

Final Eschatology

- We are continuing Eschatology; from έσχατος and λογος.
- There are two general subdivisions.
 - Individual Eschatology: This covers death and the intermediate state.
 - Cosmic Eschatology: This covers the return of Christ and all that goes along with it. It affects the whole universe!
 - A subdivision of Cosmic Eschatology is Final Eschatology, and it deserves its own treatment.
- Final Eschatology focuses on the eternal state.
 - Resurrection
 - Judgments
 - Rewards & Punishments
 - Heaven & Hell



The Resurrection

- When Christ rescued us from sin, He did not just redeem our souls or spirits. He saved us as whole persons.
 - Our salvation includes the resurrection of our bodies.
- Our salvation will not be completed until our bodies are set free from the effects of sin and the fall.
 - This completed salvation will be ours when Jesus returns.
 - Believers who are presently alive when Christ returns will not die, but will be transformed.
- It is important that we correct the misguided hope of our people where they think the only thing that happens is we die and go to be with Jesus as disembodied spirits.
- That is a great thing, but it is only the intermediate state. But our completed salvation is even better than that.
- God designed us as His image bearers to be embodied people, and so we are not completed as fully bearing the image of Christ until our bodies are redeemed.

The Resurrection

- These are a few of the many passages in the Bible. It is conformity to the resurrection body of Christ. It will be wrought for us by the power of the Holy Spirit. It will be one of the greatest miracles to ever take place in the history of the universe. God will reconstitute us and re-embody us.
 - John 5:25-29
 - John 6:39-40
 - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
 - Romans 8:11
 - Philipians 3:21



The Resurrection

- John 5:25-29 – Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted to the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice ²⁹and come out—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.
- John 6:39-40— This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
- 1 Cor 15:51-52 – Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

The Resurrection

- Romans 8:11 – And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.
- Philippians 3:21 – He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.



The Resurrection

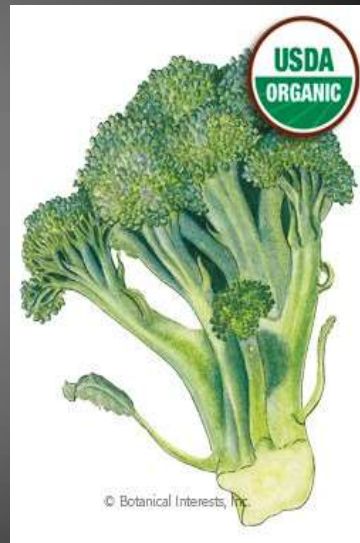
- The nature of our resurrection body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 49).
 - 1 Cor 15:42-44 – So it is with the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption; ⁴³ sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power; ⁴⁴ sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.
 - 1 Cor 15:49 – And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.
- Imperishable.
 - It will never wear out, never grow old, won't be subject to sickness and disease, it will be perfectly healthy, immortal (unable to die).
- Glorious.
 - They will be beautiful, handsome, and splendid. Perhaps Paul is talking about a brightness and radiance that will surround our bodies. As appropriate outward evidence of God's completed and perfected salvation, we might see each other with such radiance and be mesmerized.



So It's Not Like...

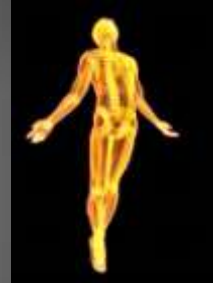


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The Resurrection

- Powerful.
 - They will be full of strength and strong forever. We don't become supermen and superwomen, but it is powerful in terms of what God intends for us to have. It is not all-powerful like God, and not super powerful like super humans (like Superman).
- Spiritual.
 - This does not mean non-physical. He means they will be completely dominated by the Holy Spirit of God. We will be perfectly submissive to the Spirit of God. So the body is sown a physical body subject to the characteristics of this human age governed by our Adamic identity, but it is raised a spiritual body completely subject to the will of the Holy Spirit.



Judgment

- The second coming also initiates the final judgment (Acts 17:30-31; Rom. 2:5).
 - It seems that this judgment occurs at two different moments. The judgment of righteous when Christ returns, and the judgment of the unrighteous at the close of the millennium. Scripture emphasizes the final judgment. Paul expresses this even to the sophisticated philosophers.
- Christ will be the judge (2 Thess. 4:1; Acts 10:42; 17:30-31; John 5:22, 26-27).
 - The Father who is the judge of all has delegated to the Son the responsibility and authority to judge us. We will appear before the judgment seat of Christ.



Judgment

- Somehow, Christ followers will participate in the work of judgment (1 Cor. 6:2-3)
 - We will be judging the angels. We don't know what that means. We will judge the world too. That is why we need to be good judges within the church.
 - 1 Cor 6:2-3 – Or don't you know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the trivial cases? ³ Don't you know that we will judge angels—how much more matters of this life?
- We Christ followers will be judged (Rom. 14:10, 12; 2 Cor. 5:10).
 - It is not of justification or condemnation, since that has already been rendered for we who know Christ. That judgment is brought into our current experience. This is a judgment of our thoughts and works, the motivations of our heart, unspoken and spoken words, our purposing, and everything we have done in our earthly existence will be laid before our judge Jesus Christ. Our sins will be brought to light, but not as sins that will condemn us, but as sins that have been forgiven. So even in the public exposing in our sins, we will know the grace of God and be able to glorify God Him again for such grace.

Judgment

- Angels will be judged (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; 1 Cor. 6:3).
 - According to the above passages, rebellious angels will be judged. Even the righteous angels might be judged. We will cooperate with the judge Jesus as this happens.
- God is holy and just in his judgment (1 Pet. 1:17; Rom. 2:11; Rev. 19:1-2).
 - God is impartial. He does not favor certain people over others. God's judgments are true and just.
- The judgment is final and eternal (Matt. 25:46).
 - Just as the Lord speaks about eternal life, He speaks of eternal judgment—a punishment that will never end and cannot be changed.



Rewards

- Degrees of rewards will be given to us (1 Cor. 3:12-15; Luke 19:17-19).
 - Luke 19:17-19 – ‘Well done, good servant!’ he told him. ‘Because you have been faithful in a very small matter, have authority over ten towns.’ ¹⁸ “The second came and said, ‘Master, your mina has made five minas.’ ¹⁹ “So he said to him, ‘You will be over five towns.’
 - We have no idea what this looks like. What could be greater than being the presence of Christ in the New Heavens and New Earth? We have no idea. But there are these promises that we will be rewarded for the service we have done.
- Unbelievers will be judged (Rev. 20:11ff).
 - This corresponds to a human sense that those who do evil should be punished. This has been built into all of us. Indeed this will take place.



Punishments

- Degrees of punishment will be meted out to them (Luke 12:47-48; 20:47; Matt. 11:22).
 - Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, and others should be punished to a worse degree, and they will.
 - Luke 12:47-48 – And that servant who knew his master’s will and didn’t prepare himself or do it will be severely beaten. ⁴⁸ But the one who did not know and did what deserved punishment will receive a light beating.
 - Luke 20:47 – They devour widows’ houses and say long prayers just for show. These will receive harsher judgment.”
 - Matt 11:22 – But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.

