

OUR NEW HEAVENLY/RESURRECTED BODIES

Our physical earthly bodies are temporary, which we someday must put aside (2 Pet 1:13-14; 2 Tim 4:6). Believers that die now receive an “intermediate” (temporary) heavenly body (evidence for “intermediate” heavenly bodies includes Moses and Elijah – Luke 9:28-36 and Lazarus – Luke 16:19-31. Far less reliably, Don Piper – “90 Minutes in Heaven” and Colton Burpo “Heaven is for Real” saw people in bodies in their alleged visits to intermediate Heaven).

Some day our temporary heavenly bodies will be exchanged for an eternal resurrected physical body and home (Rom 8:18-23; Phil 3:20-21).

What will our new resurrected bodies be like?

Our new bodies will be:

- **A real physical body (material), but also will be a “spiritual” body.** We will be able to relate to spirit beings like God and angels (I Cor 15:35-56). *Jesus has a resurrected physical body and so will we!* Enoch and Elijah appear to have been taken to Heaven in their physical bodies (Gen 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11-12). Before the fall (pre-sin) Adam and Even had physical bodies. Job rejoiced that *in his flesh* he would see God (Job 19:26).
- **Our bodies will not be identical with our earthly bodies, but “related”** (e.g. acorn and oak tree; “resurrection” not a completely new creation). Very likely some of the genetic material from our earthly bodies will be incorporated into our resurrected bodies (I Cor 15:35-56).
- **Our bodies will be imperishable and immortal; we will NEVER die!** (I Cor 15:35-56; 2 Cor 5:1-5; John 11:25-26)
- **Our new bodies will be powerful and glorious and in some manner like Christ's body!** (I John 3:2; Rm 8:18-29; Phil 3:20-21; I Cor 15:49). Since Jesus is divine His body may have some extra supernatural abilities that we may not have (e.g. appearing or disappearing suddenly and going through locked doors – John 20:19; Luke 24:31; Acts 1:9).
- **Our bodies will be distinctive! We will be recognizable and will know each other!**

Example of Jesus resurrected body being recognized.

Other evidence: Moses & Elijah were recognized at Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain (Mt 17:1-13; Lk 9:28-36; Mk 9:2-13).

Story of Lazarus, Rich man and Abraham (Luke 16:19-31).

Implied in 2 Sam 12:23; I Thes 4:13-18; Mat 8:10-11, 22:23-30; Mk 12:18-27; Lk 20:27-40.

- **Our bodies will be made of some form of flesh (material), and we will WALK, TALK, STAND, RUN, SIT, TOUCH AND BE TOUCHED, EAT (hallelujah!) and do other functions we do now! But ... we will also have “supernatural” abilities in the sense we will not face some of the limitations we experience now!**

Case Study: Jesus resurrected body -

- Jesus has a “real” physical body. He was physically recognized and looked human. He was seen & heard and he walked, talked, stood & sat (Mt 28:9, 17; Lk 24:13-49; John 20:15-30; John 21; I Cor 9:1, 15:6)
- His body was made of flesh & bones; “I am not a ghost” (Lk 24:39).
- Body had crucifixion wounds in it (Lk 24:39; John 20:27).
- He was touched by human hands (John 20:17, 27; Mt 28:9; Lk 24:39; I John 1:1).
- He ate food (Lk 24:30, 41-43; John 21: 9, 13; Acts 1:4) (refer to Rev 22:1-2).
- Jesus passed through closed doors (John 20:19) (we may or may not have that ability).
- Jesus appeared and disappeared from sight (Lk 24: 31, 36) (we may or may not have that ability)
- Jesus resurrected body was male, which has caused experts to conclude there will be genders in heaven (Elijah and Moses were male in their intermediate bodies. Adam and Eve pre-Fall were male and female. We do know there will not be marriage -Mat 22:23-30).

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

Question: Will there be racial indentities in our bodies?

Answer: Yes (very likely) (see Rev 5:9, 7:9)

Question: Will we wear clothes?

Answer: Yes (extremely likely). Jesus wears clothes; also refer to Rev 3:4, 6:9-11. We will wear clothes (at least robes, but since God likes diversity and creativity could be a range of clothes) probably to enhance our appearance and comfort. We will not wear clothes due to shame or temptation.

Question: Will we have sex in Heaven?

Answer: No. There will be no marriage and no need for earthly sex as we know it. Earthly sex was intended for procreation and for martial intimacy and pleasure. There will be no procreation in Heaven, and our intimacy and pleasure will go far beyond anything we have experienced in Heaven. Happily married couples now will have special relationships in Heaven that will be far more intimate and pleasurable than any experience here on earth. *Our ultimate relationship will be to our “mate” Jesus Christ.*

Question: Will our new bodies have digestion and elimination?

Answer: Not sure. God could make our new bodies without those functions. However, digestion and elimination are not sinful and Adam and Eve before sin had those functions.