

The Best Day of All

January 21, 2024

There is a wonderful section of Scripture that simply delights the soul of a believer, It summarizes and gives great insight to something that will be ours to have throughout all eternity. Let's take a moment to look at it in the book of Philippians.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Our current spiritual passport states that we are citizens of heaven. Then it states that when Christ returns, he will change our vile bodies. "Vile" means: lowness, or low estate. Metaphorically It means spiritual abasement, leading one to perceive and lament his littleness. All of that is going to go away at the gathering together! What a thrill it is to know that this is what we have to look forward to. A new body, fashioned like the body of Jesus Christ after God raised him from the dead! What kind of body is it? I Corinthians 15 gives a glimpse into some aspects of the new body.

I Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; 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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

This is a glimpse of this new body that is to come. When Christ was raised from the dead by his Father, his body became a quickening spiritual body. It was sown a natural body like the ones we have, and it was raised a spiritual body, like the ones we will have. It gave Jesus Christ incorruptibility for starters. No more dying involved. No more sickness involved, and no more earthly limitations.

In our case, there are two related aspects to consider, that being that if Christ returns today, we are all still living. So, our bodies would not need incorruptability, but rather immortality.

Verse 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

This record now begins to speak of the future change in the physical nature of people who have already received the gift of holy spirit. There are two categories discussed in the following passage, namely, those who are flesh and blood (mortals) and those who have died and corrupted (corruption).

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The Greek word for "moment" is atomos, which literally means: "that which cannot be cut or divided. It is an indivisible moment of time. Hence "atom". Only place in the God's Word that it is used.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Paul, by revelation opens up the discussion about the subject of what was, and still is to come at Christ's return. Some were saying that there is no resurrection, but the gospel said otherwise. The hope of those who have believed in Christ is dealt with in detail in the two epistles written to the Thessalonians. But let's look a little more at this new body that is to come like Christ's glorious body.

Luke 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. 16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. 17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications *are* these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? 18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? 19 And he [Jesus] said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.

Such a great record that discusses Jesus Christ in his newly resurrected body. One aspect is that you certainly don't lose your sense of humor! When Jesus said to them "What things?" is sort of hilarious! It is evident that Jesus joined these two on the road to Emmaus, knowing full well what was going on in their lives, and their doubts and fears that were probably overwhelming. Nonetheless, he asks them, "What things?" Then after he teaches them about himself and where his life is mentioned in the Old Testament records, they ask him to stay and talk some more.

And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. 29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

Wouldn't that have the coolest thing? Jesus Christ coming up to you while you are walking along the road, and he begins a conversation with you about himself in records in the Old Testament. That would have taken some time. Yet, afterward when he finishes, he gets invited to dinner with these two. Then, he simply vanishes out of their sight! Again, another aspect of the new body that is to come. Unlimited in scope and activity. Let's look at another record of Jesus in his resurrected body.

John 20:9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. 10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. 12 Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. 14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. 15 So when [after] they had dined...

Another aspect of the new body is the ability to eat food! Jesus not only prepared a nice fire to cook on, but also already had some fish going on the coals. Then verse 15 says “So when (after) they had dined”... Again a wonderful aspect of the new body. With our new body it’s not that you become some ethereal spirit that floats around and haunts houses now. No, it’s a real, genuine body!

Back in the Gospel of Luke again, the record of the first time Jesus appears to the disciples begins.

Luke 24:37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet. 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

His phrase of, “for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have,” is very interesting, because we read in Philippians that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” But Jesus doesn’t say that he has flesh and blood, but rather “flesh and bones.” Leviticus 17:10 says that the life of the flesh is in the blood. Jesus’ new body didn’t have soul life. As we read in **I Corinthians 15:45: “The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was *made* a quickening spirit.”** It literally reads, “**The last Adam (Jesus Christ) *became* a life-giving spirit.**”

The first Adam was given breath-life, and that breath-life was carried on to each generation by the blood in the bodies of descendants. Jesus Christ had a new life. He had a body that has a life-quickening or life-giving spirit. Blood was not re-installed in his crucified body in order to give him life. Rather, his life came from God by a life-giving spirit. He still had a body, albeit a completely new beautiful body. Blood was no longer required. This new body could get around to places very quickly, and without restrictions. This is something that is really exciting to think about!

I Corinthians 13:9(WT) Surely we know in part, and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when *that which is* mature comes, then that *which is* in part will be made inactive. ¹¹ When I was an infant, I spoke as an infant, I thought as an infant, I reasoned as an infant. When I did become a man, I did, *in fact*, lay aside the *things* of the infant. ¹² Thus we now see in a mirror [*made of meta*] in obscurity, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then shall I know fully even as I also was fully known.

This section of God’s Word describes more than just the change that will happen to our bodies. It describes here in the Working Translation, “but then shall I know fully even as I also was fully known.” Our minds will be completely new. No longer stumbling to understand things, or remember things, but knowing what is currently unknown. What a relief! What a joy! What a wonderful thing to look forward to when Christ returns for us. Furthermore, the Church of the Body will never have to endure the day of wrath that many false teachers propound. We will be gone by then.

II Thessalonians 2:1(WT) Now with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together up to him, brothers, we ask you ² that you not be hastily shaken in mind or disturbed, neither by spirit nor by word nor by an epistle as *if it were* from us, as *saying* that the Day of the Lord is present. ³ Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, for *that day will not be present* unless there first comes the departure and the man of ¹lawlessness ^{Or/ sin} is revealed, the son of destruction.

The Church will be gathered together before the big trouble, the day of wrath begins. At that time, all hell will literally break loose! The light of God's Word that we carry, and the spirit of God within each of us, will be removed from the face of the earth at that time. We will be outta here!!! Because of what Jesus Christ accomplished, God saved a surprise for us that was revealed to the Apostle Paul. No wrath coming for us. This message is repeated several times in the Church Epistles.

I Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he [God] raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

II Thessalonians 1:7(WT) And to you who are afflicted along with us *to repay* rest at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his messengers of power. ⁸ With flaming fire, he will give vengeance against those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel regarding our ¹Lord Jesus {Or/ Lord Jesus Christ}. ⁹ They will be sentenced to eternal destruction from the face of the lord and from the glory of his prevailing ability ¹⁰ after he comes to be glorified in his holy [*sanctified*] ones and to be admired in that day by all those who have believed (for our witness to you was believed).

I Thessalonians 4:13 (WT) ¹³ Now we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who fall asleep, so that you are not grieved as the others who have no hope. ¹⁴ Moreover, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so we *believe that* God by means of Jesus will bring those who have fallen asleep *to be with him*. ¹⁵ Moreover, we say this to you by the Word of the Lord that we who remain alive until the coming of the lord shall in no way precede those who have fallen asleep, ¹⁶ because the lord himself will descend from heaven with a summoning shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who remain alive will be snatched up together with them in the clouds to meet the lord in the air, and so shall we always be with the lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore encourage one another with these words.

This describes in no uncertain detail, the order of things to occur at the gathering together. We will called with a "summoning shout, with the voice of the archangel!" At that moment, our bodies will change from either incorruption, if we have fallen asleep, or to immortal if we are alive at that time. Yaaay! We have so much to look forward to at Jesus Christ's return for us!

II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

What a great hope we have! New bodies, new minds and a new heavens and new earth to look forward to. We may have bad days at times, but this will be the Best Day of All! God bless you!