

Resurrection of the Dead

- Eternal Existence
- Eternal Life
- Eternal Damnation

God made man's body in his own image. So, man is more than a soul imprisoned in a temporal body. Man is an embodied spirit, or a unity of body and living self.

A description of Sheol (Hades) in Ezekiel 32:17-32

Sheol is under YHWH's jurisdiction

Psalm 139:7-8 (David writes) – **“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!”**

Psalm 16:8-11 (David writes) – **“I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being[e] rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.”**

Psalm 73:23-26 (Asaph writes) – **“Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength[b] of my heart and my portion forever.”**

Job anticipates immortality in his body and understands he will be released to live again

Job 14:7-15 – **“For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant. But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep. Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come. You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands. For then you would number my steps; you would not keep watch over my sin; my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity.”**

Job 19:23-27 – “Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!”

Unjust Suffering Compensated in Life After Sheol

Psalm 73:17 (Asaph) – “But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.”

Psalm 73:21-28 (Asaph) – “When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.

Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.”

Psalm 49:10-15 (Sons of Korah)– “For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish and leave their wealth to others.

Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they called lands by their own names.

Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.

This is the path of those who have foolish confidence;

yet after them people approve of their boasts.

Selah

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning.

Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.”

Isaiah 53:8-12 – “By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring;

he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death and
was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.”

Resurrection Based in National Vindication

Hosea 6:1-3 – “Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before
him.

Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

Hosea 13:14 (speaking to N Israel, or Ephraim) –

“I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol;

I shall redeem them from Death.

O Death, where are your plagues?

O Sheol, where is your sting?

Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

Ezekiel 37:1-6 (1-14) – “The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit
of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me
around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and
behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I
answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say
to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones:
Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live...”

Anticipate Return of Men in the Body to Share Israel’s Glory

Isaiah 24-27

Isaiah 25:6-8 – “On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich
food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that
is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain...”

Isaiah 26:19 – **“Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.**

You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!

For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.”

Daniel 12:1-4 – **“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”**

Example is Martha’s Understanding

John 11:24 (11:23-27) –

“Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.

Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

Intertestamental Time – 400 years from 420 BC – 30 AD

- Sheol had moral distinction of Reward and Punishment
- Martyrs would rise to be given earthly glory
- Future life justice for the oppressed and for those who oppressed them
- Mark 9:42-48 – **“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell [*Gehenna*], to the unquenchable fire.**

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' “

- Two types of Jewish thought concerning immortality and resurrection:
 - Hellenized Jews = influenced by Greek philosophy consider body and material world to be evil, so they accepted the immortality of the soul, but could not accept the concept of God resurrecting the flesh, the body, the thing made of the material world.
 - Palestinian Jews = accepted the physical resurrection of the body along with the resurrection of the whole person
- By 30 AD most Jews believed in a general resurrection (all people would be resurrected for either reward or punishment, for either the kingdom or damnation).
 - Abraham was credited with having believed this in Hebrews 11:19 - **“He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”**
 - Acts 23:8 - **“For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.”**
 - Pharisees believed in resurrection of body (also, Essenes and Qumran)
 - Sadducees claimed resurrection was NOT a teaching of Moses
 - Josephus says the Sadducees believed the soul died with the body.
 - Matter was evil, so no resurrection of a physical body

New Testament Teaching on Resurrection of the Dead

Jesus' Life and Teaching

1. Jesus raised others to life to resume living
2. Jesus himself was “raised” NOT into timeless immortality, but “on the third day”
3. Jesus used familiar images in his teaching:
 - a. Luke 16:19-31 – **“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus...
...The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,
...and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side...I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.”**
 - b. Luke 10:14-15 – **“It will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.”**

- c. Mark 9:43 – “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell [Gehenna], to the unquenchable fire.”
- d. Matthew 8:11-12 – “I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- e. Matthew 10:28 – “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell (Gehenna).”
- f. Luke 14:14 – “For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”
- g. Mark 12:18-28 – “And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife.”
Jesus said to them,
“Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.
And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I AM the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?
He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”

Jesus' Own Resurrection

1. Peter's Gospel

Acts 2:29-31 – “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.”

2. Paul's Gospel

Acts 17:18 (Paul in Athens) – “Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.”

Acts 23:6-8 – “Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other

Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.” And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.”

3. Apostolic Teaching – Resurrection of the Dead is Essential Christian Doctrine
Acts 3:26 – “God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

Acts 4:1-2 – “The priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”

Acts 4:33 – “With great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-11 – “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.”

Romans 10:9 – “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

4. Details of Christ’s Resurrection give hope and insight
- a. He was waiting in Sheol
 - b. His wounds were still in his body
 - c. He had flesh and bone
 - d. He appeared in a new form
 - i. Unrecognized
 - ii. Passes through doors
 - iii. Vanishes
 - e. The Tomb was empty

New Basis for Resurrection

Romans 8:11 – “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

1 Corinthians 6:14 – “And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.”

1 Corinthians 15:20-26 – “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

2 Corinthians 4:13-14 – “ ‘I believed, and so I spoke,’ we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.”

1 Thessalonians 4:14 – “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Peter 1:3-4 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”

1 Peter 1:20-21 – “He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

General Resurrection and Judgment for All

Acts 24:14-15 (Paul to Felix) – “I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.”

Acts 17:30-31 (Paul in Athens) – “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Romans 2:5-11 – **“Because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.”**

2 Corinthians 5:10 – **“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”**

Paul's Five Points Concerning Resurrection Body

1. Body with sin and death will be changed. There will be deliverance from the body, but not like Greek philosophy where we are without a body, or “naked” (as in 2 Cor. 5:1-5)

Romans 7:21-25 – **“...Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.”**

Philippians 3:20-21 – **“Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”**

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 – **“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”**

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – **“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”**

Changed like a seed as in 1 Corinthians 15

2. Transformation NOT at death, but at ADVENT of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 – “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

1 Corinthians 15:23 – “But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – “Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 shall be changed.”

3. Transformation follows an intermediate state that is better, but not final.

Philippians 1:22-24 – “If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.”

Acts 7:60 – “As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Luke 23:42-43 – “He (Thief) said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he (Jesus) said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

4. The Change has begun

Philippians 3:8-11 – “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

Romans 8:10-11 – **“But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”**

2 Corinthians 4:13-14 – **“I believed, and so I spoke, we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.”**

5. The Change has NOT already happened NOR is the change in the past

2 Timothy 2:16-18 – **“But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.”**

**John - we live in this Resurrection life now,
but are anticipating a general resurrection in the end:**

1. Live in it now:

John 3:36 – **“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”**

John 8:51 – **“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”**

John 5:24 – **“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”**

2. Waiting for General Resurrection in the end:

John 6:39-40 – **“This is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”**

John 6:44 – **“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.”**

John 6:54 – **“Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”**



