

A Theology of Heaven

Part Four: "The Nature of Our Resurrection"

Hope of Resurrection

- The great hope of believers is bodily resurrection at Christ's return
- Without bodily resurrection there is no salvation
 - God created us body and soul
 - Christ redeemed us body and soul
 - We will live forever as body and soul

Nature of Our Resurrection

Essentials:

1. An essential continuity with our current bodies
2. A tremendous "change" of our current bodies

Nature of Our Resurrection

Continuity

- Essence of "resurrection"
 - a return to physical life after death
 - not creating something entirely new

Nature of Our Resurrection

Continuity

1. The body that dies is the same body that is raised
2. It is a bodily resurrection
 - physical – flesh and bone
 - Not changed to non-physical

Nature of Our Resurrection

Jesus: Our Prototype

"...the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory..." (Philippians 3:20-21)

"Now Christ had been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep."
(1 Corinthians 15:20)

"And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, we shall bear the image of the heavenly man."
(1 Corinthians 15:49)

Luke 24:36-43

And while they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst.

But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.

And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.

Luke 24:36-43

And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

And they gave him a piece of broiled fish; and he took it and ate it before them.

Nature of Our Resurrection

Jesus: Our Prototype

- the same body that died (empty tomb)
- recognizable as the Jesus they knew
- physical – flesh and bone (not a spirit)
- He ate and drank
- He walked, reclined, conversed

Nature of Our Resurrection

Jesus: Our Prototype

- Apparent "non-physical" activities?
 - His ability to appear and disappear out of sight suddenly (Luke 24:31, 36; John 20:19)
 - Explanation: miraculous (transported, or hid from sight, or a unique ability)
 - Do **not** conclude that Jesus was essentially a spirit who manifested himself in a body

Nature of Our Resurrection

Question of Cremation?

- Does this negate "continuity" in the resurrection? **No!**
 - God is able to raise the same body again even from dust
 - Cremation is not inherently wrong, though burial is the normal Scriptural practice
- God will raise you bodily to be essentially you, though new and changed*