

The sun, moon, planets, and stars are celestial bodies. The beauty and glory of each celestial body differs from the others and also from the terrestrial. The terrestrial is of the earth. The sun has one kind of glory, the moon another, and each star has its own unique glory.

I Corinthians 15:40 and 41

*There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another.

*There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory.

God communicates all these differences to help us understand the great difference of the resurrected bodies from the dead bodies.

Verses 42-44

So also *is* the **resurrection of the dead**. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is sown in dishonour; 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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

The one has such a tremendous contrast with the other. We should slow down and consider the great blessing which we are to have.

Sown in:

corruption

dishonor

weakness

natural body

Raised in:

incorruption

glory

power

spiritual body

All mankind are descendants of Adam which is why we have our natural bodies with all their sinful defects. Those of us who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and that God raised him from the dead are born again and inherit the spiritual nature of Christ within. When he returns, we will receive spiritual bodies.

Verses 45-48

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening [life-making] spirit.

Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly.

We were all born earthly and born again to be heavenly. God promises us that in the resurrection we shall bear the image of the heavenly. Praise God!

Verse 49

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Our current earthly bodies of flesh and blood cannot live forever. There must be a major change like that which happened to Jesus Christ's body when he was resurrected.

Verse 50

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

When Christ returns, many believers will have already died, and some believers will be alive. Those who are dead will be resurrected. Those who are alive will not need to be resurrected because they are not dead, but they still need to be changed. One of the great mysteries of God is how He will make these miraculous transformations.

Verses 51 and 52

Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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 dead are referred to as corruptible. Those alive at his return are referred to as mortal. The corruptible must put on incorruption which will happen with the resurrection. Those alive, the mortals, must be changed to put on immortality.

Verse 53

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

Thessalonians tells us when these things will come to pass. God does not want us to be ignorant regarding these matters. Note that the dead are referred to as those asleep, as in I Corinthians 15.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

This is great comfort for us, knowing Christ is coming back and at that time the corruptible will put on incorruption, and the mortal immortality.

When a loved one falls asleep, we mourn the great loss of that person's fellowship. With the Hope, we can find comfort in this most challenging time.

Death is our enemy. There is a great sting to death. Hebrews 2:14 tells us the devil has the power of death and that Jesus Christ destroyed him. When Christ returns, many things are going to happen. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death according to I Corinthians 15:26. Revelation 20:14 records this final victory, the elimination of death.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

When the future things spoken of in I Corinthians 15 come to pass, death will be swallowed up in victory. What a glorious day that will be!

Verses 54-57

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.

O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ died for our sins. He was buried and stayed in the ground for three days and three nights after which God raised him from the dead. He was seen in his resurrected body by many eyewitnesses. Had he not been seen by anyone, the testimony of God Almighty alone should be enough to convince all.

Since we are certain Christ has been resurrected, we can also be certain he was the firstfruits. They that are Christ's at his coming will join him when they are

resurrected. Those who are alive at Christ's return shall put on immortality to join the resurrected incorruptible ones. For the guaranteed victory that our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished, we should be abundantly thankful to God. This gratitude should be manifested in the following way:

Verse 58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

. . .to be continued