

THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION



“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. . . . And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!” (1 Corinthians 15:14-17, NKJV)





According to Greek philosophy—based on Platonic theories—the body, essentially evil, is merely the prison of an immortal soul. Given this thinking, what meaning did the resurrection of the body have for the Greeks or the Romans?

For this reason, a sector of the Corinthian church rejected the existence of the resurrection. Paul addresses this issue in chapter fifteen of his first letter to the Corinthians.

This is no trivial matter. Resurrection is intimately linked to salvation. If there is no resurrection... what is the point of preaching the gospel?



The resurrection of Jesus

Was the resurrection a historical event?
(1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

The consequences of Jesus' resurrection

What if Christ had not risen from the dead?
(1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

What guarantees the resurrection?
(1 Corinthians 15:20-34)

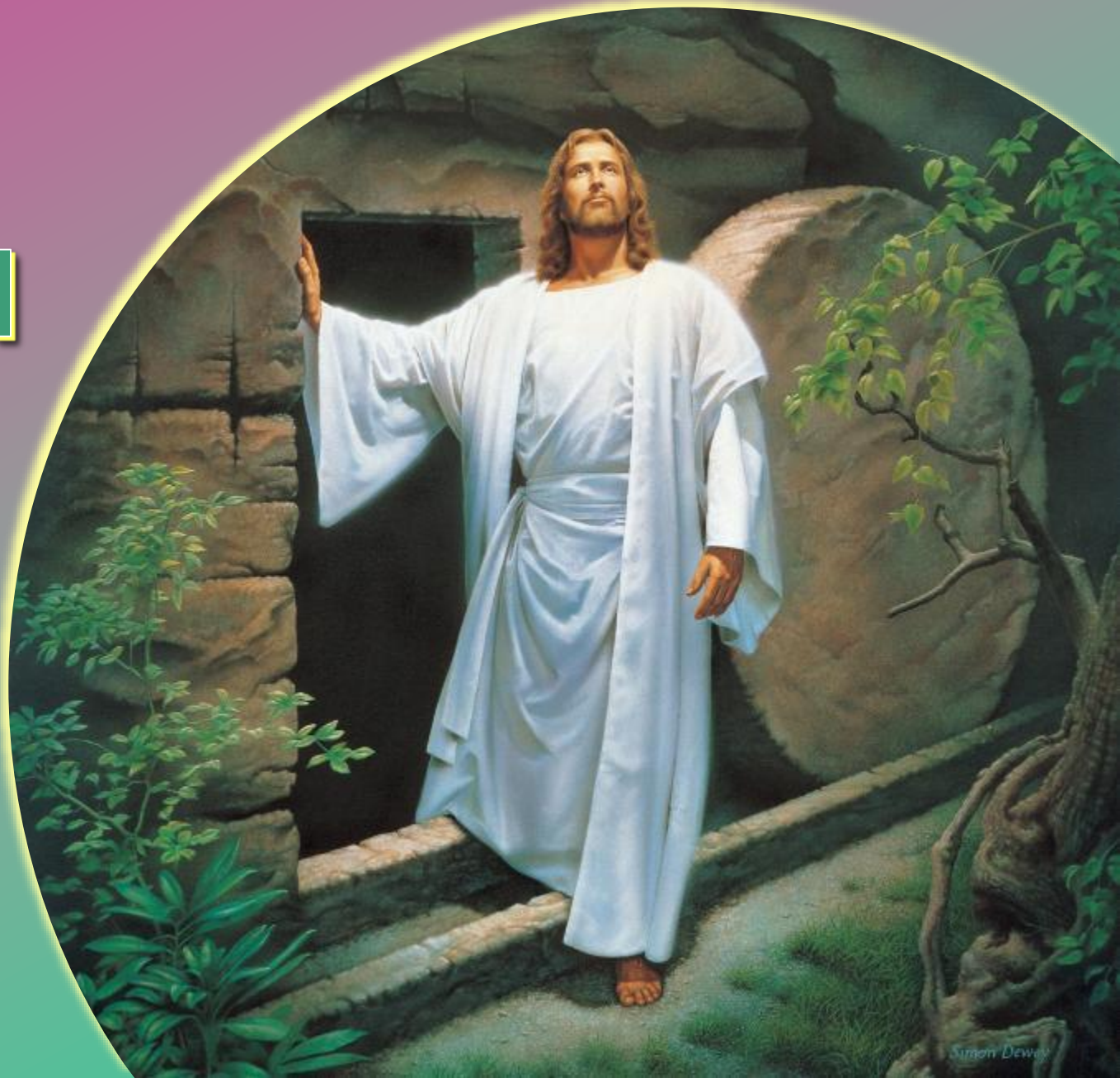
Our resurrection

With what body will we be resurrected?
(1 Corinthians 15:35-49)

When will we be resurrected?
(1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

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THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS



WAS THE RESURRECTION A HISTORICAL EVENT?

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Before addressing the doubts the Corinthians had about the resurrection, Paul reminds them how the gospel works (1 Cor. 15:1-2):

**It is
preached**



**It is
received**



**One
perseveres in it**



**Salvation is
obtained**

And what is the gospel that is preached? (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

**Christ died for our
sins**



**Christ was
buried**



**Christ rose again
on the third day**

And how do we know that the resurrection was a historical event? Who saw the resurrected Jesus? (1 Cor. 15:5-8)

**Peter and
the Twelve**



**More than
500 siblings**



**James and
the apostles**

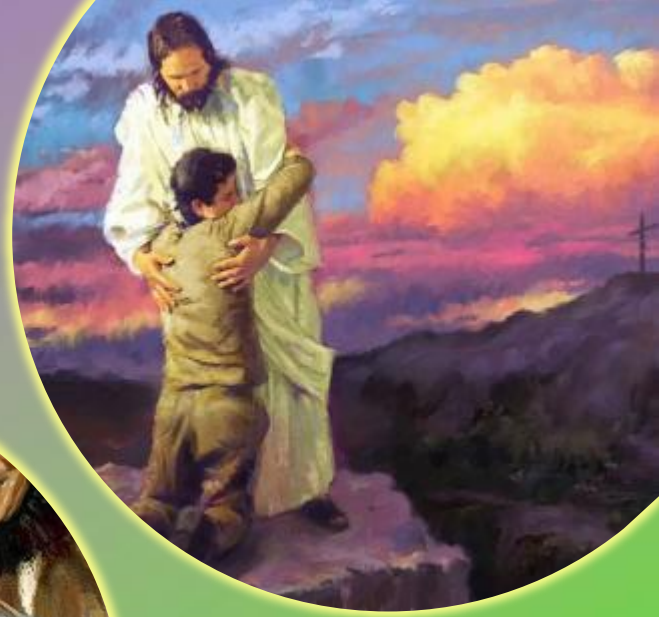
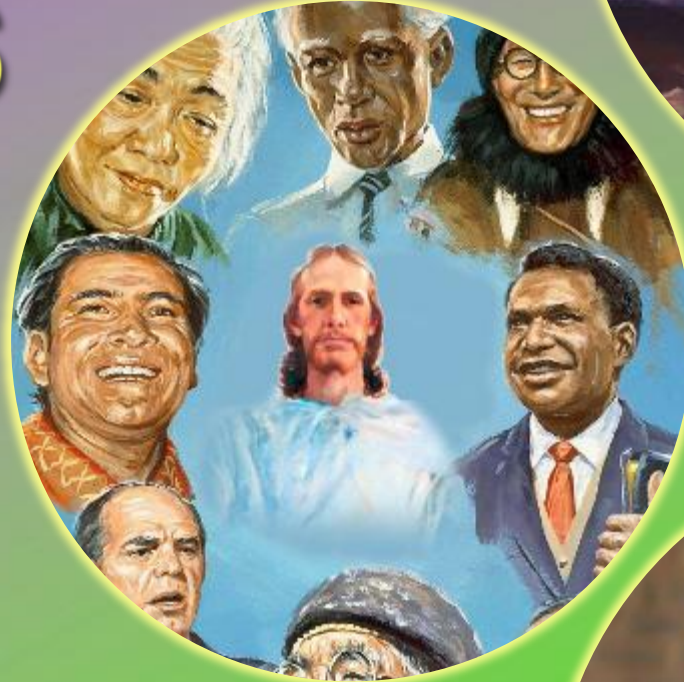


**Paul "the
abortive"**

Paul makes it clear that the gospel is God's work carried out "according to the Scriptures." That is, it is a preordained plan in which the resurrection plays a fundamental role. Does anyone have any doubts? Let them ask the witnesses who were still alive at that time!



THE CONSEQUENCES OF JESUS' RESURRECTION



WHAT IF CHRIST HAD NOT RISEN FROM THE DEAD?

"And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty." (1 Corinthians 15:14)

Denying the possibility of the resurrection creates an inconsistency with the Christian faith, since "if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen" (1 Corinthians 15:12-13). And if Jesus did not rise...



The preaching of the gospel is in vain [empty of meaning] (1 Cor. 15:14a)
Our faith is vain [empty of meaning] (1 Cor. 15:14b) [useless] (1 Cor. 15:17a)
We are false witnesses (1 Cor. 15:15)
We are still in our sins (1 Cor. 15:17b)
Those who have died will never return to life (1 Corinthians 15:18)



Without the resurrection, Jesus is merely a righteous man murdered without cause, but incapable of saving. "But now Christ is risen from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20a). We have a LIVING Savior.

For this reason, the gospel makes sense; so does our faith; we are faithful witnesses; our sins are forgiven; and the dead in Christ will live again.



WHAT GUARANTEES THE RESURRECTION?

"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20)

The first fact guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus is that those of us who have accepted the plan of salvation – from Adam to the end of the world – if we die, we will live again (1 Cor. 15:20-23).

What will happen after our resurrection? By defeating death, Jesus will have conquered all his enemies (1 Cor. 15:25-26). Then, Jesus will subject everything to the Father, so "that God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 15:24, 28).

In addition to these future guarantees, Paul gives us two guarantees that affect our daily lives:



1 Corinthians 15:30-32

It is worthwhile to preach the gospel, even if it involves suffering or danger.



1 Corinthians 15:33-34

It is worthwhile to live a life consistent with biblical principles.

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OUR RESURRECTION



WITH WHAT BODY WILL WE BE RESURRECTED?

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption."
(1 Corinthians 15:42)

Analogies about the resurrected body:

Plant bodies (1 Cor. 15:35-38)

A seed is
sown



A cereal is
harvested



God gives
each plant
the body He
wants.



Physical bodies (1 Cor. 15:39)

Men's bodies



Animal
bodies



Fish body



Bird body



Heavenly bodies (1 Cor. 15:40-41)

The glory of
the sun



The glory of
the moon



The glory of
the stars



Each one,
his own glory
(brilliance)



WITH WHAT BODY WILL WE BE RESURRECTED?

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption."
(1 Corinthians 15:42)

What is the difference between the present body and the resurrected one?
(1 Cor. 15:42-44)

current body

Corrupt

Dishonorable

Weak

Animal

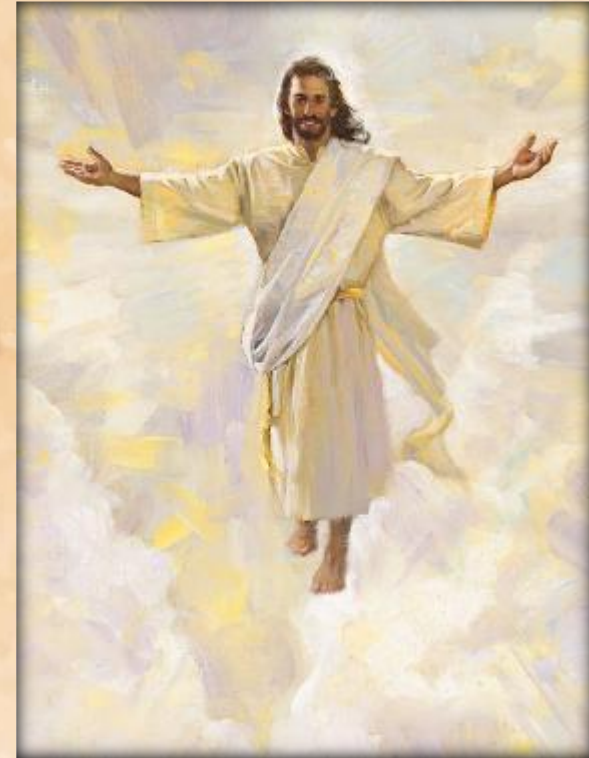
Resurrected body

Incorrupt

Glorious

Powerful

Spiritual



Adam had an earthly body, the second Adam [Jesus] a heavenly one. In the resurrection, our body will be transformed into the likeness of Christ's body, that is, incorruptible, glorious, powerful, spiritual, heavenly (1 Cor. 15:45-49).

WHEN WILL WE BE RESURRECTED?

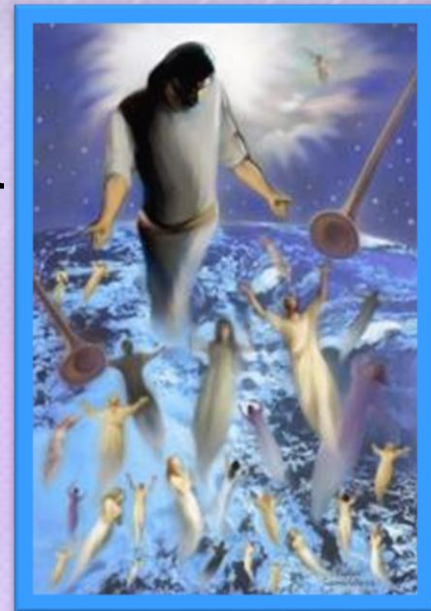
"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—."
(1 Corinthians 15:51)

Before determining the time of the resurrection and what will happen to our bodies at that time, Paul states that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 15:50). Does this mean that we will not have a physical body after the resurrection?

The expression "flesh and blood" is always used as a synonym for "person" (Mt. 16:17; Gal. 1:16; Eph. 6:12; Heb. 2:14). Paul is drawing a parallel here: inhabitants of the Earth = corruption; inhabitants of Heaven = incorruption. Here we have a body that decays and, therefore, we cannot take it to Heaven.

At the Second Coming, the corrupted body will be transformed into an incorruptible body, like the body with which Jesus resurrected (1 Cor. 15:51-55; Lk. 24:36-40).

For those who sleep in Jesus, it will feel as if only an instant has passed. A second ago they felt the chill of death, now they are already seeing Jesus coming (1 Cor. 15:52).



“The resurrection of Jesus was a sample of the final resurrection of all who sleep in Him. The risen body of the Saviour, His deportment, the accents of His speech, were all familiar to His followers. In like manner will those who sleep in Jesus rise again. We shall know our friends even as the disciples knew Jesus. Though they may have been deformed, diseased, or disfigured in this mortal life, yet in their resurrected and glorified body their individual identity will be perfectly preserved, and we shall recognize, in the face radiant with the light shining from the face of Jesus, the lineaments of those we love.”