

A Study of Heaven – Week 4

Your Future Super Body

Our life on earth is short compared to eternity with God. Remember the illustration that Anthony used to show this fact a few years ago. In the illustration, the short rope which was just a few inches is this life, and eternity is a long rope.

No matter how much man researches ways to extend life. They could double it but it will still be short compared to eternity. Even if we lived as long as Methuselah, our lives would be short compared to eternity.

Someone once told me that as you grow older, time seems to speed up. My time as a child seemed slow and my boys childhood seemed to fly by but my granddaughter's childhood is even faster. The authors of the Bible had much to say about the passing of time. For each reference, how fast is our time on earth?

Job 7:6 - Swifter than a weaver's shuttle._

1 Chronicles 29:15 – Like a shadow.

James 4:14 – Just a vapor that appears for a little while.

There are other verses, just like these verses throughout the Bible. (See Job 9:25, Psalm 90:10, Psalm 102:11, 1 Corinthians 7:29)

There are only two ways to leave this world, by death or the Rapture.

John 11:25-26 says, *“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”*. After Jesus raised their brother Lazarus from the dead, Jesus told Mary and Martha that death on earth is not permanent but we will have to go through it. In order to be resurrected, we have to die. The following verses tell us about resurrection of our body. Job 19:25-26, Isaiah 26:19, Daniel 12:2, Psalm 16:10, 1 Thessalonians 4:16 .

Genesis 2:7 tells us that as human beings we are made up of two parts, physical and spiritual. The physical part came from God and the earth or dirt and the spiritual part was all God.

According to 2 Corinthians 5:8, when we die we are absent from the body and present with Lord.(from week 2) When we die, our physical body will be buried but our spiritual souls will be taken to heaven.

Randy Alcorn believes that since our soul requires a physical body to live in, then we will get loaner bodies. We know that eventually we will live in our resurrected bodies.

1 Corinthians 13 is known as the Love Chapter but go a couple of chapters further and chapter 15 is called the Resurrection Chapter. Paul has given us detailed information about our resurrections.

John 20:17 tells us that on the morning after Jesus was resurrected, He told Mary to stop clinging (NASB) to him because He had not ascended to the Father. He had not received His resurrection or glorified body. Eight days later, Jesus appeared to the disciples a second time, this time with Thomas present. Jesus told Thomas to touch His hands and his side. Jesus had ascended and this is His glorified body.

*John 20:26 Eight days later His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus *came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be to you." 27 Then He *said to Thomas, "Place your finger here, and see My hands; and take your hand and put it into My side; and do not continue in disbelief, but be a believer." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus *said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you now believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."*

What do we see about the glorified body in the verses of John 20:26-29 which says? First of all, Jesus passed through walls. This shows that His resurrected body is spiritual. But then it says that the disciples could touch His scars or wounds. This shows that it is also physical. You can also read Luke's account in Luke 24:39.

1 John 3:2 says, "*Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*" This verse tells us that when Jesus returns, as believers our bodies will be like His body.

1 Corinthians 15:49 says when we are resurrected, we shall also bear the image of the Heavenly Man, that is Jesus. It says "*And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man*"

Last week we read about our glorified bodies in 1 Corinthians 15:42-45.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written: "The first man, Adam, became a living person." The last Adam was a life-giving spirit.

It seems many pastors like to have all the teaching points have the same starting letters, in this case "I". There are certainties of our glorified bodies:

Verse 42 tells us that our bodies will be raised in incorruption so they will be indestructible. When Adam and Eve sinned God told them that they would surely die. Our resurrected body will not have that same connection to sin so we are not subject to the same corruption thus "raised in incorruption". Without sin Adam and Eve would have lived forever in the Garden with God. With our resurrected bodies we will have that same indestructibility.

Verse 43 tells us that our new bodies will be raised in glory but they will be identifiable. I don't know whether it will be our 21 year old body or our older bodies, the important thing is that they will be recognizable by others.

Verse 43 also tells us the our new bodies will be raised in power, so they will be incredible. As I age, getting out of a chair becomes more difficult. When I sit down on the floor at family get-togethers, my older siblings say "Now you are just showing off." With age, things become more and more difficult, if not impossible. Not so with our resurrected bodies. They won't tire. They won't deteriorate. That sound incredible to me.

Verses 44 and 45 tells us that they will be raised as spiritual bodies, so they will be infinite. Without sin, our bodies will return to what they were meant to be, eternal or infinite or endless.

Our resurrected bodies will be Indestructible.

Romans 6:8-9, tells us that Jesus body cannot die. "Death no longer has mastery over Him."

Hebrews 9:27 says that we are appointed to die once.

There is an old adage, "Know Jesus, die once. No Jesus, die twice."

Our resurrected bodies will be Identifiable

Luke 9:28-30 is the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus. James, John and Peter did NOT have to be introduced to Elijah and Moses. They knew who they were without being told.

Luke 16:19-31 is the story of the beggar (Lazarus) and the rich man. No introductions were necessary. The rich man knew Abraham and he could see Lazarus and knew him as the beggar that sat at the gate.

Our resurrected bodies will be Incredible

1 Corinthians 15:43 says (all versions) "It (our body) is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."

John 20:26-29 tells us that Jesus passed through the door or walls . (Spiritual)

David Jeremiah says that our glorified bodies will be governed by the Holy Spirit. He says "That's what a spiritual body is. The basic difference between a natural body and a spiritual body is that the former is suited for life on earth, and a spiritual body will be suited for life in heaven for eternity with God. In our current bodies, we couldn't function in the realm of heaven."

Our resurrected bodies will be Infinite

1 John 1:2 (NLT easiest to understand) tells us that Jesus is eternal life. He came to earth but returned to be with the His Father/God.

1 Corinthians 15:54 tells us that we will be immortal.

John 17:3 defines eternal life as knowing "*the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*"

Romans 6:23 tells us that eternal life is a gift of God.

John 3:16-17 tells that we get eternal life from God, through belief or faith in His only begotten Son, Jesus.

"And why should it not be as much in the power of God to raise incorruptible, glorious, lively, spiritual bodies out of the ruins of those vile, corruptible ones, as first to make matter out of nothing? To God all things are possible." (Matthew Henry)

From all scriptural references that I could find, we will in heaven. Consider the following verses.

Matthew 22:2 - *The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.*

Revelation 19:9 - *Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb*

Luke 24:42-43 - Jesus ate fish with the disciples after receiving His resurrection body.

Acts 1:4 - Jesus ate fish again.

Acts 10:40-41 - We are told that Jesus ate and drank with His disciples after resurrection.

"We will stand on the New Earth and see it, feel it, smell it, taste its fruits, and hear its sounds. Not figuratively. Literally. We know this because we're promised resurrection bodies like Christ's. He saw and heard and felt and, as he cooked and ate fish, he presumably smelled and tasted it. We will too. Heaven's delights will stretch our glorified senses to their limits." (Alcorn)