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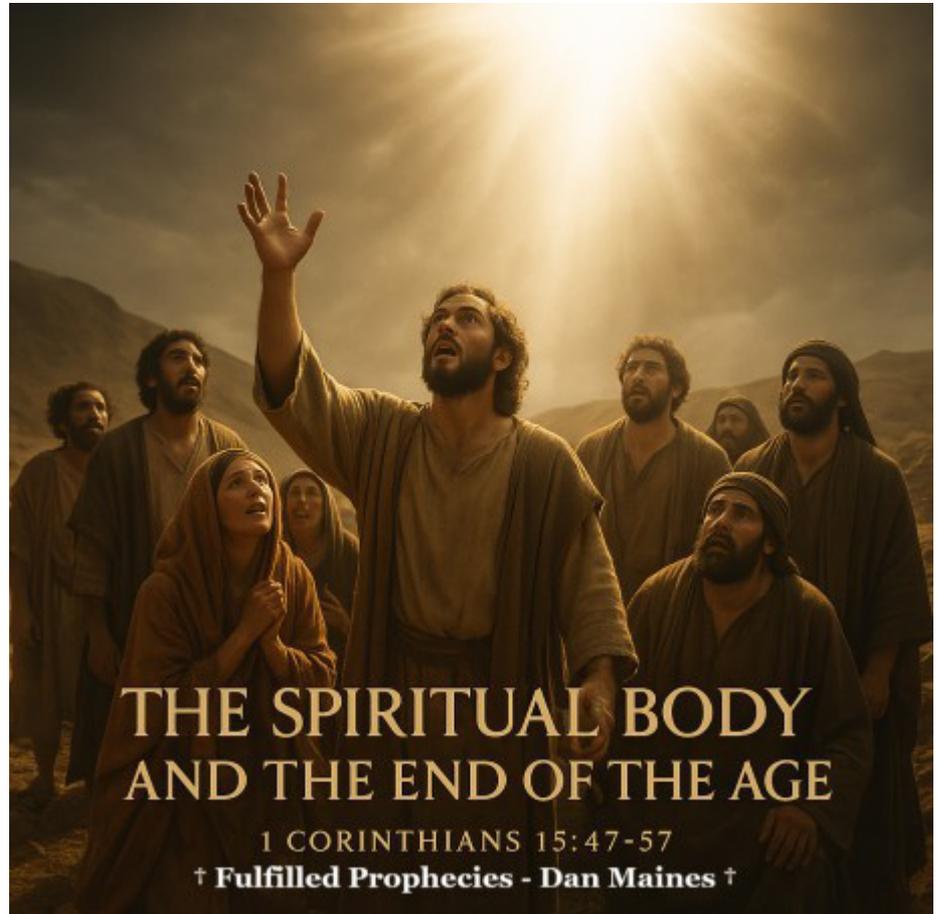
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## The Spiritual Body and the End of the Age



By Dan Maines

### **The Spiritual Body and the End of the Age**

**1 Corinthians 15:47-57**

#### **The First Man and the Second Man**

† The first man was from the earth, Adam, who brought death and corruption into the world (1 Corinthians 15:47; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22). The second Man, Christ, came from heaven and brought life and immortality. Paul contrasts the earthy with the heavenly to show that those in Adam were of the dust, but those in Christ share His heavenly nature.

† This passage doesn't describe a change of physical

substance but a change of covenant identity. The natural body refers to the old covenant body of death, and the spiritual body refers to the new covenant body of life in Christ (Romans 8:9-11). Under Adam, humanity was bound by sin and death, but through Christ, believers are made alive in the Spirit.

† To bear the image of the heavenly Man means to share His nature, not His flesh. Our transformation isn't about material composition, but about moving from mortality in Adam to immortality in Christ, from separation under law to union through grace (2 Corinthians 3:6-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

### **The Mystery of Change**

† Paul said, We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51). The word "mystery" refers to something once hidden but now revealed in Christ. The change Paul described was the transition from the old covenant order to the new, from the body of sin and death under the law to the body of Christ, the church, filled with His Spirit (Romans 7:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 4:4-5).

† The change was covenantal, not biological. Flesh and blood could not inherit the kingdom because that old system of the flesh, tied to temple rituals and sacrifices, was perishable and temporary (Hebrews 8:13). The new covenant, by contrast, is spiritual and eternal.

† The Bible never speaks of the end of time but of the time of the end (Hebrews 9:26; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 8:23). The "time of the end" was the conclusion of the Mosaic age, when Christ appeared to remove sin and establish eternal redemption.

† Paul said, This mortal must put on immortality (1 Corinthians 15:53). This mortal referred to those still under the law, condemned by sin and death. When they put on immortality, it meant they entered the new covenant, where life is eternal in Christ and no longer subject to death.

† The mystery, therefore, was the transformation of God's covenant people, from the perishing body of Adam into the imperishable body of Christ. What had been sown in weakness

was raised in glory (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

## **The Last Trumpet and the Fulfillment of Resurrection**

† Paul said the change would occur at the last trumpet (1 Corinthians 15:52). Jesus spoke of this same trumpet in Matthew 24:31, when He sent His angels to gather His elect at His coming. That event was fulfilled in AD 70 when Christ returned in judgment upon Jerusalem, ending the old covenant and establishing His kingdom in its fullness (Revelation 11:15).

† The corruptible body of Israel under the law put on incorruption through the New Covenant, and death was swallowed up in victory (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). This was not a physical rising of corpses but a spiritual resurrection from death in Adam to life in Christ (Ephesians 2:5-6).

† The sting of death was sin, and the strength of sin was the law (1 Corinthians 15:56). When the law passed away, death lost its power, and victory was secured through Christ's finished work.

## **The Spiritual and Immortal Life in Christ**

† Those in Christ have already been raised to newness of life (Romans 6:4-5). We've been transformed into His image, bearing the likeness of the heavenly Man (Colossians 3:10).

† Because we live in the New Covenant age, we already possess immortality. Jesus said, He who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die (John 11:25-26).

† The resurrection is not something we are waiting to receive in the future, because Christ has already overcome death. We now live in the age where death has no more dominion (Romans 6:9; 2 Timothy 1:10).

† The transformation is ongoing in the life of every believer as we walk in the Spirit. Though our outer man is decaying, our inner man is renewed day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16). The immortal life we have in Christ is the fruit of His fulfilled promise.

## **Historical References**

† Justin Martyr (AD 155, Dialogue with Trypho, Chapter 80) – He spoke of the resurrection being spiritual and connected to the transformation of believers into the likeness of Christ.

† Irenaeus (AD 180, Against Heresies, Book 5, Chapter 13) – He wrote that those who receive the Spirit are changed into incorruption by union with Christ.

† Eusebius (AD 325, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3) – He recorded that the destruction of Jerusalem marked the close of the old age and the full establishment of Christ's kingdom.

## **How It Applies to Us Today**

† We are not waiting for the end of time or a future resurrection. We live in the time when death has been defeated, and life in Christ reigns (Hebrews 12:28).

† Our hope is not in a transformation of flesh but in the reality that we've already been made new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17).

† We now walk in the victory of Christ's finished work, knowing we've been raised with Him and seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6).

† The same mystery revealed to Paul is fulfilled in us. We are the living proof of God's completed redemption, walking as citizens of His everlasting kingdom.

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

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## **Source Index**

† 1 Corinthians 15:47-57; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:4-9; Romans 7:4-6; Romans 8:9-11; Romans 8:23; Galatians 4:4-5; 2 Corinthians 3:6-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:5-6; Colossians 3:10; John 11:25-26; Matthew 24:31; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:26; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Revelation 11:15; 2 Timothy 1:10

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho, Chapter 80  
† Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 5, Chapter 13  
† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

**This image represents the transformation from the natural body to the spiritual body that Paul described in 1 Corinthians 15:47-57.**

The figures are **first-century believers**, standing beneath a **brilliant heavenly light** that symbolizes the **power of Christ's resurrection and the fulfillment of the New Covenant**. Their faces show awe and hope, representing those who were **changed**, not in physical form, but in covenantal identity, from the **body of death in Adam** to the **spiritual body of life in Christ**.

The man reaching toward the light visually expresses the **mystery of change** Paul spoke of: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." This scene captures the moment when **the corruptible (old covenant Israel)** put on **incorruption (the New Covenant life)**, and **death was swallowed up in victory**.

So this image doesn't depict a future physical resurrection. It represents the **spiritual resurrection and transformation** that took place as Christ's kingdom was fully established, when believers entered immortality through Him, the fulfillment of the spiritual body.

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