

Sunday, April 20, 2025—I Corinthians 15:35-50 How Are the Dead Raised Up? (Easter 2025)

Introduction

- Today, we delve into the profound significance of Christ's resurrection, as explored in 1 Corinthians 15. This pivotal event is not just a historical fact, but the cornerstone of our faith. Paul's powerful argument reminds us that without the resurrection, our faith would be in vain. We're challenged to confront modern skepticism with the same fervor as the early Christians. The empty tomb isn't just an ancient mystery; it's a living hope that transforms our present and future. As we reflect on the eyewitness accounts and the logical impossibility of alternative explanations, we're invited to renew our trust in the risen Christ.
- Either the resurrection of Jesus is the greatest miracle of history, or it is the biggest hoax ever perpetrated against the human race.
- The most logical explanation of the empty tomb is the fact that it was a divine work, and the scriptures are true and they teach that Jesus Christ miraculously rose from the dead after three days and three nights.

I Corinthians 15:35-38

- **But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? 36) Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37) And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38) But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.**
- Verse 35 begins a new paragraph that runs through the end of verse 38.
- Beginning in verse 35 Paul begins to address two questions that people often have regarding the reality of resurrection. The questions are:
 - How are the dead raised up?
 - The “how” of verse 35 is related to the “how” of verse 12.
 - With what body do they come?
- Verse 36—Paul says that these are foolish questions. In declaring these questions to be foolish Paul appeals to nature to prove his point.
- Nature teaches that in order to have a harvest, there must be prior death. Paul is using the illustration of the sowing grain to teach something about the reality of resurrection.

- Verse 37—makes it clear that the new body which shall be is not the body which is sown. A single kernel of wheat or other grain is sown. The sown kernel dies and rots and gives life to many new kernels.
 - John 12:24
- The grain dies in the ground and a most wonderful resurrection follows. So, it is, and so it will be with respect to man.
- Verse 38—as the sown seed dies and rots, God gives a new body to the new life which springs up as it hath pleased him. In other words, God gives each seed its own particular body.
 - Genesis 1:11-13—even the plant life of the biosphere is going to reproduce after its own kind. God set it up this way at creation.
- Read from J. Vernon McGee pages 77 through 78.

I Corinthians 15:39

- **All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.**
- Next, in making his case regarding the resurrection Paul points out that there are four different kinds of flesh: men, beasts, fishes, and birds. It is important to note that in making this statement Paul restating the truth of Genesis 1.
 - Genesis 1:20-25
- God the Holy Spirit is using the created order to argue for the reality of resurrection in I Corinthians 15. For the believer there is a powerful argument against Evolution.
- Why would Paul bring this up within the context of I Corinthians 15? Because he is making the point that there is more difference between a dead body and a resurrected body than between the obvious fleshy differences of men, beasts, fishes, and birds.

I Corinthians 15:40-41

- **There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41) There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.**
- Verse 40—not only are there different kinds of flesh there are also different types of bodies: 1) celestial and 2) terrestrial

- Celestial—"Heavenly; belonging or relating to heaven; dwelling in heaven; as celestial spirits; celestial joys. Hence the word conveys the idea of superior excellence, delight, purity, etc.
 - CELESTIAL, noun An inhabitant of heaven."
- Terrestrial— [Latin terrestris, from terra, the earth.] 1) Pertaining to the earth; existing on the earth; as terrestrial animals; bodies terrestrial 1 Corinthians 15:40.

2. Consisting of earth; as the terrestrial globe.

- All four types of flesh identified in verse 39 are terrestrial in nature. They are built to exist on this planet. A human being cannot survive in heavens without the aid of highly advanced and sophisticated technology. Meanwhile the angelic creation has no problem doing so.
- Verse 41—not only is there different flesh, different bodies, there is also different glory.
 - Genesis 1:14-19

I Corinthians 15:42

- **So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:**
- Here is the point of application.
- Ephesians 1:20-23, 2:6
- II Corinthians 5:1—we have a celestial body waiting for us that is eternal in the heavens.
- Philippians 3:20-21—we are going to have a gloried body fashioned after the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Colossians 3:1-2—what kind of thinker are you? Celestial or Terrestrial?

Conclusion

- This Easter, let's embrace the reality that we serve a living Savior who has conquered death, offering us the assurance of eternal life and the power to live victoriously today.
- Your forgiveness of sins and your ability to be declared right before the justice bench of Almighty God is based upon Christ's death on the cross for you, his burial, and his resurrection from the dead. That is the finished work.

- We don't have a fool's hope. We have a living, blessed hope. That tomb is empty and it's been empty for 2,000 years. Jesus Christ rose from the dead.