

Class #9 The General Resurrection of the Body at Christ's Return

Introduction: We're no longer rehashing millennial views. In the last four classes we will scan **four great realities** promised to occur when Jesus actually appears to usher in "the End"!

1. Resurrection of all the dead, saved and unsaved
2. Final Judgment by Christ of all persons, for life or condemnation
3. Eternal punishment for the wicked
4. Eternal blessing for all who belong to Christ in New Heavens and New Earth

Biblical Christianity insists on **body and soul unity**: the aim of redemption is for God to not only save souls but to restore weakness and death attached to our bodies. Jesus came to earth to take on a human body, and **dying in his true flesh, he ransomed whole persons for eternity!** It was **Greek philosophy**, not Christianity that made a separation, saying that the flesh is inherently evil and the soul essentially good. We believe those who have already died in Christ are perfected souls during the intermediate state and are truly happy in Christ's presence. But the crowning act of their salvation will be receiving **a resurrected body in the final heaven of a totally new creation** where sin and death are banished forever!

I. Key Passages: Emphasizing a GENERAL resurrection of all the dead:

Daniel 12:2-3

John 5:28-29

Acts 24:15

Rev. 20:11-13

Primarily emphasizing resurrection of the righteous, but not excluding general rising for all:

John 6:40

I Thess. 4:13-18

Mat. 24:30-31

I Cor. 15: 23, 52

Phil. 3:20-21

II. Passages emphasizing that Christ is the primary power who raises the dead. For believers, he does so as their Redeemer; for unbelievers, he acts as their Judge!

John 5:21, 25, 28-29

John 6:38-40, 44-45 John 11:25-26

III. The NATURE of the Resurrection body.

A. There will be **continuity or similarity** to Jesus' own Resurrection Body:

- Jesus was basically recognizable
- He bore the marks of crucifixion
- He could be touched and he ate food

See Phil. 3:20-21

2 Cor. 5:1-9

So we conclude there must be “**recognition**” of each other within the new body!

B. Yet, despite an assurance of similarity and recognition—not all is exactly the same. There is also **discontinuity** between an earthly body and resurrection body. Jesus seemed able to appear and disappear. He was seen in various places separated by distance... And in the end his body ascended to heaven, Acts 1.

Key passage is **1 Cor. 15:12-52**

“Seed” vs full plant analogy, vs 35

Several contrasts:

“dishonor” vs. glory

“weakness” vs. power

“natural” vs. spiritual

Our new bodies will be part of a **total re-creation** of our planet! **Romans 8:18-23**

Thus, many aspects of that resurrection life are simply beyond our imagining right now!

IV. Some Practical and Pastoral Issues:

A. How to treat bodies of deceased believers?

B. What does Matt. 22:30 mean, that we will be “like the angels”?

C. What shall we think about bodies destroyed by war, catastrophe, cremation?

D. What about bodies of unborn children?