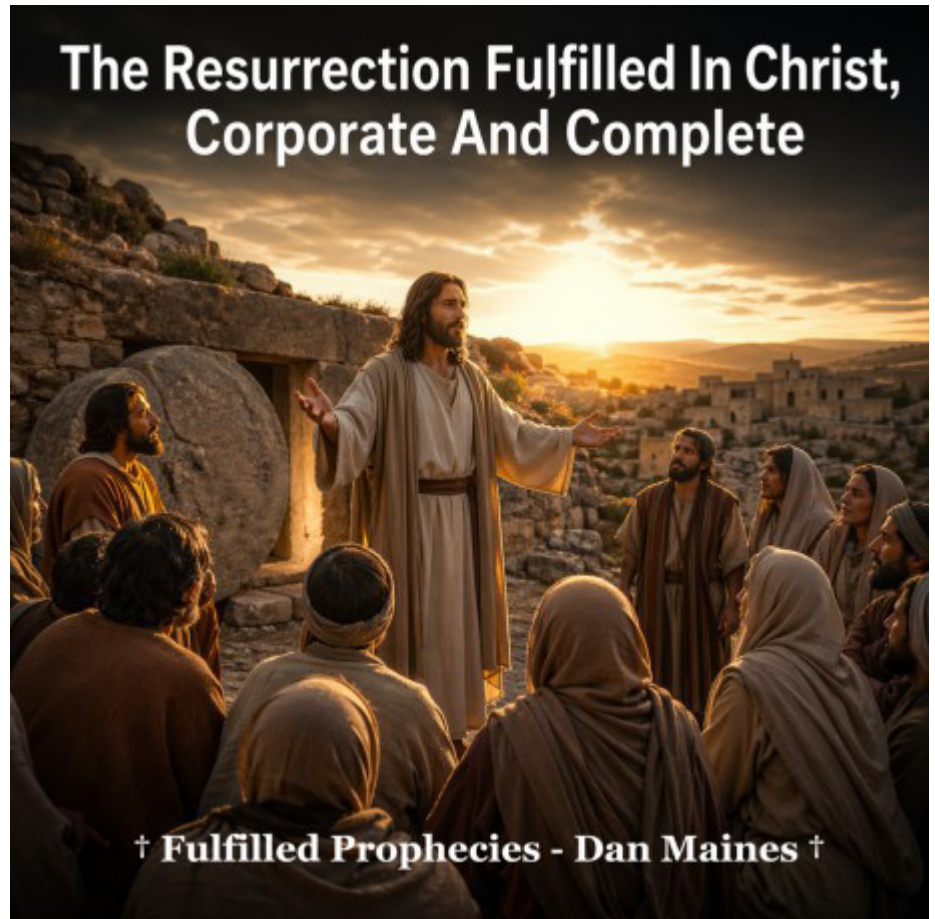


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**The Resurrection
Fulfilled In Christ,
Corporate And
Complete**



By Dan Maines

The Resurrection Fulfilled In Christ, Corporate And Complete

Introduction

† The question being asked is whether the resurrection is individual or corporate, and whether it applied only to Old Covenant Israel, so we're going to let Scripture answer that clearly and in context (1 Corinthians 15:12-23)

† The resurrection was never about decayed physical bodies coming out of graves at the end of time, it was about the raising of a covenant people from death into life in Christ (Ezekiel 37:11-14)

† What we're going to see is that the resurrection was both corporate in nature and personally experienced, and that it was fulfilled in their generation just as Jesus said (Matthew 24:34)

1 Corinthians 15:12-13

Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised;

† Paul ties the resurrection directly to Christ, meaning you can't separate the resurrection of the people from the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

† The issue wasn't future biology, it was covenant life versus covenant death, Christ brought life where there was death (Romans 6:4-5)

† If Christ was raised, then His body must also be raised, and that body is His people (Ephesians 1:22-23)

1 Corinthians 15:22-23

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

† Notice the timing, those who belong to Christ are made alive at His coming, not thousands of years later (1 Corinthians 15:23)

† His coming was within that generation, meaning the resurrection had to be as well (Matthew 16:27-28)

† This shows a corporate resurrection tied to a specific covenant transition, not an ongoing endless event

Daniel 12:1-2

"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. 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 is the clearest Old Testament resurrection text, and it is tied to a specific time, the time of the great tribulation (Daniel 12:1)

† Jesus places that same tribulation in His generation, proving the resurrection of Daniel 12 belongs there as well (Matthew 24:21,34)

† This locks resurrection into the first century timeline, not a future event

1 Corinthians 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.

† The contrast is not between physical and non existence, but between natural and spiritual, old covenant and new covenant (2 Corinthians 5:1-4)

† The natural body refers to the Adamic, earthly condition under the law, the spiritual body is the corporate body of Christ (Romans 7:5-6)

† This is why Paul says flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom, it was about covenant identity, not material substance (1 Corinthians 15:50)

† Paul never once says bodies come out of graves, he explains transformation, not resuscitation (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

† The change is from one covenant condition to another, not from corpse to flesh again (2 Corinthians 5:17)

† If this were about physical bodies, then Paul contradicts himself when he says flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:50)

Ezekiel 37:11-12

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.' 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.

† God defines the resurrection as the restoration of Israel, showing it is covenantal and corporate (Ezekiel 37:11)

† This wasn't about literal graves opening worldwide, it was about a people being brought from death to life (Hosea 6:1-2)

† This same language is used in the New Testament to describe what Christ accomplished (John 5:24-25)

John 5:24-25

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Truly, truly, I say to you, a time is coming and even now has arrived, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

† Notice Jesus said the hour is coming and now is, meaning the resurrection was already beginning in His time (John 5:25)

† This proves it wasn't a distant future event, it was unfolding in that generation (John 11:25-26)

† Passing from death to life is resurrection language, and it was happening then

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 this is already past tense, raised us up, not will raise us up (Ephesians 2:6)

† This proves resurrection was already in process before AD 70 and reached completion at His coming

† This is corporate language, we were raised together as one body

Revelation 20:4-5

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of

the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

† The first resurrection is clearly spiritual, these are souls living and reigning, not physical bodies walking around (Revelation 20:4)

† This resurrection happened in connection with judgment on the old system (Revelation 19:1-3)

† It shows again that resurrection is about entering life in Christ, not future grave resuscitation

† If the first resurrection is spiritual, then the second cannot suddenly switch to physical without breaking the context (Revelation 20:5-6)

† This destroys the idea of a future physical resurrection at the end of time

Historical References

† Josephus describes Israel as being cut off and destroyed in AD 70, matching the covenant death and judgment language found in Scripture (Wars of the Jews, Book 6)

† Eusebius records that the church understood the fall of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of Christ's words, including judgment and transition (Ecclesiastical History, Book 3)

† Early writers like Clement of Alexandria spoke of resurrection in terms of spiritual transformation rather than physical

reconstruction

† Irenaeus connected resurrection language with the restoration and transformation of God's people, not merely physical reanimation (Against Heresies, Book 5)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not waiting for resurrection, we're living in it, we've already passed from death into life in Christ (John 5:24)

† Our identity is not in Adam, but in Christ, meaning we are part of the raised, living body now (1 Corinthians 15:22)

† There's no fear of future judgment or waiting for life, we already have it, and we walk in it daily (Romans 8:1-2)

† The kingdom is present, the resurrection is complete, and we live as those who have been made alive

Q & A Appendix

Q: Is the resurrection individual or corporate?

A: It's both, it's corporate as the body of Christ being raised, and individual as each believer participates in that life (1 Corinthians 12:27; 1 Corinthians 15:23)

Q: Was the resurrection only for Old Covenant Israel?

A: It was centered on Israel because they were under the covenant of death, but it opened the door for all nations to enter life in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-16)

Q: Are we still waiting for resurrection today?

A: No, Jesus said it was happening in His time, and Scripture shows it was fulfilled at His coming (John 5:25; Matthew 16:27-28)

Q: What kind of body do we have now?

A: A spiritual body, meaning we are part of Christ's living body, not bound to the old covenant identity (1 Corinthians 15:44; Ephesians 2:6)

Q: What about people coming out of graves in Matthew 27?

A: That was a sign tied to Christ's death, not the final resurrection, and it happened in that generation, not at the end of time (Matthew 27:52-53; Hebrews 9:26)

Q: Does the Bible ever describe resurrection as corporate instead of individual?

A: Yes, very clearly. Ezekiel 37 defines resurrection as the whole house of Israel being raised together, not individuals coming out of graves one by one (Ezekiel 37:11-14). Paul carries that same idea forward by calling believers one body in Christ, meaning the resurrection is the raising of that body (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 2:5-6)

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

A: Individuals participate by being placed into the body of Christ. When the body is raised, everyone in it shares that life (1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 2:12-13). It is one resurrection with many participants, not millions of separate events

Q: Why does Paul use singular language like the body in 1 Corinthians 15?

A: Because he is speaking of one corporate body, not billions of separate physical bodies. He says it is sown and it is raised in the singular, showing one covenant body being transformed (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). That matches his teaching that we are one body in Christ (Romans 12:5)

Q: Doesn't each in his own order prove individual resurrection?

A: No, it shows sequence, not separation. Christ first, then those who belong to Him at His coming, that is still one united resurrection event tied to His return in that generation (1

Corinthians 15:23; Matthew 16:27-28)

Q: If this were about individual physical bodies, why does Paul never mention graves opening?

A: Because that is not his subject. He explains transformation from natural to spiritual, not bodies leaving tombs (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). The focus is covenant change, not biological revival

Q: How does Ephesians prove a corporate resurrection?

A: Paul says God raised us up together and seated us together in Christ. That is corporate language, not isolated individuals (Ephesians 2:5-6). The whole body is raised as one

Q: What is the strongest proof against the individual body view?

A: Paul says flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. If physical bodies were raised, they still could not enter the kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:50). That forces the resurrection to be spiritual and covenantal, not physical

Q: Does Daniel 12 support corporate resurrection?

A: Yes, it speaks about your people being delivered and raised, tying resurrection to the covenant people as a group, not isolated individuals (Daniel 12:1-2)

Q: Is the resurrection connected to the end of the Old Covenant?

A: Yes, it is directly tied to the time of distress and deliverance of Israel, which Jesus places in the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:21,34; Daniel 12:1-2). That marks the end of the Old Covenant and the full establishment of the new

Q: Why is the corporate body view stronger than the individual body view?

A: Because every major resurrection text defines it in covenant, body, and people language, not cemetery language. The Bible consistently speaks of a people being raised, a body being transformed, and a covenant being fulfilled, not skeletons being

rebuilt (Ezekiel 37:11; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; Ephesians 2:5-6)

Q: How does this affect how we read resurrection today?

A: It removes the confusion of waiting for a future event and shows that we are already part of the raised body in Christ. We live in resurrection life now, not waiting for it later (John 5:24; Colossians 3:1)

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

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Source Index

† 1 Corinthians 15, Daniel 12:1-2, John 5:24-25, Ezekiel 37:11-12, Ephesians 2:5-6, Revelation 20:4-5, Matthew 16:27-28, Matthew 24:21,34, Hebrews 9:26, Ephesians 2:6, 11-16

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 5

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