



The Resurrection Body
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I Corinthians 15:35-50

The Relevant Question: “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?”

Vs. 35 Paul's answer is that the dead will rise with a body with some elements of continuity and some of discontinuity with the body they had in this world.

Vs. 36 – 41 Paul calls the argument foolish and compares the body to a seed – a seed has to go in the ground and die to come to life. It does not really die, but it goes into the ground. It is buried and a metamorphosis happens in the burial process. Something happens when seed and soil come into relationship. You do not plant the body that will be, but a seed. God gives the body to the seed and to each kind of seed, God gives a different body. All bodies are not the same – heavenly bodies and earthly bodies – the splendor of each is different; sun has one kind of splendor and the moon another kind and the stars differ in splendor.

Vs. 42 – The body is like that seed. It is buried in the ground mixes with God’s soil and a metamorphosis happens. It is sown perishable, but then is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor but it is raised in glory; sown in weakness but raised in power; it is sown in a natural body, but is raised a spiritual body. Still a body but a spiritual body – like our body, but so not like our bodies. There is a difference between the natural body and the spiritual body. The first man, Adam was a natural being – living body; the last Adam (Jesus) was a spiritual body – a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural. After the natural, then the spiritual – first man of the dust of the earth and the second man from heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the natural man, so shall we to bear the likeness of the spiritual man.

Table 1: Natural Body vs. Spiritual Body

Natural Body – Adam	Spiritual Body – Jesus
Sown perishable -- death	Raised imperishable -- life
Sown in dishonor	Raised in glory
Sown in weakness	Raised in power
Natural body comes first	Spiritual body supersedes Natural body
Cannot inherit the kingdom of God	Inherits the kingdom of God

Conclusion”: Just as it is a great mystery how a seed becomes wheat, so it is a great mystery how the natural body becomes a spiritual body. We do not know how it happens but that it happens.