

Paul's Teachings on the Resurrection

1 Cor. 15:12–32, 44–50; Job 14:13–15; Job 19:25–27; Ezekiel 37:1–14; Alma 11:41–46; 40:15–25

If There Is No Resurrection . . . (1 Corinthians 15:12–32)

The Sadducees denied the reality of the resurrection. Greek philosophy said the body was evil, and while there might be eternal life for the spirit, there certainly was none for the body.

Paul's response was that the doctrine of the resurrection is pivotal and all other truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ depend on it:

- v. 13 If there's no resurrection, then Christ is dead.
- v. 14 If there's no resurrection, then we're wasting our time, and our faith is a terrible joke.
- v. 15 If there's no resurrection, then we (apostolic preachers) are liars.
- v. 17 If there's no resurrection, there is no spiritual redemption and no redemption from physical death.
- v. 29 If there's no resurrection, why perform baptisms for the dead?
- v. 32 If there's no resurrection, then why am I working so hard to teach it?

“It Is Raised A Spiritual Body” (1 Corinthians 15:44–49)

“`And the spirit and the body are the soul of man.

“`And the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul.’ (D&C 88:15–16).



Howard W. Hunter said:

“There is a separation of the spirit and the body at the time of death. The resurrection will again unite the spirit with the body, and the body becomes a spiritual body, one of flesh and bones but quickened by the spirit instead of blood. Thus, our bodies after the resurrection, quickened by the spirit, shall become immortal and never die. This is the meaning of the statements of Paul that `there is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body' and `that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.' The natural body is flesh and blood, but quickened by the spirit instead of blood, it can and will enter the kingdom.”

—*Conference Report, April 1969, 138*

“Flesh and Blood Cannot Inherit the Kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 15:50)

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught the following about resurrected bodies:

1. “God Almighty Himself dwells in eternal fire; flesh and blood cannot go there, for all corruption is devoured by the fire. . . . When our flesh is quickened by the Spirit, there will be no blood in this tabernacle.” (*Teachings, 367*).
2. “Flesh and blood cannot go there [i.e., into God's presence] ; but flesh and bones, quickened by the Spirit of God, can.” (*Teachings, 326*).
3. “As concerning the resurrection. . . . all will be raised by the power of God, having spirit in their bodies, and not blood.” (*Teachings, 199–200*).

