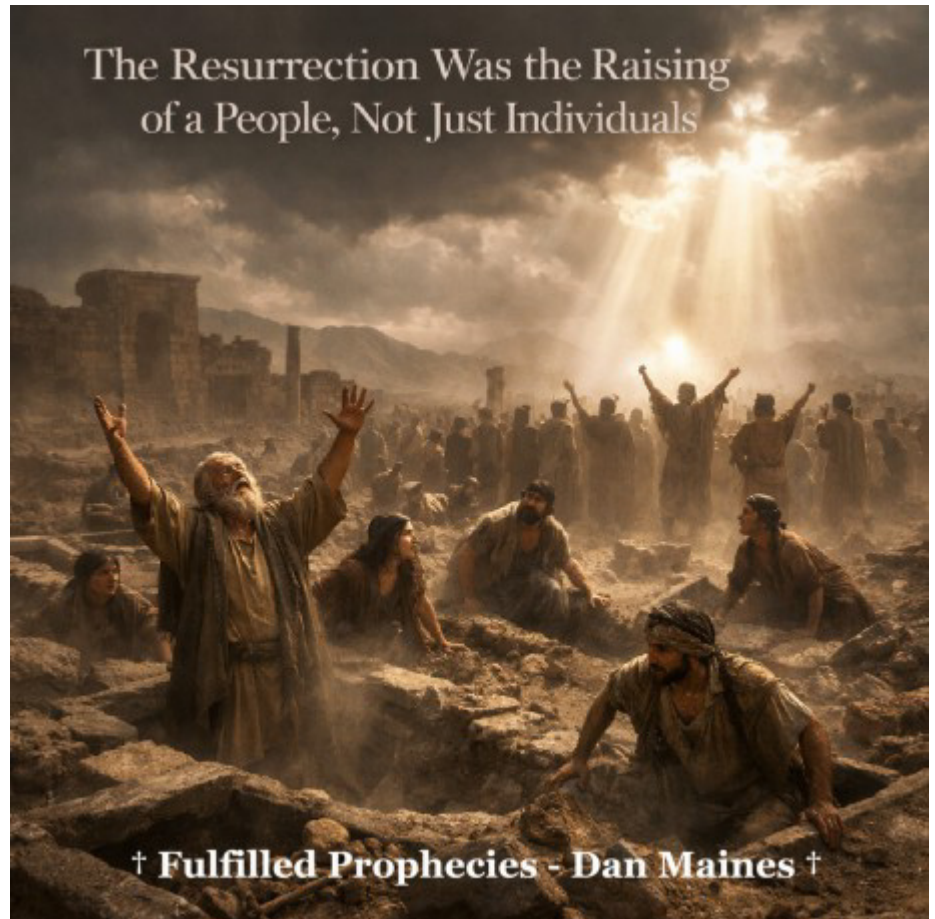


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The Resurrection Was the Raising of a People, Not Just Individuals



By Dan Maines

The Resurrection Was the Raising of a People, Not Just Individuals

Introduction

† Most people have been taught to think of the resurrection as individual bodies coming out of graves all over the world, but that's not how the Bible consistently describes it.

† When we let Scripture define its own language, we see resurrection used in a covenantal, corporate way, not just

biological.

† The resurrection is about God raising a people, not just isolated individuals.

Ezekiel 37 The Valley of Dry Bones

† This is one of the clearest resurrection passages in the entire Old Testament, and it tells us exactly what kind of resurrection we're dealing with.

Ezekiel 37:11

Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the entire house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.'

† The text doesn't leave this open to interpretation, the dry bones are explicitly called the whole house of Israel.

† This isn't about individual corpses coming out of graves, it's about a nation that was spiritually dead being raised.

† Their condition is described as hopeless, cut off, and lifeless, covenantally dead.

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: "Behold, I am going to open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. And I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD.'"

† Notice the language, graves opening, coming out, being raised, but it's clearly about a people, not scattered individuals across the planet.

† The key is the Spirit, I will put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live.

† This is resurrection language tied directly to receiving the Spirit, not flesh being reanimated.

Daniel 12 Many Awakening

† Daniel carries this same resurrection language forward into the time of the end of the old covenant age.

Daniel 12:1

"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

† Notice the limitation, Daniel's people, this is not global humanity, it's covenant Israel.

† This defines the scope for everything that follows, including the resurrection in verse 2.

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

† This isn't describing every human being who has ever lived, it says many, not all.

† The context is Daniel's people and the time of tribulation on Israel.

† This awakening is a division, some entering life, others entering judgment, exactly what we see in the first century.

1 Corinthians 15 The Nature of the Body

† Paul doesn't contradict Ezekiel or Daniel, he explains what kind of resurrection body we're dealing with.

1 Corinthians 15:44

it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

† The contrast is not between a physical body and another physical body, it's between natural and spiritual.

† The resurrection body is defined as spiritual, not fleshly.

† This fits perfectly with Ezekiel, where life comes through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:45

So also it is written: "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING PERSON." The last Adam was a life-giving spirit.

† Christ is not giving life through flesh, He is a life-giving Spirit.

† So what kind of resurrection gives life, not flesh, but Spirit.

† This tells us the nature of the resurrection, it's about receiving life from the Spirit, not returning to biological existence.

John 5 The Hour Of Resurrection

John 5:28-29

Do not be amazed at this; for a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come out: those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the bad deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

† This is often used to argue for a global, end of time resurrection, but notice the timing, the hour is coming, not thousands of years later.

† Jesus already defined that hour earlier in the same passage as a present, covenantal transition (John 5:25).

† The tombs language matches Ezekiel 37, where graves represent Israel's covenant death, not literal burial sites across the planet.

† This is the same division seen in Daniel 12, life and judgment within Israel's last days.

Timing Locked To That Generation

Matthew 23:36

Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

† Jesus places the fulfillment of these events within that generation, not thousands of years later.

† This includes judgment, resurrection, and the covenant transition.

Matthew 24:34

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† This removes any possibility of pushing resurrection into a distant future.

† Everything tied to His coming and judgment was fulfilled in that generation.

Ephesians 2 Raised Together In Christ

Ephesians 2:5-6

even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

† Notice the language, made alive and raised up, this is resurrection language applied to a people, not graves opening.

† This was already happening in the first century, proving resurrection is tied to covenant life, not biological reanimation.

† The people of God were being raised into a new living body in Christ.

1 Corinthians 12 The Corporate Body

1 Corinthians 12:12

For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

† Paul defines the body as a corporate people, not individual physical bodies.

† This is the same body discussed in 1 Corinthians 15, the one that is raised spiritual.

† So the resurrection is the raising of that corporate body into its completed form in Christ.

Bringing It Together

† Ezekiel shows a dead nation raised by the Spirit.

† Daniel shows a covenant people awakening during a time of judgment.

† Paul shows that the resurrection body is spiritual and comes from Christ as a life giving Spirit.

† John confirms the hour of this resurrection was in their time.

† Jesus locks the timing to that generation.

† Paul shows it was already happening among believers.

† The corporate body is clearly defined as one people in Christ.

† All of it agrees, the resurrection is about a people being raised into life in the Spirit.

† It's not about corpses coming out of dirt across the planet.

† It's about the dead covenant body of Israel being replaced with a living body in Christ.

† That transition was completed in AD 70, when the old covenant system passed away and the new covenant stood fully revealed.

Historical References

† Josephus described Israel in the first century as being under judgment, scattered, and cut off, matching the language of

covenant death.

† Eusebius records the destruction of Jerusalem as the decisive end of the old covenant order.

† Tertullian speaks of the transition from the old covenant to the new as a completed reality in Christ.

How it applies to us today

† We're not waiting for resurrection, we're living in it.

† We are part of the body that has already been raised in Christ.

† Our life comes from the Spirit now, not from the expectation of a future physical event.

† This changes everything, we don't live in fear of death, we live in the reality of life already given.

Q & A Appendix

Q: I thought the resurrection meant bodies coming out of graves, doesn't the Bible say that?

A: Ezekiel 37:11-14 shows graves opening as a picture of Israel being restored as a people, not individual bodies worldwide.

Q: Doesn't Daniel 12 prove a future global resurrection?

A: Daniel 12:1-2 shows it is limited to Daniel's people and says many, not all, and it's tied to the time of tribulation on Israel, not a distant future event.

Q: What kind of body are we raised with?

A: 1 Corinthians 15:44 says it is raised a spiritual body, not a fleshly one.

Q: How does Christ give resurrection life?

A: 1 Corinthians 15:45 says the last Adam became a life giving Spirit, showing that life comes through the Spirit, not flesh.

Q: If the resurrection is spiritual, does that mean nothing really happened?

A: No, it means something greater happened. The entire covenant world changed. The dead body of Israel passed away, and a living body in Christ was raised, exactly as prophesied in Ezekiel 37:11-14 and fulfilled in the first century, as explained in 1 Corinthians 15:44-45.

Q: What about people physically dying, don't they still need resurrection?

A: The Bible separates physical death from covenant death. Ephesians 2:1 says we were dead in trespasses, yet still physically alive. The resurrection addresses that death by bringing life through the Spirit (Ephesians 2:5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:45).

Q: Doesn't the Bible say death is the last enemy to be destroyed?

A: Yes, 1 Corinthians 15:26 says the last enemy is death, and that was defeated when Christ brought life through the Spirit and the old covenant system of death passed away (1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Hebrews 8:13).

Q: What about the graves opening in Matthew 27:52-53?

A: That event was a sign tied to that generation, not a global resurrection. It showed that resurrection life had begun in connection with Christ's work, pointing forward to the full covenant transition (Matthew 27:52-53; Daniel 12:2).

Q: If the resurrection already happened, why do people still die physically?

A: Because the resurrection was never about stopping physical death. It was about overcoming spiritual death and separation from God. Christ gives life through the Spirit, which physical death cannot take away (1 Corinthians 15:45; Romans 8:10-11).

Q: Doesn't Philippians 3:20-21 teach a future bodily transformation?

A: Philippians 3:20-21 speaks of transformation into conformity with Christ, and Paul defines that body in 1 Corinthians 15:44 as spiritual. This is about being conformed to His life giving Spirit, not returning to flesh.

Q: What about Acts 24:15, a resurrection of both the just and unjust?

A: Acts 24:15 reflects the same division seen in Daniel 12:2, life and judgment within that covenant generation. It doesn't require a global resurrection of all people across all time.

Q: If resurrection is corporate, how do individuals experience it?

A: Individuals participate by being brought into the body of Christ. When the body was raised, those in Christ share in that life (Ephesians 2:5-6; Colossians 3:1).

Q: Doesn't Job say in my flesh I shall see God?

A: Job 19:26 uses poetic language about vindication and restoration. It can't override the clear teaching that the resurrection body is spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:44).

Q: Why does Paul talk about being clothed instead of unclothed?

A: In 2 Corinthians 5:1-4, Paul speaks of being clothed with a heavenly dwelling, not returning to flesh. This matches the transition from the natural to the spiritual body.

Q: If everything is already fulfilled, what are we still hoping for?

A: We're not waiting for resurrection or covenant fulfillment, those are complete. Our hope is the continued life we have in Christ, which doesn't end with physical death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Romans 8:10).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 37:11-14; Daniel 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:44-45; John 5:28-29; Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34; Ephesians 2:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tertullian, Against Marcion

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