

"JUBILEE REUNION"

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1 Cor. 15:17-20 *And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.* (NLT)

THE RESURRECTION OF THE SAVED OCCURS WHEN JESUS RETURNS TO EARTH.

1. Jesus returns to earth with the spirits of the saved.

1 Thess. 4:14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.* (NASB)

2. The righteous dead are first raised to life.

1 Thess. 4:16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.* (NASB)

3. The righteous living are then translated.

1 Thess. 4:17 *Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.* (NASB)

THE SPIRIT REUNITES WITH A NEW BODY INTO AN IMMORTAL PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL BEING.

1 Cor. 15:44 *They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.* (NLT)

1. There is continuity of identity and personality.

Job 19:25-27 *"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another."* (NASB)

Rom. 8:11 *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.* (NLT)

2. The body will be similar to the resurrected Christ.

1 John 3:2 *Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.* (NLT)

The Resurrected Christ

a. He was recognizable in physical appearance.

Luke 24:39 *"Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."* (NRSV)

John 20:20 *As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!* (NLT)

John 20:27 *Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said.* (NLT)

b. He retained the five physical senses.

Luke 24:41-43 *Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it as they watched.* (NLT)

3. The body will be "glorious."

Phil. 3:21 *He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.* (NLT)

1 Cor. 15:42-44 *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.* (NASB)

THE RESURRECTION IS IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY BECAUSE . . .

1. We were made to live in a physical world.

Gen. 1:27-28 *So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."* (NLT)

2. The fulfillment of God's purpose for us requires our restoration to our original state.

1 Cor. 15:50 *What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.* (NLT)

Rev. 22:5 *There will never be night again. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light. And they will rule as kings forever and ever.* (NCV)

3. The redemption of earth from the curse of sin depends on our restoration.

Gen. 3:17-18 *Then God said to the man, "You listened to what your wife said, and you ate fruit from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat. "So I will put a curse on the ground, and you will have to work very hard for your food. In pain you will eat its food all the days of your life. The ground will produce thorns and weeds for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.* (NCV)

Rom. 8:19-21 *For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.* (NLT)

2 Peter 3:13 *But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.* (NLT)