

Ten ways the Old Testament points toward the resurrection:

1. Because God planted a “tree of life” in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:22 *Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”*

2. Through general statements that life continues after death

Ecclesiastes 12:7 *and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*

3. By affirming God’s sovereign control over death and life

Deuteronomy 32:37-39 *I kill and I make alive*

Hosea 13:14 *I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.*
(see 1 Corinthians 15:54-55)

Psalms 104:29-30

4. Through examples of restoration to life

1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:18-37; 2 Kings 13:21

5. By picturing Israel’s spiritual resurrection with the imagery of physical resurrection

Ezekiel 37:12-13 *Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.*

6. In the believers' confidence that they would not be abandoned in the grave, but instead their relationship with God would continue

Psalm 73:23-26 *I am continually with you ... afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you?*

Psalm 16:9-11; 17:15; 49:15

7. In the hope-filled statements of believers

2 Samuel 12:23 *I shall go to him*

Job 19:25-27 *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.*

Hosea 6:2 *After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.*

(see 1 Corinthians 15:4)

8. Through the promise of death's defeat and a life with no trouble

Isaiah 25:7-8 *And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.*

9. Through direct promises of resurrection

Isaiah 26:19 *Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.*

Daniel 12:2 *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

10. By indicating that God's Servant will live again after his sacrificial death

Isaiah 53:10-11 *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.*