

What Will Our Resurrected Bodies Be Like?

I. THE GLORY OF THE GOSPEL

- A. God became a human and died and then overpowered death. A human has power over death and desires to share that power with other humans who choose to live in relationship with Him. Scripture gives insight into the nature of our resurrected body (Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43; Rom. 8:21-23, 29; 1 Cor. 15:35-58; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thes. 4:13-17; 1 Jn. 3:2; Rev. 21:4). This is enriched by insight into Jesus' resurrected body (Lk. 24:13-53; Jn. 20-21; Acts 1:3-11)
- ¹ I declare to you the gospel...² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.³ For I delivered to you first of all that...Christ died for our sins...⁴ and that He rose again the third day... (1 Cor. 15:1-4)*
- B. The resurrection speaks of transforming the same body that died, not creating a completely new body. There is continuity between our body that dies and our body that is resurrected. It includes each person's unique personality, genetics, and appearance brought to full perfection.
- C. The NT only gives us seeds of truth about the nature of our resurrected bodies, but they are enough to anchor our soul. Some believe it is unrealistic to think on the age to come (Col. 3:2).
- ¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul... (Heb. 6:19)*
- D. We will live in a material, resurrected body on a material earth with the supernatural abilities of the resurrection. We will eat and drink real food and drink. We will not have all knowledge, but will learn line by line and event by event. We will work with a deep sense of purpose and relevance in partnership with God, yet without toil or frustration. We will have relationships that grow. We will meet new people, grow to know them, and introduce them to others.
- E. Heaven will come down to earth. Jesus will join the heavenly and natural realms together on this earth at the time of His second coming (Eph. 1:10). Some think of heaven as playing a harp on a cloud. If we do not think accurately about heaven, we will not think of it at all.
- F. At death, the spirit of a believer goes to the Lord, but they do not receive their physical body until the second coming. Between the resurrection of Jesus and the second coming, believers are in God's presence with a disembodied spirit or possibly an "interim" body (Rev. 6:9-11).
- ⁸ ...To be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:8)*
- ¹⁶ The Lord...will descend from heaven...and the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thes. 4:16)*
- G. God will give us a resurrected body that will be conformed to Jesus' own resurrected body. The Father "custom designed" Jesus' body, giving Him the best design possible. We will be like Him in spirit, soul, body, mind, emotions, and in the dwelling in which we live.
- ²¹ Will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body... (Phil. 3:21)*
- ² We know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him... (1 Jn 3:2)*

H. The overall truth that affects all the activities in our resurrected bodies is the removal of sadness.
⁴ *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain... (Rev. 21:4)*

I. Paul outlined five qualities in our resurrected body that will affect all of our specific abilities.
⁴² *The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.* ⁴³ *It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.* ⁴⁴ *It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body...* ⁵² *The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* ⁵³ *For...this mortal must put on immortality. (1 Cor. 15:42-53)*

1. Corruption, but raised in incorruption: vitality and strength replace sickness and decay
2. Dishonor, but raised in glory: purity and honor replace failure, shame, and dishonor
3. Weakness, but raised in power: safety and prosperity replace injustice, vulnerability and pain
4. Natural body, but raised a spiritual body: supernatural capacities replace natural ones
5. Mortality puts on immortality: unending life and love replace physical death and loss

II. THE GLORY IN JESUS' RESURRECTED BODY

A. Jesus' resurrected body is full of light that is brighter than the sun (Isa. 24:23; Hab. 3:4; Jn. 8:12; Acts 26:13-14; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 1:16; 21:24; 22:3-5). His robes are radiant with light (Ps. 104:1-2). Jesus' eyes have fire in them which speaks of His holiness and tenderness (Rev. 1:14; 19:12).

² *He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun... (Mt. 17:2)*

³ *Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being... (Heb. 1:3 NIV)*

B. Jesus could veil His glory fully or partially or unveil it to show His terrifying glory (Rev. 1:17; Lk. 24:37). At times, Jesus was not recognized as He veiled His resurrection glory (Lk. 24:16, 31; Jn. 20:14-15; 21:4). He could suddenly appear or vanish from sight.

¹³ *Two of them were traveling that same day to...Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem...* ¹⁵ *While they conversed...Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.* ¹⁶ *Their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him...* ³¹ *Their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight... (Lk. 24:13-31)*

³³ *They rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,* ³⁴ *saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"* ³⁵ *They told about the things that had happened on the road...* ³⁶ *As they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them [apostles], and said to them, "Peace to you."* ³⁷ *But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. (Lk. 24:33-37)*

C. Jesus' resurrected body has "supernatural flesh" with bones and has the capacity to eat food.

³⁸ *He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"* ³⁹ *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."...* ⁴¹ *...He said to them, "Have you any food here?"* ⁴² *So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish...* ⁴³ *He took it and ate in their presence. (Lk. 24:38-43)*

- D. We will have the pleasure in the positive side of hunger and thirst without the pain of lack.
¹⁵ I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God...¹⁸ I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes...²⁹ I bestow upon you a kingdom...³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging...Israel. (Lk. 22:15-30)
- E. John added details to the events occurring in Luke 24. Jesus walked through the wall to enter a room when the doors were shut (Jn. 20:19, 26). He showed them the scars in His hands, feet, and side (Jn. 20:27). During His third appearance, He prepared a fire and cooked fish (Jn. 21:9-14).
¹⁹ When the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side... (Jn. 20:19-20)
- ²⁴ Thomas...was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ ...He said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”²⁶ After eight days His disciples were again inside...Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst...²⁷ He said to Thomas, “...reach your hand here, and put it into My side.” (Jn. 20:24-27)*
- F. Jesus appeared to His disciples to teach them for forty days and then traveled on a cloud.
³ He presented Himself alive after His suffering...being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God...⁹ While they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (Acts 1:3, 9)

III. DIFFERENT MEASURES OF GLORY IN THE RESURRECTED BODY

- A. Each believer will receive a different measure of glory in their resurrected body. There will be a vast range of degrees of glory including those who are called the least and greatest (Mt. 5:19).
⁴¹ For one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)
- B. As there is difference of gifts, ministries, and activities in the Body of Christ in this age, so there will be great diversity in all of these in the age to come (1 Cor. 12:4-6, 11, 18-19).
⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities... (1 Cor. 12:4-6)
- C. The saints are filled with God’s light, glory, and the perfection of beauty. Those most faithful in making known God's truth to others will shine the most brightly.
³ The...wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament...like stars forever. (Dan. 12:3)
⁴³ The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:43)
¹⁷ Let the beauty of the LORD...be upon us, and establish the work of our hands... (Ps. 90:17)

- D. Our five senses will be enhanced by the supernatural power of the Spirit in our:
1. **Sight**: seeing clearly at a distance or at close range
 2. **Hearing**: at distances and with great perception and perfect balance, etc.
 3. **Taste**: enjoyment of food and water to the fullest degree (1 Cor. 10:31; Rev. 22:1-2)
 4. **Touch**: to have glorified physical senses to feel perfectly
 5. **Smell**: to enjoy and bring to remembrance important moments of our lives
- E. We will possess supernatural abilities:
1. **To think**: to learn, grow in understanding, and to remember
 2. **In health**: there will be no fatigue or lack of energy, nor sickness, nor death
 3. **In strength**: expressed in our speed, endurance, and strength in lifting objects
 4. **In the material realm**: modes of travel and passing through walls like Jesus did?
 5. **To communicate**: to speak, sing, and play musical instruments, etc. Our communication skills will be deep and clear without mistakes, as we fully comprehend another's intent.
- F. Our history with people will be cherished (2 Cor. 4:14; 1 Thes. 2:19; Phil. 2:16; Lk. 16:9).
¹⁹ ***What is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? (1 Thes. 2:19)***
- G. To understand the rewards and life of the resurrected believers, we must understand Jesus' earthly 1,000-year reign over all the nations in the Millennium as seen in Rev. 20:4-6. For **FREE resources** on the resurrected body, see mikebickle.org for Mike Bickle's 12-part teaching series with notes, titled "Studies in the Millennial Kingdom: Heaven on Earth."
- H. Our **communion** with Jesus will vary according to our degree of spiritual capacity (Rev. 2:28; 22:16; Gen. 15:1). Our **position** when gathering before God in the New Jerusalem is affected by our obedience now (Lk. 14:7-24). We will receive **praise** from God according to our deeds (Jn. 12:26; 1 Pet. 1:7; Mt. 25:21, 1 Cor. 4:5). Our **work assignment** and its authority affect the closeness of our **proximity to Jesus** (Mt. 19:28, 30; 20:16, 27; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21). Our **garments** have varying dimensions of God's glory (Rev. 3:4-5, 18; 16:15; 19:7-8). We will receive **crowns** (1 Cor 9:25; 1 Thes. 2:19; 2 Tim. 2:5; 4:8; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 3:11). We will receive **riches** and treasures (Mt. 5:12; 6:4, 6, 18, 20; 10:42; 16:27; 19:21; Lk. 6:23, 35; 12:21, 33; 16:11; 18:22; Rev. 2:9; 3:18; 22:12) which include the location and design of our heavenly **dwelling place**.
- I. Our practical response to the revelation of the resurrection is to live steadfast and immovable.
⁵⁸ ***Therefore...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58)***