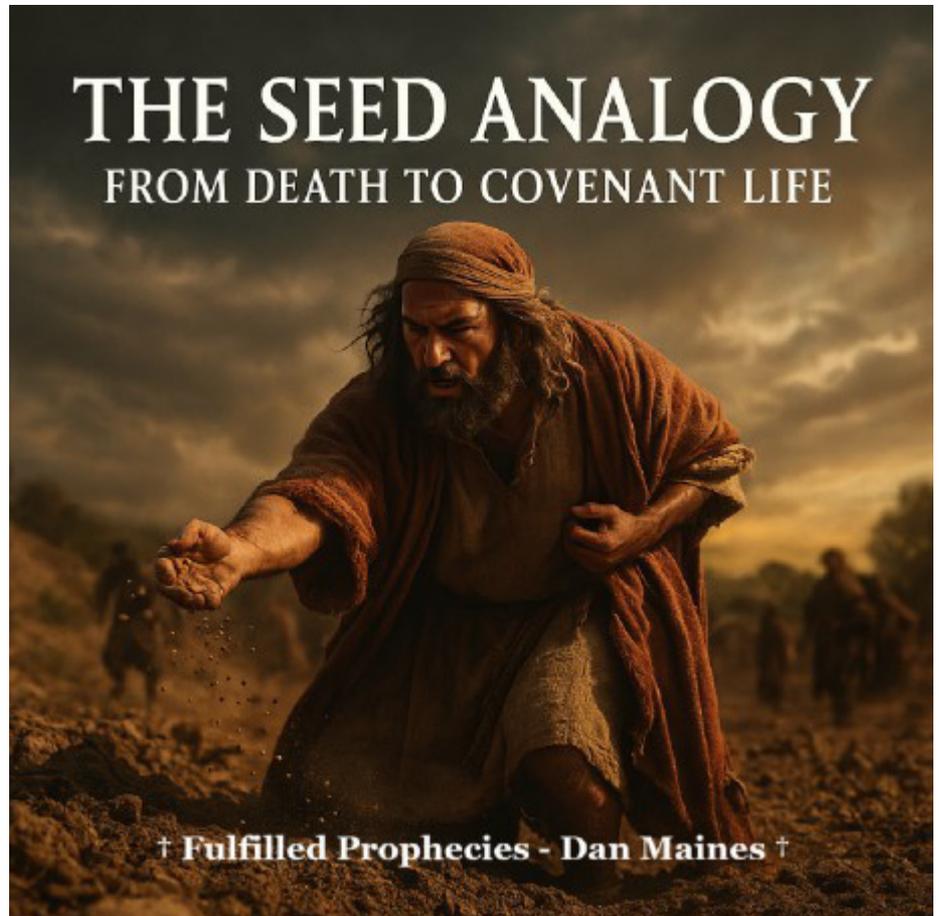


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Body CBV - The Seed Analogy: From Death to Covenant Life Part 2 of 3 This study has not been posted on facebook



By Dan Maines

The Seed Analogy: From Death to Covenant Life Part 2 of 3

1 Corinthians 15:37-38

† The resurrection chapter in 1 Corinthians 15 is one of the most misunderstood passages in Scripture. Paul wasn't describing the end of the physical universe or the reanimation of human corpses. He was explaining the transformation of covenant Israel from the body of death in Adam to the spiritual body of life in Christ.

† Paul's seed analogy in 1 Corinthians 15:37-38 has often been misunderstood. Many claim Paul was teaching about a change from a physical seed body to a heavenly plant body after biological death. But that's actually not what Paul is teaching. He's not talking about a change from a "physical seed body" to a "heavenly plant body" that exists after biological death. Paul's analogy isn't about human biology at all, it's about the covenantal transformation from the perishable body of the Old Covenant to the imperishable body of the New Covenant, fulfilled through Christ.

† Paul says, 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... but God gives it a body just as He wished (1 Corinthians 15:36-38). The death he refers to here is not the death of a physical body at the end of life, but the death of the old covenantal body, Israel after the flesh. The "resurrection" is the bringing forth of the new covenant body, the Church, the body of Christ.

† Isaiah also prophesied this same transformation, saying, Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy (Isaiah 26:19). This wasn't a prediction of biological resurrection but of covenant restoration, the renewal of God's people into spiritual life through Christ.

† Romans 7:4 says, Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead. 2 Corinthians 5:17 declares, Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Hebrews 8:13 confirms, When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear. These passages align perfectly with Paul's seed analogy, revealing the covenantal death and resurrection that

occurred through Christ.

† Paul was addressing some in Corinth who denied the resurrection that was already taking place (1 Corinthians 15:12). His seed analogy explains that there must first be a "death" (the end of the Old Covenant world) before the new "body" (the New Covenant creation) could come forth. Just as the seed's outer shell must perish for the new life to emerge, the Old Covenant had to die for the New Covenant to come alive. The "seed" doesn't represent each believer's corpse, it represents the covenant people transitioning from one mode of existence to another.

† The continuity Paul describes is not in the flesh, but in covenant identity, the same people of God transformed through Christ from mortality in Adam to immortality in the New Covenant.

† Notice Paul never says the individual believer's corpse sprouts into another biological body. Instead, he says in verses 42-44 that the body is sown in corruption, raised in incorruption, sown in dishonor, raised in glory. These are covenantal contrasts, not biological ones, showing the transformation from mortal Israel in Adam to immortal life in Christ. As he concludes, Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (v. 50), not because we're waiting for new flesh, but because the old covenant order couldn't inherit what only the spiritual, corporate body of Christ could.

† So the "seed" is Israel sown in death through judgment in AD 70, and the "plant" is the resurrected body of Christ's people, His Church, now living in the glory of the fulfilled kingdom.

Historical References

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.8, describing the destruction of Jerusalem and the passing of the Old Covenant system.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5, confirming that the early

church recognized the end of the Jewish age as the time of divine transition.

† Clement of Alexandria, *Stromata* 3.15, who emphasized that the true resurrection was the transformation of the soul and life into knowledge of Christ rather than the rising of physical bodies.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Paul's seed analogy teaches that true resurrection life is not about waiting for a physical transformation after death, but about entering the spiritual body of Christ now. The same principle applies today: the old must die for the new to live. Just as the Old Covenant perished, we too must die to the flesh and live in the power of the New Covenant reality. The resurrection life is not future, it's fulfilled, and it's lived out through the eternal kingdom of Christ that cannot perish.

Why Futurists Misunderstand This

† Futurists assume Paul was describing the resurrection of physical corpses, which leads them to separate the seed and the plant as different beings instead of understanding them as covenantal transitions. They read the analogy biologically rather than covenantally, believing the "seed" must die physically for a new body to rise. However, Paul was teaching about Israel's death to the flesh and the rise of the spiritual body in Christ. The continuity is in the same person, but the transformation is covenantal. The natural man (in Adam) could not inherit the kingdom, but the spiritual man (in Christ) could. The death and resurrection Paul described were fulfilled in the transition from the Old Covenant world to the New, not in the decay and reanimation of physical bodies.

There Was Never a Rapture in Any Form

† Because Paul's teaching was covenantal, not physical, there is no scriptural or historical basis for any rapture event, whether future or in AD 66. The "change" Paul spoke of in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 was the transformation of the covenant body, not a

physical removal of believers from the earth. The idea of people vanishing from the world contradicts Paul's entire analogy. The rapture theory in any form depends on a physical resurrection and disappearance that Paul never taught. His seed analogy removes that idea completely. The resurrection and gathering were fulfilled spiritually in Christ's coming in judgment and redemption in AD 70, when the old covenant world passed away and the New Covenant stood complete.

† The seed analogy stands as one of Paul's clearest pictures of covenantal resurrection, fulfilled in the transition from the Old Covenant body of death to the New Covenant body of life in Christ, completed in AD 70 just as the Scriptures foretold.

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

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Source Index

† 1 Corinthians 15:12, 36-38, 42-44, 50; Romans 7:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 8:13; Isaiah 26:19

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.8

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata 3.15

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