

# WHY I BELIEVE: GOD WILL RESURRECT MY BODY

## I Cor 15:35-49

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. I BELIEVE GOD IS FATHER, ALMIGHTY, CREATOR

1. ALMIGHTY CREATOR
  - Evidence of—Biblical Record—Science—Nature
  - Human—Logic—Conscience—Intuition
2. FATHER
  - His Spirit enables us to call Him “Abba, Father”—[Gal 4](#)
  - His Spirit bears witness to our Spirit—we are His children—[Rom 8](#)

#### B. I BELIEVE JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD AND LORD

1. ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD
  - Eternal—co-equal and co-creator with God the Father
  - Poured out—as Son of Man
2. LORD
  - Exalted above all—for His obedience—death on cross
  - Restored Son of Man—to pre-incarnate glory of Son of God
  - We acknowledge Him as Lord—key to salvation
3. IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE—HE HAS CHANGED ME
  - [II Cor 5:17](#)—*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, his is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

#### C. I BELIEVE GOD’S SON WAS VIRGIN-BORN

1. IMPORTANCE
  - Full humanity of Christ—born of woman
  - Full deity of Christ—supernaturally conceived by God
2. CHRIST’S ETERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS—BASIS FOR REDEMPTION
  - a. **Perfect** God-Man—inherently **sinless**—**infinite** divine sacrifice for all human sin
  - b. Our Righteousness—comes from His perfect obedience—and eternal righteousness as Son
  - c. Our Pardon—relies on this righteousness

#### D. I BELIEVE GOD’S SON DIED FOR ME

1. WHAT HIS DEATH DOES
  - Defeats death
  - Atones for sins
  - Reconciles us to Father—saves us
  - Demonstrates God’s love
  - Assures us of victory
2. HOW I KNOW CHRIST DIED FOR ME
  - Only to those being saved—the preaching of the cross is the *power* of God—[I Cor 1:18](#)

#### E. I BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST WAS RESURRECTED

1. EVIDENCE OF EMPTY TOMB

2. BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS OF RESURRECTION AND HIS APPEARANCES
3. WITNESS OF EARLY CHURCH
4. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF PROMISE OF RESURRECTION

**II Cor 4:14**—*Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.*

#### **F. I BELIEVE JESUS REIGNS WITH THE FATHER**

1. HIS POSITION IS SUPREME—SOVEREIGN
2. HE IS IN HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE—GLORIFIED AT THE FATHER’S SIDE
3. HE IS RULING OVER HIS KINGDOM
4. HE IS DOING HIS WORK THERE
  - Fulfilling His promise—preparing us a place
  - Interceding with the Father
  - Achieving final victory—working it out
  - Holding everything together
5. WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE ETERNALLY
  - He is Servant King
  - As His bond-servants, we share His kingdom
  - We follow Him: to reign—is to serve

#### **G. I BELIEVE JESUS WILL RETURN**

1. HOW PAROUSIA WILL OCCUR
  - a. Visibly—noticeably—everyone will see and hear
  - b. Instantly— in the twinkling of an eye
  - c. Powerfully—on the clouds with great power and glory
  - d. Unexpectedly—as a thief in the night—nobody knows the time or day
2. WHY PAROUSIA WILL TAKE PLACE
  - a. To consummate redemptive history
    - o Complete His victory over sin, death, and evil
    - o Usher in His eternal kingdom
    - o Re-create the new order—new heaven and new earth
  - b. To collect His saints
  - c. To judge the living and the dead
    - o Believers before the *bema*—for rewards to serve and reign eternally
    - o Non-believers before Great White Throne—condemned for disbelief

#### **H. I BELIEVE GOD HAS SENT US HIS SPIRIT**

- THE PERSONAL PRESENCE OF ETERNAL GOD
- COMES ALONGSIDE—COMFORTER—ADVOCATE—TEACHER
- BRINGS BOLDNESS—STRENGTH—POWER—TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST
- BUILDS GOD’S KINGDOM—IDENTIFIES—EQUIPS—EDIFIES HIS CHURCH
- ULTIMATE PURPOSES—TESTIFY ABOUT CHRIST—AND GLORIFY HIM

## **I. I BELIEVE THE CHURCH IS THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

1. IT HAS A COMMUNAL DESTINATION—HEAVEN
2. IT IS PART OF THE HEAVENLY COMMUNITY
3. IT FOLLOWS A COMMUNAL PATH—ADMISSION IS THE SAME FOR EVERYONE
  - Mediation
  - Sanctification
  - Perfection
  - Adoption
4. IT SHARES A COMMON EXPERIENCE—COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS
  - Universal in Scope
  - United in One Body—of Christ
  - Uniform in Identity
  - Unified in Koinonia
5. IT EMBRACES DIVERSITY IN UNITY—COMPOSED OF ALL NATIONS/RACES
6. IT DEFIES HUMAN WISDOM
  - It grows when it dies
  - It has survived throughout the ages—and continues to thrive
  - It proclaims a unique, radical, unearthly message—grace not works

## **J. I BELIEVE I AM FORGIVEN**

1. WHAT JESUS DOES
  - Pays for my sin—cancels the debt
  - Heals the rift between me and God
  - Releases me from prison—sets me free from the clutches of sin
  - Cleanses me from all unrighteousness
  - Pardons me—no stigma of guilt remains
2. HOW THIS AFFECTS ME
  - I am saved—from death—to eternal life
  - I am restored—in favor with God the Father
  - I have access to Him—through the blood of Christ
  - I have returned home—am repatriated

## K. I BELIEVE GOD WILL RESURRECT MY BODY

### I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY.

## II. BIBLICAL TEXT—I Corinthians 15:35-49

<sup>35</sup> But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?”  
<sup>36</sup> You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; <sup>37</sup> and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. <sup>39</sup> All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. <sup>40</sup> There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. <sup>41</sup> There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. <sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an **imperishable** body; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in **glory**; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in **power**; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a **spiritual** body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

## III. HOW ARE THE DEAD RAISED? FOUR QUESTIONS POSED—verse 35

### A. HOW CAN THIS BE?

- HOW IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR THE DEAD TO BE RAISED?

### B. HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- MECHANICALLY—WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR RAISING THE DEAD?

### C. HOW DOES THIS LOOK?

- WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTED BODY?

### D. HOW DOES THIS FIT?

- WHY WILL GOD DO THIS—HOW DOES IT FIT HIS PLAN?

## IV. FIRST QUESTION—HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

### A. THIS IS A MIRACLE

- With man this is impossible—but all things are possible with God.

- Resurrection is impossible without God!—only He can do it
- Like all our other things we affirm—this requires faith—in Supernatural God

## B. WE HAVE CONFIDENCE HE CAN DO THIS

- He raised Jesus—miraculously
- By the same power—and Person of Jesus—He will do it again

**II Cor 4:14**—*We know that He who raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise us up also by Jesus, and will present us with you.*

## V. SECOND QUESTION—HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

### A. THE PROCESS—**LIKE A SEED**—verses 36-38

#### 1. DEATH IS PRE-REQUISITE

- o Seed must first die—trauma—and burst its shell
- o Undergoes change—from life—to death—to new life
- o We must die—in order to be resurrected!

#### 2. METAMORPHOSIS

- o There is a resultant change in form—from seed to body

#### 3. NATURAL PROCESSES—ARE OF DIVINE ORIGIN

- o They follow God's fore-ordained plan
- o Done by God's power—who superintends all natural processes
- o **He** gives the seed a new body

#### 4. OUR RESURRECTION IS UNIQUE—REQUIRES SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION

### B. EVERYONE WILL BE RESURRECTED

- **Acts 24:15**—*there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked*

### C. ONLY **RIGHTEOUS** WILL RECEIVE THIS **LIFE**—BY THE SON OF GOD

#### 1. Distinction between righteous—and wicked

- o **Jn 5:25-29**—*Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

#### 3. The **Righteous**

- o Those who have believed in Jesus Christ

- o Who have already died to self and followed Him in obedience

## VI. THIRD QUESTION—HOW DOES THIS LOOK?

### A. SETTING THE FRAMEWORK OF DIFFERENCES—verses 39-41

1. DIFFERENT KINDS OF LIFE ON EARTH
  - o All living animals have flesh
  - o But man is different from all other flesh
2. DIFFERENT KINDS OF BODIES—EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY
  - a. Earthly bodies still have glory
    - God made them all good
    - Artifacts of His glory and goodness still remain
  - b. Heavenly bodies have different kind of glory
3. DIFFERENT DEGREES OF GLORY
  - a. Example—magnitudes of glory in heavenly bodies
  - b. Implication—God’s glory is above and beyond them all!
4. SIGNIFICANCE—FOR OUR BEING ‘RAISED’
  - a. We will be raised—to a new kind and form of life
  - b. From earthly glory—to heavenly glory
  - c. Begs the question—what *kind* of change will we experience?

### B. FOUR DIMENSIONS OF CHANGE FROM EARTHLY TO HEAVENLY

- PERISHABLE TO IMPERISHABLE
- DISHONOR TO GLORY
- WEAKNESS TO POWER
- NATURAL TO SPIRITUAL

### C. FROM PERISHABLE—TO IMPERISHABLE

1. DEFINITIONS
  - o φθορα = corrupted/defiled/polluted—mortal—dying—decaying
  - o αφθορα = incorruptible/pure/sincere—immortal—living—growing
2. FOUR DIMENSIONS OF CHANGE
  - a. **Condition** → corrupt—vs—incorruptible

- b. **Existence** → mortal—vs—immortal
- c. **Moral** → polluted/defiled—vs—pure/sincere
- d. **Final destiny** → condemnation/death—vs—salvation/life

### 3. CURRENT PERISHABLE CONDITION—EXAMPLES

- a. **Apoptosis**—we are constantly dying—and being only *partly* renewed

#### 1. **Adult body**

- Has about 50 trillion cells
- 42 million cells die each minute—60 billion per day

#### 2. **Adult brain**

- Weighs about 3 pounds—1400 grams
- Has about 100 billion neurons (brain cells)
- Loses about 1 gram per year—or about 9000 neurons per day

- b. **Entropy**—universe is constantly becoming more chaotic

#### 1. **First Law of Thermodynamics**—amount of energy

- Total energy in universe is constant
- Energy cannot be created or destroyed—it can only change forms

#### 2. **Second Law of Thermodynamics**—quality of energy

- All energy in universe is degenerating to a more disordered state
- As it is transformed—more energy is being wasted
- Evidence—that the universe—and matter—are not eternal!!!

### 4. CONTRAST—GOD AND HIS CREATION

- a. Only God is immortal—imperishable

- **I Tim 1:17**—*Now to the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*
- **I Tim 6:15-16**—*He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.*

- b. We and creation are mortal—perishable

- **Heb 1:10-12**—*You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; and they all will become old like a garment, and like a mantle you will roll them up; like a garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, and your years will not come to an end.*

### 5. **UNDYING PROMISE**

- a. We will be raised—incorruptible—like Him
  - **I Cor 15:51-3**—*Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.*
- b. All creation will be freed from bondage of corruption—to glory
  - **Rom 8:21**—*creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

## 6. SUMMARY

- o Mortal—will become immortal
- o Temporary—will become permanent
- o Corruptible—will become incorruptible
- o Defiled—will become pure
- o Degenerating—will be regenerated permanently

## D. FROM DISHONOR—TO GLORY

### 1. DEFINITIONS

- o **ατιμία** = dishonor—disgrace—repulsive—despised—offensive to look at
- o **δοξα** = glory—praise—splendor—majestic—excellence

### 2. EXAMPLES OF CONTRAST—DISHONOR TO GLORY

- a. **Joseph**—slave to → prime minister
- b. **Moses**—outcast in wilderness to → prophet leading a nation
- c. **David**—shepherd boy to → king
- d. **Lazarus** the Beggar to → the bosom of Abraham
- e. **Jesus**—from Suffering Servant to King of Kings
  - i. Suffering Servant—**Isaiah 53**
    - No stately form or majesty
    - No appearance that we should be attracted to Him
    - Despised and forsaken of men
    - Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief
    - Men hide their face from Him
    - Despised—we did not esteem Him
  - ii. Transfiguration—**shekinah**—foretaste of glorification
  - iii. Enthroned glory
    - Sat down at the right hand of God—as King of all creation



- God has exalted Him above all—at His name every knee will bow
- Will come in power and glory on the clouds of heaven

### 3. UNDYING PROMISE

**Phil 3:20-21**—*For our citizenship is in heaven—from which we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory.*

## E. FROM WEAKNESS TO POWER

### 1. DEFINITIONS

- o **ασθεναια** = frailty—feebleness—sickness—not strong—unable to stand
- o **δυναμις** = physical power—ability to do miracles—powerful/numerous resources

### 2. EXAMPLES OF TRANSFORMATION—WEAK TO POWERFUL

- o **Jewish slaves in Egyptian captivity**—becoming a great nation of Israel
- o **Mustard seed**—like the Kingdom of God

### 3. WE ARE COMPLETELY IMPOTENT—HELPLESS—WITHOUT GOD

- o **Mk 14:38**—Jesus to Peter—*the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak*
- o **Rom 5:6**—*For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly*

### 4. WITH GOD—WE BECOME POWERFUL

- a. **I Cor 1:25**—mystery—*the weakness of God is stronger than men.*
- b. **II Cor 12:9**—*Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

### 5. TYPES OF POWER—AT WORK IN US—IN OUR RESURRECTION

- o **Supernatural**—raises the dead—creates new heaven and new earth
- o **Physical**—regenerates—renews—invigorates—for eternal life
- o **Moral**—justifies us—puts us in right relation with God
- o **Spiritual**—sanctifies us—makes us holy like Him

### 6. UNDYING PROMISE

**I Cor 6:14**—*Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.*

## F. FROM NATURAL TO SPIRITUAL

### 1. DEFINITIONS

- o **ψυχικός** = has breath—has life—animates the body—makes us like all animals
- o **πνευματικός** = rational spirit—makes us like God

## 2. TWO ORDERS—NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL

- a. Only God is **Supernatural**—He is above all—everything else is natural
- b. **Difference** between natural—and spiritual things [of God]
  - **I Cor 2:14**—**natural man** cannot receive spiritual things—they are foolishness to him
  - **Jas 3:15**—**wisdom from below** is earthly, demonic, natural—not from above
  - **Jude 19**—those **causing divisions are natural** (earthly) minded—devoid of the Spirit

## 3. OUR SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

- a. Already—we are becoming ‘spiritual’——**I Cor 6**
  - **v17**—*The one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*
  - **v19**—*Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?*
- b. But not yet complete
  - **I Cor 13:12**—*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*
- c. **UNDYING PROMISE**—of perfect spirituality
  - **I Jn 3:2**—*Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

## 4. WHAT IT MEANS—TO BE ‘SPIRITUAL’

- a. **Reflection**—of mind—within ourselves
  - **EXERCISE**—close eyes—silence—listen—think—palpable presence of ‘self’
- b. **Conscience**—moral awareness of right—wrong—obligation—duty
- c. **Community**—plugged-in below—with other human beings—at ‘spiritual’ level
- d. **Transcendence**—awareness of Holy Other—supernatural

## 5. WHAT IT MEANS—TO HAVE A ‘SPIRITUAL BODY’

- a. **NEW**—glorious—perfect—body
- b. **IDENTIFIABLE**—we will be recognizable
- c. **COMMUNION**—with God—our spirit fully connected with His

d. BETTER—spiritual is not ‘less’—but ‘more’

1. No more death, mourning, crying, pain—[Rev 22](#)
2. We will bear the image of the ‘heavenly’—[verse 49](#)
3. All faculties heightened

- **Tuned in** — **from AM to FM**
- **Clarity/depth** — **from 2D to 3D and 4K**
- **Amplified** — **from monaural to quad**
- **Vividness** — **monochrome to technicolor—[Rev 21](#)**

## VI. FOURTH QUESTION—HOW DOES THIS FIT INTO GOD’S PLAN

### A. MAN SETTLED FOR LESS

1. FIRST MAN—ADAM—HAD A ‘LIVING SOUL’
2. HAD A *CHANCE* AT IMMORTALITY—TREE OF LIFE
3. BUT CHOSE REBELLION AND DEATH—TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD/EVIL
4. SETTLED ONLY FOR THE ‘NATURAL’—THE ‘BELOW-WORLD’
5. CANNOT RISE ABOVE ‘EARTHY’ AND ‘NATURAL’ CONFINES OF THIS WORLD

### B. GOD IS RESTORING HIS PURPOSE FOR CREATION

1. LAST ADAM—CHRIST—IS ‘LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT’
2. BRINGS DOWN THE HEAVENLY GIFT—SPIRITUAL LIFE—REDEEMS CREATION
3. IF WE BELIEVE/FOLLOW HIM—WE TAKE ON HIS ‘IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY’
4. **UNDYING PROMISE**—JESUS TO NICODEMUS

- o **Jn 3:13-15**—*No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that **whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.***

## IX. INVITATION

### I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;  
no turning back, no turning back.

My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;  
my cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;  
my cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;  
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;  
the world behind me, the cross before me;  
the world behind me, the cross before me;  
no turning back, no turning back.