

## **What Will Our Resurrected Bodies Be Like?**

1Corinthians 15:35

Richard Balogh

The first in a series examining science in light of Scripture

Easter Sunday, 2022

Today we will examine why Paul in 1 Cor 15 describes our future resurrected bodies in terms of our physical bodies and also in terms of a seed. He is helping the Corinthians understand that a bodily resurrection – like Jesus' resurrection – is in their future, when they will retain their uniqueness forever. Why was Paul defending a bodily resurrection? The following commentary from the *Life Essentials Interactive Study Bible* by Gene A. Getz offers a good answer .

*"Paul's focus in Chapter 15 of 1 Corinthians was on the Savior's bodily resurrection and how this great truth relates to the future resurrection of all true believers. Many of the Corinthians likely believed in the immortality of the soul even before they heard about Jesus Christ. This was a prevalent ideology in the Greek and Roman world. However, this pagan belief involved a disembodied immortality, not a bodily resurrection. Once again, the Corinthians had integrated their pagan belief system into their Christian belief system. Paul's point was that the two are incompatible. If there is no bodily resurrection, then Christ was not raised bodily. In turn, the hundreds who saw him would have been hallucinating, including Paul himself" (1 Cor 15:5-8).*

We may also reason incorrectly that since our bodies decay in the grave, a bodily resurrection is not possible. But God specializes in the impossible! The discovery of DNA can shed light on the very real bodily resurrection in store for all of us.

### **About the Science In Light Of Scripture - SILOS - Series**

What is science?

- Science in general means knowledge - examples
- In this series of Adult Sunday School classes we will use the meaning of how science is used in education such as astronomy, geology, biology, meteorology etc.

Among other definitions, silo is "a system, process, department, etc. that operates in isolation from others". My goal is to demonstrate that science and scripture can ***both*** be used to more completely understand how nature works. I have noticed that people approach the process of understanding natural systems from a scientific perspective, and very rarely from the theological. To this end, the SILOS series focuses on developing a more complete understanding of scientific discoveries by exploring what the Bible says or reasonably infers about them. Each time we meet, we will deal with a different area where the scientific overlaps with scripture. After today's topic about our resurrected bodies we will cover the following topics:

- "The Purpose of Creating Light"
- "The Super Importance of Water in Creation"
- "The Big Stretch or The Big Bang...The Evidence Is the Same"
- "God Made the Earth to Be Inhabited"
- "What Does the Fossil Record Actually Record?"
- "How To Honor God When Considering the Age of Earth"
- "The Close Relationship of Dinosaurs and Dragons"
- "Drifting Continents After the Flood"
- "An Ice Age Caused by The Great Flood"
- "Earthquakes in Scripture"
- "Eclipses in Scripture"

Why can Scripture shed light on understanding the natural? Because the **same God created everything (Colossians 1)**. Therefore, discoveries in the natural realm are consistent with their theological counterparts. Simply put, this series examines instances where the Scriptures overlap the sciences so as to gain a better understanding and appreciation of God who created everything for His glory (Colossians 1). This way of thinking is not new. Henry Drummond wrote "*Natural Law in the Spiritual World*" in the 1870's where he pointed out similar laws at work - like life and death - that are both found in the natural world and also in the spiritual world. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/23334> The most famous advocate of this kind of thinking is the founder of our modern scientific method, Sir Francis Bacon, who wrote in the 1600's

*"It is a correct position that "true knowledge is knowledge by causes"... "The cause and root of nearly all evils in the sciences is this—that while we falsely admire and extol the powers of the human mind we neglect to seek for its true helps" ... "God has, in fact, written two books, not just one. Of course, we are all familiar with the first book he wrote, namely Scripture. But he has written a second book called creation."*

Notice two points he makes

1. He appreciates the spiritual as well as the physical because they have the same Author - God.
2. Complete knowledge is knowledge by causes. He applies the Law of Cause and Effect to understand whatever he wants to know. This law may be stated that anything with a beginning or has been changed must have been caused to do so.



Can you think of any effect that had no cause?

Example of this kind of thinking: "Why did the light in this room just turn on?"

I like to use this acronym for ORIGINS

**O**bservation and  
**R**evelation  
 Identifies  
**G**od  
 Initiating  
**N**atural  
**S**ystems

Typically, the scientist is a master of observation who is very eager to make conclusions from his observations that are usually consistent with how he has been thinking all along. The expectation to "publish or perish" is alive and well today and with it the embarrassment of publishing anything contrary to past beliefs or beliefs from theology. So he typically lacks any desire to examine the Scriptures for theological insight. For example, when a paleontologist discovers a fossil, he believes it is another piece in his jigsaw puzzle of Earth History. If it is similar to living burrowing clams, he has evidence to suppose that there was once an ocean floor where this fossil was found, even if he found it on a high mountain top. And he may try to explain its evolutionary development by comparison with "older" clam fossils. If he should dare ponder what Scripture has to say about fossils, he would not find the word "fossil" but instead an event that has the right conditions to make fossils...many of them, of all diverse kinds and in many different places. I am, of course, referring to the worldwide flood of Noah's day. Now we can appreciate not just a fossil for what it looks like but a reminder of how God hates sin to the point of exterminating most of all organisms except for 8 people and the animals on the ark. Considering this revelation, we now find a richer understanding "of God works. As an analogy", consider you have a collection of paintings but do not know who painted them. Say, paintings by Van Gogh, but that fact is not yet known. Those paintings can only be appreciated for their physical properties...at face value so to speak. When the artist is found, and his life examined, (revelation) those paintings can then be appreciated in a much fuller way than before. Examining Van Gogh's life may unveil what motivated him to paint them, adding more significance to his paintings.

As a retired professor of physical science at a public community college, my experience has been that most people never go to Scripture to better understand the scientific. Many of my students as well as colleagues fell into this camp. Praise God that He used Betty Crayton to advise the Vice President of Student Activities to appoint me as faculty Advisor of the Christian Club on campus where the students listened attentively to the scientific and theological perspectives at Club meetings. Club members were believers and looked forward to learning about what the Bible taught. But those who reject thinking in this way, I contend, represent the natural man's thinking. Notice

how the Apostle Paul describes two groups of people who differ in their thinking in 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 (NASB1995)

*[14] But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. [15] But he who is spiritual **appraises all things**, yet he himself is appraised by no one.*

The natural man has decided to believe that Scripture is foolishness because he cannot understand the Spiritual, while the spiritual man understands both the physical and Spiritual. The spiritual man's thinking is more complete. That is how I hope we will all be thinking in this class.

Finally, how we interpret Scripture is of paramount importance. We will understand the meaning of Scripture to be the same meaning that intended readers at that time understood - exegesis - not what we want Scripture to mean - eisegesis.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/exegesis-eisegesis.html> is the comparison of the two approaches:

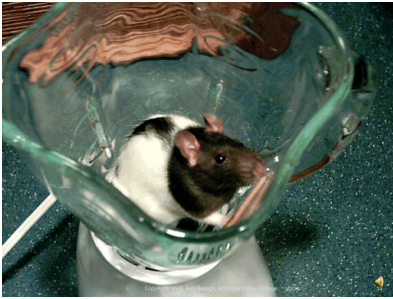
*"Exegesis and eisegesis are two conflicting approaches in Bible study. Exegesis is the exposition or explanation of a text based on a careful, objective analysis. The word exegesis literally means "to lead out of." That means that the interpreter is led to his conclusions by following the text. The opposite approach to Scripture is eisegesis, which is the interpretation of a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading. The word eisegesis literally means "to lead into," which means the interpreter injects his own ideas into the text, making it mean whatever he wants. Obviously, only exegesis does justice to the text. Eisegesis is a mishandling of the text and often leads to a misinterpretation. Exegesis is concerned with discovering the true meaning of the text, respecting its grammar, syntax, and setting. Eisegesis is concerned only with making a point, even at the expense of the meaning of words."*

Today we will learn that our future resurrected bodies will be similar to our present physical bodies because God who Authored the genetic information in our physical bodies will also Author our heavenly resurrected bodies.

**Modern Science has discovered a characteristic common to" all matter...their atoms are ordered and therefore all matter has information**

First, consider diamond and graphite both nonliving minerals composed exclusively of carbon atoms. One is transparent, the other is not, one is hard, the other is soft...their different properties result from the order of weak and strong bonding between carbon atoms.

Next, consider this mouse...



Mousey, Mousey, Not Mousey.



Why has the mouse lost its mousiness?

A Boeing 747 has over 4 million parts, not one of them flies...so why does the assembled plane fly?

When you write a letter, is the information in the ink or is it in the order of the ink?

**Information is not tied to any particular element or method of transmission. In a sense information is independent of physical things.**

Einstein viewed the nature and origin of information as one of the profound questions about the world as we know it.

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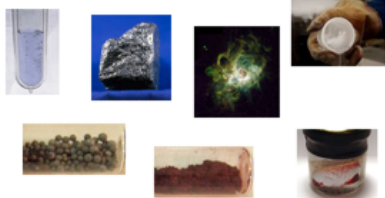
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As humans we all share the same elements in the same relative proportions, the order of those elements is unique for each person. The order of atoms is controlled by our DNA and, since each person's DNA is different, each person has a unique body. Analogous

to two different buildings that are not identical because the blueprints from which they were built are different.

The human body is made up of about 28 chemical elements

- Oxygen (65%)
- Carbon (18%)
- Hydrogen (10%)
- Nitrogen (3%)
- Calcium (1.5%)
- Phosphorus (1.0%)
- Potassium (0.35%)
- Sulfur (0.25%)
- Sodium (0.15%)
- Magnesium (0.05%)
- Copper, Zinc, Selenium, Molybdenum, Fluorine, Chlorine, Iodine, Manganese, Cobalt, Iron (0.70%)
- Lithium, Strontium, Aluminum, Silicon, Lead, Vanadium, Arsenic, Bromine (trace amounts)

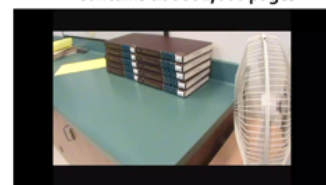


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A human DNA molecule is about 3 feet long when uncoiled, composed mostly of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen atoms



The amount of information in one molecule is about the same information as the order of letters on 10,000 pages of printed text. Each book below contains about 1,000 pages



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**Where did the information in your DNA come from?**



Since God made Adam from the dust of the earth (Gen 2:7) and Eve from Adam's rib (Gen 2:22), they had very similar DNA which lacked genetic errors that arise from mutations over time. Today, parents with the same genetic errors will likely have children with the same genetic error resulting in medical abnormalities. That is why close relatives should not marry. Adam and Eve had new DNA, so they did not have this problem.

## The origin of life is an information problem

- "The problem of the origin of life is clearly basically equivalent to the problem of the origin of biological information. In accordance with this, the idea of biological information emerges as *the* fundamental concept in the physicochemical theory of the origin of life." (Koppers, Bernd-Olaf. [researcher, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry], "Information and the Origin of Life," [1986], MIT Press: Cambridge MA, 1990, p.170. Emphasis in original.).

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### **Where did the information found in all living things come from?**

Considering that information is independent of what carries it, we will develop a reasonably possible conclusion from Scripture that God the author of the information encoded in your DNA (which "determines your earthly body) will be used again by God when constructing your spiritual body. Both bodies having the same information but your resurrected body carrying the order in non-perishable building blocks which moth nor rust is able to destroy; an eternal body having the same information but imperishable.

### **The Scriptures Teach About Information**

#### **Drawing From Genesis, John, and Proverbs, We Conclude That God Made All Atoms and Ordered Them for Specific Purposes**

Here is some food for thought. Since there are numerous ways to store and transfer the same information, perhaps information exists apart from matter. The first verse in the book of John is "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Greek word translated as Word is "logos" which means not only something said but includes the thought as well (Strong's 3056). Words and thoughts have information. Isn't it interesting that information was in the beginning? In the first chapter of Genesis, the phrase "then God said" followed by the creation of something appears eight times in the New American Standard Bible (emphasis mine).



Ge 1:3 *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

Ge 1:6 *Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."*

Ge 1:9 *Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.*

Ge 1:11 *Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so.*

Ge 1:14 *Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;*

Ge 1:20 *Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."*

Ge 1:24 *Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so.*

Ge 1:26 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

Since living things contain an enormous amount of information, and they were fully functional at the moment of creation, God must be the source of the information they contain. The biblical scenario does not involve lengthy periods of time for natural selection to somehow increase the complexity of living things. Such thoughts are from the mind of men, not from the mind of God.

*Read the following verses and decide who is speaking, what is he doing and when is he doing it.*

Prov. 8:22 *"The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.*

23 *"From everlasting I was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.*

24 *"When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.*

25 *"Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth;*

26 *While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, Nor the first dust of the world.*

27 *"When He established the heavens, I was there, When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,*

28 *When He made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became fixed,*

29 *When He set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth;*

30 *Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,*



31 Rejoicing in the world, His earth, and having my delight in the sons of men.”

We read a few verses before that:

Prov. 8:12 “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge and discretion.

13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.

14 “Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine.”

Webster defines wisdom as

“The faculty of making the best use of knowledge, experience or understanding”

So we know that Jesus (the Creator) worked with wisdom while He created. If you were given the task of constructing something exceedingly complex, would you first seek wisdom? Would you make use of wisdom as you constructed?

We now understand a little more than before that the source of matter and its complexity is God: **ORIGINS**

### 1 Corinthians 15:35-48 (NASB1995)

[35] *But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?”* [36] *You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;*

fool is Strongs 878. ἄφρων áphrōn. Paul calls a fool the person who considers death the terminal point of existence, while death, as in the case of a seed, is necessary to a better and richer life as the case is with the death of the believer in Christ.

body is Strongs 4983. σῶμα sōma; gen. sōmatos, neut. noun. Body, an organized whole made up of parts and members.

(I) Generally of any material body, as plants (1Co 15:37,38); bodies celestial and terrestrial, the sun, moon, stars (1Co 15:40,41).

(II) Specifically of creatures, living or dead.

[37] 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. [38] **But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.** [39] All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. [40] There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. [41] There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. [42] **So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; [43] it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; [44] it is sown a natural body, it**

**is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. [45] So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. [46] However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. [47] The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. [48] As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.**

### **1 Corinthians 15:49**

From 1 Corinthians 15:49 (NASB1995) we learn that our resurrected body will bear the same image of our earthly body:

[49] Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

Where the word image from the AMG Complete Word Study Dictionary is Strongs 1504. εἰκῶν *eikṓn*; gen. *eikónos*, fem. noun from *eíkō* (1503), to be like, resemble. ***eikṓn*, image, always assumes a prototype, that which it not merely resembles but from which it is drawn (Rev 13:14,15; 14:9,11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4; Sept.: Dt 4:16; 2Ki 11:18; Isa 40:19,20; Eze 23:14).**

**"And the word "image" denotes the actual form and not a mere similitude.**

### **1 Corinthians 15:50-55**

[50] *Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

[51] *Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, [52] 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. [53] For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. [55] "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" (NASB1995)*

Consider this Commentary from Warren Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament: The Process of the Believer's Resurrection (1Co 15:35-49):

*"How are the dead raised?" is the key question here. Paul uses illustrations from nature to show that there is no life apart from death. The seed that is planted dies and bears fruit, and the fruit, while identified with the original seed, is different from it. The resurrection body, like the bodies in the heavens, will have its own kind of glory. It is not*

*the same body that was planted (v. 37), but there is continuity between the buried body and the resurrection body. The physical body laid in the grave is liable to corruption; it is humble, a body of humiliation; it is weak; it is suited to a natural environment. The resurrection body will not decay; it will have power and glory; it will be suited to a spiritual environment. It will bear the image of the heavenly.*

*The resurrection body of Christ illustrates what Paul is teaching here. The believers recognized Him, so there was continuity between His crucified body and His glorified body. But He was also able to change His appearance. He passed through locked doors, yet He also ate fish and honey (Lk 24:41-43) and invited the disciples to feel Him. It was the same body, yet it was also a different body. The resurrection body retains the personal identity and individuality of the believer, but it will be suited to a new way of life.*

### **Some food for thought...**

- **Since information is independent of what carries it, the seed of a plant has all the information necessary for constructing the plant.**
- **That seed grows into the same plant that it came from and is recognizable as that plant, not a different plant, since it has the same information.**
- **Applying the law of cause and effect leads us to the conclusion that God is not only the Creator of atoms but also the Creator of the order of atoms in our DNA and therefore the Creator of our physical likeness. He may use this same information to order nonperishable building blocks to construct our spiritual body. Therefore, it is likely that our spiritual bodies will be recognizable as unique to us, just as our physical bodies are appreciated as unique to us now.**
- **Jesus' resurrected body was recognized as His, complete with scars from the nails on the cross**

I am looking forward to seeing all of my brothers and sisters in heaven...without glasses!