

Chapter Three

OUR GLORIFIED BODIES IN THE KINGDOM

The Bible pointedly says, "...we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body..." Phil 3:20-21

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SOME THINGS WE KNOW

There are some things recorded in the Bible about the glorified body of Jesus that we can know. These things are a matter of record which is recorded in God's eternal Word.

Jesus Had A Body That One Could See and Recognize

On the Mount of Transfiguration Peter, John, and James beheld the transformation of Jesus from His human body into a spiritual, glorified body. *Matt 17* God caused Moses and Elijah to appear in their glorified bodies with Him. These three men saw and recognized Jesus, Moses, and Elijah although they had never seen the Old Testament saints before. They had no pictures of those renowned men who had been dead for several centuries, but they instantly recognized and knew them.

Paul gave an account of the people who saw Jesus and recognized Him in His glorified body after He was raised from the dead and ministered to them. *I Cor 15:5-8* He also appeared to people personally and to a crowd of over 500. They recognized Him, and most of them gave their lives in spreading the word of His death and resurrection for the remission of sin.

He Wept For Joy

God allowed me to lead a big brute of a man (6'8" tall") to the Lord. He had taken his own thumbs and gouged out his eyes while he was under the influence of narcotics. Big Blind Ben wept uncontrollably when he realized that the first

face he would see in his new body would be the blessed face of Jesus. He kept saying, “I will know Him. I will know Him.” I put my arm around his big shoulders and said, “Yes, Ben, you will know Him.” And, my friend, if you are saved, you will know him too!

Jesus Had a Body That One Could Touch

Some of the most tender scenes in the Bible are when the broken hearted disciples, who had seen their friend and Master brutally crucified right before their very eyes, saw Him in His glorified body.

When Mary asked the two angels, whom she had mistakenly thought were caretakers, “Where hast thou laid him?” From the back came the voice of Jesus who spoke one word, “*Mary.*” Mary knew that voice and replied, “*Master.*” (John 20:15-16)

Jesus said, “...Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father:...” *John 20:17* After His appearance in Heaven as our High Priest, He came back and **the woman embraced His feet.** (Matt 28:9)

The apostles were behind closed, locked doors and suddenly Jesus appeared in their midst. “But they were terrified and

affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.” Luke 24:37

And Jesus said unto them, “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.” Luke 24:39-40

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They were still not fully convinced that He wasn't just a spirit. He asked, “Have ye any meat?” Luke 24:41 When He ate the fish and the honeycomb, they were fully convinced He was alive. Later He told the disciples to reach their hand into His side. From the brief appearances of Jesus before His ascension back to Heaven, we know that He had a body one could recognize; one that ate food and one that you could touch and embrace.

Jesus Had a Body That Had Power Over Matter

Peter and John knew His body had just materialized through the grave clothes

when they looked inside the empty tomb. This was the first evidence that gave them hope that Jesus had arisen. Then Jesus appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He walked and talked with them and then **He vanished out of their sight.** (Luke 24:13-31)

And as they spoke and told the other disciples about seeing Jesus in His glorified body, He again appeared in their midst. (Luke 24:36)

The dramatic descriptions of John tell it better. “When the doors were shut the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst.” John 20:19 **Presto! He was gone from one place. Presto! He appeared in another place even though the doors were locked.** Then when His work on earth was finished, He took that unseen elevator back up to Heaven as the apostles stood watching!

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Although He could eat, embrace, and sit at the table with the apostles, He could also materialize right through walls, time, and space and then suddenly appear somewhere else. It almost staggers ones

mind to just think about it. Reality and our glorified bodies will soon be ours.

SOME THINGS WE CAN ANTICIPATE

I was baptizing in the Chamah Valley in Mexico. Although it was still morning, the sun was blazing hot. If one accidentally looked into its rays, their vision would be blurred for a few seconds. After baptizing two or three candidates, I would submerge down into the water to my chin. When I stood back up, the very slight wind would cool me off so that I could baptize two or three more people before repeating the process. **The bright, hot sun was dominating!**

Penny and I were traveling to Durango, Colorado and had to cross the Red Mountains, with an elevation of 6500 to 7000 feet above sea level, to get there. The sun was setting just as we climbed the last mountain, and it seemed like we were driving right into **the biggest full moon we have ever seen!** Neither one of us has ever forgotten that breathtaking experience.

Another time, we were at Apache Creek Youth Camp in the extreme western part of New Mexico. Look Out Point is near

the top of the mountains there and rises up to 7000 feet in elevation. At night, in that remote area of the country, **it was like the stars were close enough** for us to reach up and touch. Some of the stars were twice or three times larger than their sister stars. It seemed like there were millions upon millions of them, which were twinkling like a choir worshipping their Master.

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The Glorified Body of the Believer

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Some readers may be startled and say, “I never heard that before! Where does it say that in the Bible?”

Paul’s exact words were, “But some man will say, **How are the dead raised up?**”

and with what body do they come?” I Cor 15:35

Paul answers, “Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that

*...body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But **God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.**”*

body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: **But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.**” I Cor 15:36-38

We are talking about the future Resurrection in which God will give each believer his own glorified body. The illustration is that one plants a little seed of corn; it dies and comes forth as a beautiful stalk of corn with one or two ears on the stalk.

Paul continues, “All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.” I Cor 15:39

Just as there are differences in the texture and make-up of flesh, there will **be different kinds of glorified bodies.**

In Verses 40 and 41, we come to our illustration. “There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of 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.”

Now the punch line: “**So also is the resurrection of the dead** [bodies]. It [the body] is sown [like a seed] in corruption; it is raised [like a seed comes up] in incorruption: It [the body] is sown in dishonor [bent over and twisted]; it is raised [like a seed comes up] in glory: it [the body] is sown in weakness [so weak it cannot keep living]; it [the body] is raised in power: It is sown a natural body [designed for a few short years]; it is raised a spiritual body [that will last and shine forever]...” I Cor 15:42-44

This Is In Perfect Harmony

Remember Paul’s promise. “Who [Jesus] shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...” Phil 3:21 When Moses encountered God upon Mount Sinai, he saw only the back side of God as He passed by.

Moses face shown so brightly, they placed a veil over his face when he came down from the encampment. For days, the glow of His countenance was so bright he had to leave his veil on when he talked to people.

When John saw the glorified Christ in Rev 1:17, he said, "...I fell at his feet as dead...." When John described the rapture of the

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saints who were standing before the throne of Jesus, he said "And he that sat was to look upon **like a jasper and a sardine stone....**" Rev 4:3 Jesus was shining so brightly in His glorified body that John chose two very bright stones in order to try to describe the brightness of His glorified body.

So those of His children who are faithful and serve Him acceptably will have bodies that will shine with different shades of brightness forever and ever.

Now it becomes much clearer why the Apostle Paul was still striving and working so hard in his final years. (Phil 3) He not only wanted to shine his very best for the Lord in his earthly life, but he also wanted to

shine in his future life beyond the river in the 1000-year reign.

Where Have You Set Your Affections?

Where will you live on the other side of the river? What type of glorified body will

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you have for all eternity? As an old man, Paul was still working to secure a better resurrection. (Phil 3:13-14) This shows the lifestyle that every older person should adapt as they look forward and prepare to live with Jesus for 1000 years on the other side of the river.

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