Resurrection Body

- Perishable to imperishable – This first one is simple. We go from mortal to immortal, from a form that can die to a form that cannot die.
- The rest is what might get confusing, but they all essentially say the same thing in different ways.
- This is a common format of Hebrew poetry, repeating the same idea with different phrases.

# Resurrection Body

- Dishonor to glory—This isn't to say the earthly body is evil or wrong. This isn't a moral or sinful kind of "dishonor."
- Death subjects the body to "humiliation" – decay, weakness, loss of beauty. But resurrection reverses that state.
- Like perishable to imperishable, this is also about mortality versus immortality.

# Resurrection Body

- Weakness to power – We see the same mortality-to-immortality in this phrase.
- The earthly body is weak because it can die.
- The heavenly body is powerful because it cannot die.

# Resurrection Body

- Natural to spiritual – This doesn't mean physical versus non-physical; it's about what governs or empowers the body. The word "natural" is *psyche* – the soul or mind, so it's not just the flesh. The word "spiritual" is *pneuma*, the Spirit.
- The difference isn't flesh versus spirit; it is that the natural body is governed by the human soul/mind; the spiritual body is governed by the Holy Spirit.

# Eternal Bodies

- Our eternal, glorified bodies have the Spirit of God
- 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
- This section continues the comparison of the “natural body” to the “spiritual body” by comparing the first Adam to the second Adam (Jesus).

# Eternal Bodies

- The resurrected body is part of the new creation.
- Paul used the same language of “natural” body versus “spiritual” body to contrast Adam and Jesus.
- Adam became a “living soul” (*psyche*, the same word used for “natural” body). Jesus became a “life-giving spirit” (*pneuma*, the same word used for “spiritual” body).

# Eternal Bodies

- When we are made new creations in Christ, then the Holy Spirit dwells in us (Ezekiel 36:27; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- At that point, we are still living in our natural, perishable bodies, but we have the Holy Spirit in us. It's like having a foot in both worlds, a citizen of heaven walking around on earth (Philippians 3:20).

# Eternal Bodies

- The contrast between “those who are of the dust” and “those who are of heaven” reminds us of the distinction between our bodies now and our resurrected bodies that are yet to come.
- The earthly body will die and return to the earth, whether buried or cremated. Our new bodies will be made in the image of the glorified, resurrected body of Jesus.

# Eternal Bodies

- This reflects the process of sanctification in our lives.
- We are born once in the natural body but born again in Christ when He puts His Spirit within our natural earthly bodies (John 3:1–8).
- We are made new creations in Christ the minute we accept Him as our Lord and Savior, even though we are still in the same physical body.

# Eternal Bodies

- Then the Spirit works in us throughout our lives to grow our inner person into His image with ever increasing glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- In this life, we are in a kind of in-between, like the difference between seeing “through a mirror dimly,” and seeing face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12).

# Robert J. Morgan

## Seven Qualities of Our Resurrection Bodies

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# Same But Different

- Our Resurrection Bodies Will Be the Same But Different.
- Verses 36-38: “What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as He has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.”

# Same But Different

- Our resurrection bodies will be of the same nature as our current bodies. The substance and essence of them will be the same. When you plant beans you don't get corn.
- Our resurrection bodies will be superior to our current bodies. Compare an acorn and an oak tree or a kernel of corn to a corn stalk, and you'll see that what springs out of the earth is much better than what falls into the earth.

# Resurrection Bodies

- 1. Our resurrection bodies will be incapable of dying.
- Right now, we're subject to death at any moment. Our bodies here are perishing. They die.
- But after the resurrection our glorified and transformed bodies will be incapable of dying.

# Resurrection Bodies

- Romans 6:8-11: “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. The death he died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

# Resurrection Bodies

- 2. Our resurrection bodies will be incapable of pain and tears.
- Right now, we're subject to terrible pain. Some of our pain is from diseases and injuries and illnesses. Some people experience terrible pain inflicted by others. Some are even tortured.
- But our resurrection bodies will be incapable of pain.

# Resurrection Bodies

- Revelation 21:4 says: “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of thing has passed away.”

# Resurrection Bodies

- 3. Our resurrection bodies will be physical and real and corporal and recognizable.
- Look at Luke 24:36-43, an event that took place on the day Jesus rose from the dead: While they were still talking about this, Jesus stood among them and showed them his body and ate with them.

# Resurrection Bodies

- 4. Our resurrection bodies may have extra-dimensional qualities.
- Going back to Luke 24, verses 30-31 say: When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. And then vanished.
- Look at John 20:19-20: Jesus seemed to have been able to pass right through locked doors.

# Resurrection Bodies

- 5. Our resurrection bodies will be in the prime of life.
- Many theologians have taught that in terms of the spectrum of apparent age, we'll all appear to be perhaps somewhere around thirty-three years old in heaven.
- Adam and Eve, they were created in the prime of life. They weren't created as babies, nor were they elderly.

# Resurrection Bodies

- 6. Our racial and gender identities will probably continue into heaven.
- I believe if you're a man on earth, you'll be a man in heaven. If you're a woman you'll be a woman.
- If you're Caucasian or Asian or Black or Jewish or whatever, that's what you'll be in heaven. Let me give you two verses from Revelation that seem to suggest this.

# Resurrection Bodies

- Revelation 5:9: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.”
- Revelation 7:9: “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

# Resurrection Bodies

- 7. We may have a luminescent quality to us.
- Do you remember what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15 about the glory of the heavenly bodies being different from those of earth?
- What was the major difference?
- Their glow and their glory.

# Resurrection Bodies

- In Exodus 34, Moses spent time with the Lord and something unusual happened to him.
- Look at verse 29: “When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken to the Lord. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near Him.”

# Resurrection Bodies

- Look at Luke 9:28-30, which also features Moses:
- “About eight days after Jesus said this, He took Peter, John, and James with Him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightening. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus.”

# Resurrection Bodies

- When we see Jesus after His ascension, His face is as brilliant as the sunshine. In Acts 9, Saul of Tarsus saw him and was blinded by the experience.
- In Revelation 1, John saw a vision of the enthroned Christ and He was splendorous. And in Revelation 21, we're told that the entire city of New Jerusalem will be luminescent and illumined by the light that radiates from the resurrected Christ.

# Resurrection Bodies

- Daniel 12:3 says about the resurrected saints: "...those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens."
- Matthew 13:43 says: "Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

# Resurrection Bodies

