

## The Resurrection Body of Jesus

The Bible teaches that there will be a bodily resurrection of the dead one day (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; 1 Thess. 5:16). The bodies we will have at that time will be different in some ways from the bodies we possess now (cf. 1 Cor. 15:35-56). The risen Savior already has such a body (1 Cor. 15:20; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2), and a careful study of what is revealed about His post-resurrection body may yield some clues into what we ourselves will one day be like. One word of caution: let us merely acknowledge what the Bible says about these matters without reading our own opinions and ideas into areas that have not been revealed (cf. Deut. 29:29; 1 John 3:2).

***He left His tomb empty*** – The Bible does not speak of the destruction of our current corruptible bodies, but rather their change (1 Cor. 15:51) or transformation (Phil. 3:21). When Jesus arose, His corruptible body was changed to His current “glorious body” (Phil. 3:21), and His tomb was left empty (Luke 24:23; Matt. 28:6).

***He looked like a human being*** – Jesus appeared to His disciples and they did not seem to notice that His body was different than an ordinary human (Luke 24:28-30; cf. 1 Cor. 15:39). Somewhat curiously, He does not seem to have been instantly recognizable to those who had known Him previously (John 20:13-16; 21:12; Luke 24:31).

***He had flesh and bones*** – When He showed Himself to the disciples, He said, “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have” (Luke 24:39).

***He could eat*** – The disciples gave Jesus a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb and Jesus took it and ate in their presence (Luke 24:42-43). On another occasion He invited the apostles to eat a breakfast of fish and bread with Him (John 21:12-15).

***He could breathe air*** – The Lord breathed on His apostles and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). The very fact that He could speak at all implies that His post-resurrection body has the ability to inhale and exhale.

***He bore the marks of His persecution*** – One of the interesting things about the Lord’s post-resurrection body is that it still bears the “print” of the nails and the wound in His side from His crucifixion (John 20:24-29).

***He went to heaven with a body*** – The Lord was taken up bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9-11), and there He presently resides in bodily form (Acts 7:55; Phil. 3:21; Heb. 10:5, 10). The angels promised that He will return, “In like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

***He will return to make our bodies like His*** – The resurrection of Jesus makes Him the, “Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor. 15:20). Our present, corruptible bodies are in the image of Adam, the “man of dust,” but our future, incorruptible bodies

will be in the image of Christ, the “heavenly Man” (1 Cor. 15:49). While it has not yet been revealed exactly what we will be like, we are given the promise that we will be “like Him” (1 John 3:2). Thank God for the risen Savior!

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