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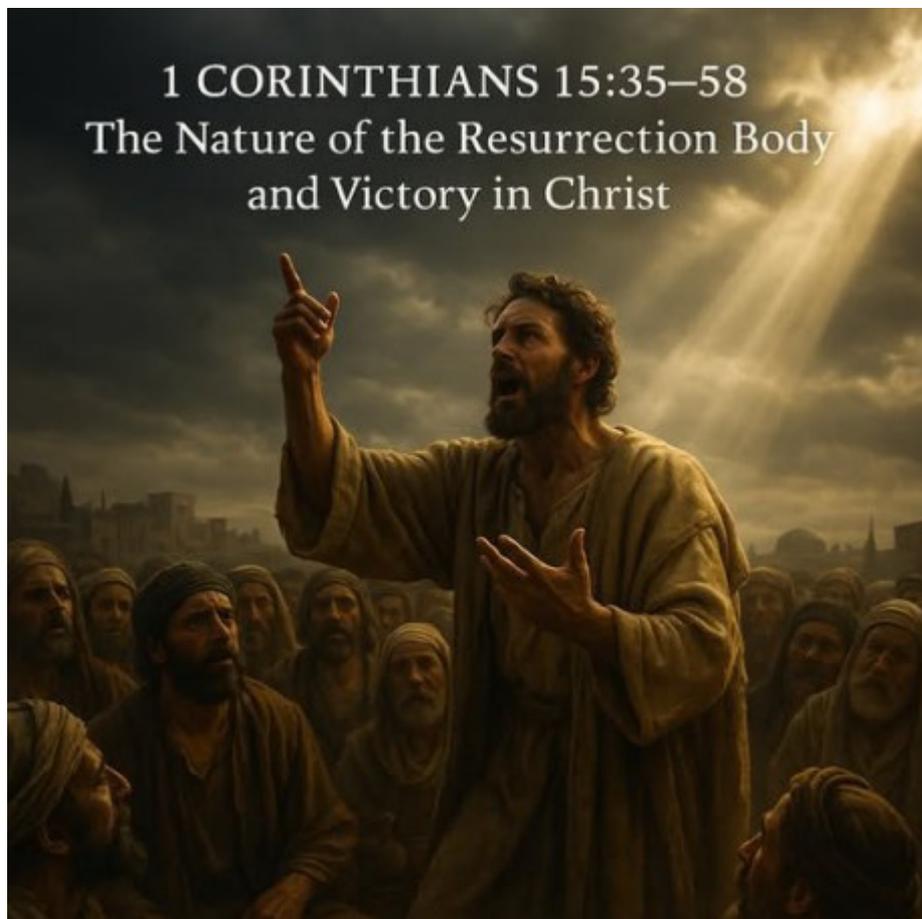
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1 Corinthians 15:35-58 – The Nature of the Resurrection Body and Victory in Christ (Part 2 of 2)



By Dan Maines

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 – The Nature of the Resurrection Body and Victory in Christ (Part 2 of 2)

1 Corinthians 15:35-38

But someone will say, How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come? You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies, and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

- † Paul used the seed analogy: transformation follows death.
- † The resurrection body was not the same as the body sown.
- † God determined the new body given in resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:39-41

All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of mankind, another flesh of animals, another of birds, and another of fish. There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory.

- † Paul emphasized distinctions in creation to explain the transformation.
- † Different glories prepared the way for understanding the resurrection body.

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.

- † Paul contrasted natural and spiritual bodies.
- † The resurrection body was spiritual, not fleshly. The word spiritual (pneumatikos) is the same used in 1 Corinthians 2:15 where Paul speaks of the spiritual man, meaning Spirit-governed, not spirit-substance.
- † Imperishable, glorious, and powerful, it transcended the old order.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

So also it is written: The first man, Adam, became a living person. The last Adam was a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual. The first

man is from the earth, earthy, the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy one, so also are those who are earthy, and as is the heavenly One, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

† Adam introduced natural life, Christ brought spiritual life.

† The contrast was covenantal, not about biology.

† The redeemed now bore the image of the heavenly.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now I say this, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I am telling you a mystery, we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

† Flesh and blood was a Hebrew idiom for covenantal identity (see Matthew 16:17, Galatians 1:16). Paul was saying the Old Covenant body could not inherit the kingdom.

† Paul expected some to remain alive at the resurrection event.

† The last trumpet corresponded to AD 70, the same trumpet of Matthew 24:31 and Revelation 11:15, when the dead were raised and the living changed covenantally.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

But when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law, but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

† Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14 were fulfilled in Christ's victory.
† The sting of death came from sin and the Law, both removed in Christ. Paul said the Old Covenant was the ministry of death, engraved on stones (2 Corinthians 3:7). That covenant death was swallowed up in victory when the Old Covenant ended.
† Josephus testified that the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple marked the judgment of God on that system (Wars 6.2.1).

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

† The fulfilled hope motivated steadfast labor.
† Resurrection victory gave meaning to their struggles.

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

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