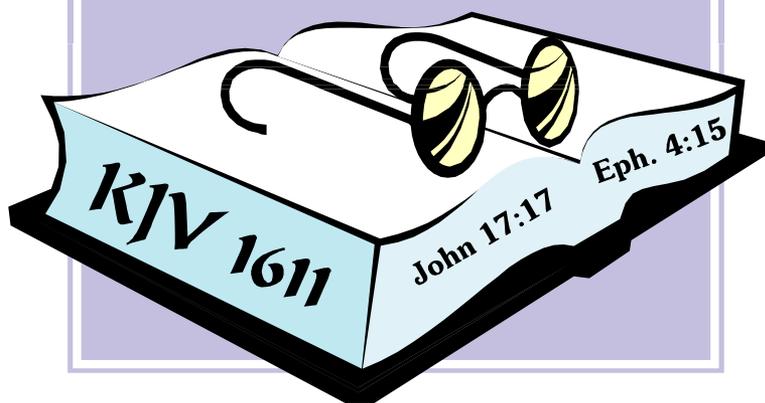


Gloryland's **New Christian Series**

*Doctrinal Studies
for New Believers*



Lesson Seven

The Resurrection Body

New Christian Series

Doctrinal Studies for New Believers

Lesson Seven

The Resurrection Body

This Bible course has been prepared and distributed
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Gloryland Baptist Church

P.O. Box 369
Adamsville, AL 35005
Pastor Charles Andrews
Phone (205) 791-0312

•

Original Lesson By

Vernon Hanson
Bible teacher
Gloryland Baptist Church

•

Edited and Expanded By

Linton M. Smith Jr. Th.B., Th.M., DD.
Missionary and Founder/Director
Chinese Baptist Mission

•

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The printed edition of Gloryland's *New Christian Series Bible* course is divided into ten booklets. These contain over 500 pages of doctrinal material for the instruction of students and teachers of the word of God. The entire course is also available on audio CD.

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<seedforthesower@valiantfortruth.net>

“A sound and well composed catechism studied well and kept in memory, would be a good measure of knowledge, to ordinary Christians, and make them solid and orderly in their understanding, and in their proceeding to the smaller points, and would prevent a great deal of error and miscarriage, that many by ill teaching are cast upon, to their own and the churches grief! Yea, it were to be wished, that some teachers of late had learnt so much and orderly themselves.” — Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

INTRODUCTION

This is a study of *The Resurrection Body*; Lesson #7 in the *New Christian Series*.

This lesson is about the new glorified bodies that all born again believers will receive when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to take His Church out of this world. Regretfully, our bodies of flesh and blood are sinful: they are just no good. Being subject to death, they are dying. No matter how we pamper, exercise, and beautify them, our bodies continue to get older every day, and closer to the grave. But praise God, when we are born of the Spirit, our *souls* are safe forever. All the saved who are still living when the Lord returns will view a great spectacle as Jesus Christ brings with Him the souls of the saints who died and went on to Glory before us. At that time, we will also be caught up to be with Him in the air; and all of us will have a new, glorified, perfect, sinless, holy body that will live forever and ever. That's what this lesson is about— what our resurrection body will be like. It should give us joy and hope as we look forward to the Lord Jesus Christ's soon return. It should especially help those with weak, crippled or diseased bodies.

TWO RESURRECTIONS

First of all let's study an outline of the two resurrections.¹

I. The Fact of the Resurrection

The Jewish religious sect called the *Sadducees* did not believe in a literal resurrection. (That's why they were “*Sad, U-See?*”). But the resurrection is a Bible doctrine— mentioned throughout the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation.

A. Old Testament Proof of the Resurrection

1. Job Believed In Christ's Resurrection And His Own

(See Job 19:25-27)

2. David Prophesied Christ's Resurrection And His Own

(See Psalm 16:9-10) A double prophecy

3. The Prophets Looked For A Resurrection

(See Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; Hosea 13:14)

4. Abraham Believed God Could Raise The Dead

(See Genesis 22:5; Hebrews 11:19)

5. Several Accounts Of the Resurrection Are Given

(See I Kings 17:17-24; II Kings 4:32-35; 13:21)

B. New Testament Proof Of the Resurrection

1. The Lord Jesus Christ Taught A Resurrection

(See John 5:21, 28-29; 11:23-26)

¹ The original outline is from Elemental Theology by E.H. Bancroft. I have edited and developed it slightly.

2. The Apostle Paul Expounded The Resurrection

(I Corinthians 15 is *the resurrection chapter* of the Bible.)

3. The Apostle John Saw The Two Resurrections

(See Revelation 20:4-6, 13-14)

4. Christ Raised People From The Dead

(See John 11:43; Luke 8:52-55; Matthew 27:52)

5. Christ Himself Was Raised From The Dead

(See Acts 2:32; 4:10; Romans 1:4; 4:25; I Corinthians 15:4-8)

II. The Importance of the Resurrection

The importance of the Christian's resurrection is seen in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is both important and essential because:

A. It Declares His Death To Have Been Of Redeeming Value

If Christ had not risen, we would never have known if His death was sufficient to save us. (See I Corinthians 15:17)

B. It Declares The Extent Of Power Available To Us

Resurrection power (the greatest power there is) is that which God makes available to the believer in his daily walk. (See Romans 1:4; Philippians 3:10a; I Corinthians 15:58)

C. It Declares The Fact Of Our Own Resurrection

(See I Corinthians 15:22)

III. The Nature Of The Resurrection

A. It is Literal And Bodily

In detailing the resurrection in I Corinthians 15, the word of God makes it clear it refers to the *body* of man. (See verses 37-40, 44)

B. It is Universal

In general terms, the resurrection applies to all men, believers and unbelievers. All shall be raised. (See John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)

C. It is Two Fold

In specific terms, the resurrection is in two distinct stages. From the Book of Revelation, it is evident these two phases of the resurrection are *not* simultaneous, but are separated by 1000 years of time. One is before the Millennium; the other after (cf. Revelation 20:5).

1. The Resurrection Of The Just

(See Luke 14:14)

2. The Resurrection Of The Unjust

(See John 5:29b; Acts 24:15)

IV. The Order Of the Resurrection

I Corinthians 15:22-24 suggests a definite order in the resurrection— *not only* that of the first and second resurrection, *but an order within* the first resurrection.

- ☞ *The first resurrection* (of the righteous dead) is likened to that of the laws of a Jewish harvest, and has 3 distinct stages. (See I Corinthians 15:22-24.)

A. The First Fruits

The Lord Jesus Christ represents the *first fruits* of the first resurrection. (See I Corinthians 15:23b.) Included in this stage are the saints who arose after the crucifixion (Matthew 27:52-53).

B. The Harvest

This is the major stage of the first resurrection, and corresponds to the *rapture*. (See I Corinthians 15:23c)

C. The Gleanings

The Bible clearly teaches that many will be saved during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:9-14), but multitudes will be slain for their testimony. These saints will consist of believing Jews

and Gentiles (Revelation 14:3). We also learn from Revelation 20:4, that both raptured saints *and* tribulation saints will reign with Christ during the Millennium. The actual time of resurrection for these tribulation saints is difficult to determine. Revelation 6:9-11 suggests it will be a definite time, though and Revelation 7 finds them at the throne of God in Heaven.

V. The Resurrection Body

Since the resurrection involves a physical body, the *nature* of that resurrection body becomes of interest.

A. The Resurrection Body Of The Believer

The Bible indicates several facts concerning the believer's resurrected body.

1. It Will Be A Redeemed Body

(See Romans 8:23)

2. It Will Be A Glorified Body

(Philippians 3:20-21)

Our resurrection bodies will be like Christ's glorified body. As a seed of corn, when planted, yields similar seeds of corn, our present *corruptible* bodies shall be planted in death, but shall be raised *incorruptible* (I Corinthians 15:43, 53).

3. It Will Be A Christlike Body

(See I John 3:2)

Our glorified resurrection body will have similar characteristics to the resurrection body of Christ.

- a. It will be *Recognizable*— Luke 24:31
- b. It will be *Touchable*— Luke 24:39; John 20:27
- c. It will be *Unlimited*— John 20:19
- d. It will be *Able to Eat*— Luke 24:42-43; John 21:12
- e. It will be *Able to Vanish*— Luke 24:31

B. The Resurrection Body of the Unbeliever

Little is said in the word of God about the resurrected body of the *unbeliever*. Matthew 5:29-30 indicates that it will be a *corrupt body*, subject to the pains and torments of the *second death*.

THE RESURRECTION BODY

We have seen from our outline that there are *two different resurrections*. Now we will do a more detailed study on the resurrection body itself.

The two resurrections can be clearly seen in Luke 20, where the Sadducees approach Jesus about a hypothetical problem relating to the resurrection of the dead.

“Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him,

“Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man’s brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

“There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children.

“And the second took her to wife and he died childless.

“And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died.

“Last of all the woman died also

“Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife.”

— Luke 20:27-33

Of course, this religious sect of the Jewish religion did not believe in a *literal* resurrection of the dead at all. They only brought this question before the Lord to try to trick Him. Simply put, the question is this: *After being the wife of seven husbands, whose wife will she be after the resurrection?* They thought they were really going to stump Jesus with that one, but upon hearing His answer, they went away confounded by the wisdom,

knowledge, and understanding He demonstrated in answering their question.

Here is His answer:

*“And Jesus answering said unto them, **The children of this world** marry, and are given in marriage:*

*“But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain **that world**, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:*

“Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.”

— Luke 20:34-36

Notice that in verse 34 Christ *begins* talking to them about “*The children of **this world***” (the world we are part of now). But in verse 35, he is speaking about *another world*. He says, “*But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain **that world**.*” That will be the *new world* John spoke of in Revelation 21:1; “*And I saw a **new heaven** and a **new earth**.*” At that time, the Lord is going to destroy this present world, and create a new world.

The apostle Peter also mentions this.

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”
— II Peter 3:13

- There is a “resurrection **FROM** the dead” (Luke 20:35) when believers will come up, but the unsaved will stay down.

At this resurrection, believer’s bodies will be taken out from among the dead, while the bodies of the unsaved dead will remain in the grave. The Bible refers to this as the *first resurrection*. The actual words, “*first resurrection*,” are found in Revelation 20.

*“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is **the first resurrection.**”*

— Revelation 20:5

- ☞ There is also a *second resurrection* called the “*resurrection **OF** the dead*” (I Corinthians 15:12-13) in which all the remaining dead, who had no part in the first resurrection, will rise.

After the Millennium, all the souls of the unsaved dead in Hell will be brought before the Great White Throne Judgment. There they will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ and subsequently cast into the Lake of Fire. That is the *resurrection **of** the dead*. But Luke is talking about believers from the Church Age, because we are the ones who will come up **from** the dead. Also notice in Luke 20:35 that there will be no marriages in Heaven. The last part of that verse says, “*the dead neither marry [THE MAN], nor are given in marriage [THE WOMAN].*” The spouse we have on this earth will not be our spouse in Heaven. (I don’t know if that makes you glad or sad, nevertheless it is true.)

We also learn from verse 36 that believers will never die again after this *resurrection of the dead* takes place.

“Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.”

— Luke 20:36

“*[C]hildren of God;*” that’s us! Jesus said that when *we* come up in *this* resurrection, we will be “*equal to the angels.*” Matthew also records the same conversation, and though the wording is a little different, Jesus’ answer is the same.

*“Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err**, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”*

— Matthew 22:29

Jesus told the Sadducees they had erred, because they did not know “*the scriptures nor the power of God.*” After almost 2000 years, the problem is still the same. Many have erred in doctrine because they did not know the scriptures, nor the power of God. (False doctrine, especially about salvation, is the result of a failure to rightly divide the Scriptures.) Naturally, false teachers do not know “*the power of God,*” because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Most of them, as the Sadducees, have simply never been saved.

Paul says:

“*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...*” — Romans 1:16

We refer to the particular passage in Luke because there we find the exact wording, “*the resurrection **from** the dead.*” We know this passage is aimed at believers because *we* are the ones who will come up **from** the dead. While Luke says we will be “*equal unto the angels of God*” Matthew puts it even stronger when he says “*in the resurrection... we will be **as** the angels of God in heaven.*”

There are two very important words in the Bible that will do much to instruct us— **like** and **as**. These words are used to teach things by *similitude* (comparing one thing with another). By this means, we are able to learn about the *unknown*, by comparing it with that which is *known*. Matthew says we will be “***as** the angels... in heaven.*” This alone tells us nothing about our resurrection body, but a study of the *angels* will teach us what we will be like in the resurrection.

As we read about in Hosea:

“*I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used **similitudes**, by the ministry of the prophets.*” — Hosea 12:10

The use of similitudes, wherein we find similarities through comparison, is one of the ways the Holy Spirit opens our understanding to the things of God. So, if we want to learn what we will

be like in Heaven, we have to study the angels of God, because Matthew 22:30 says we are “**as the angels of God in heaven.**”

The Sons of God

Some believe that angels are sexless. Dr. C.I. Scofield teaches that angels have no gender, neither male nor female. In his note on Genesis 6:2 he gives Matthew 22:30 as a cross reference, because it says that angels neither marry nor are given in marriage.² Notice, however, that verse 30 says *nothing* about the angel being either male or female. However, there are *many* verses that show us plainly that angels are male.

Appearing to Abraham:

“And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

*“And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three **MEN** stood by him...”*

— Genesis 18:1-2

Now look down in verse 22:

*“And the **MEN** turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.”*

— Genesis 18:22

Now, if we want to know who these **MEN** are, we will find the answer by simply letting *scripture explain scripture*. So, let's see what light Genesis 19:1 can shed on this problem. “*And there came two **ANGELS** to Sodom at even.*” There you have it then, these **MEN** were **ANGELS**. Reading the rest of Genesis 18 we find that one of them stayed with Abraham while the other two went to Sodom. They are called **MEN** in chapter 18 and **ANGELS** in chapter 19. Notice Genesis 19:5; “*And they called*

² See the Scofield Reference Bible, page 13, note number 1 on “*the sons of God*” in Genesis 6:2.

unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the **MEN** which came in to thee this night?" Here the men of Sodom ask Lot about the **MEN** who had been seen entering his house. Also read verse 10; "But the **MEN** put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house." Look once more at verse 15; "And when the morning arose, then the **ANGELS** hastened Lot." **These ANGELS were MEN.** (Go back and read the whole chapter and you will see that I am not taking these verses out of context.)

Now some of you might be shaking your heads right now, saying, "I just can't believe that." And there lies the problem. When we come to something in the Bible we cannot understand; something that staggers the mind and goes against something we already assume to be true, we have a tendency to reject the plain teaching of Scripture. But, let's continue our study and see what else the Scripture has to reveal about this subject.

In Judges 13:3 we read "And the **ANGEL** of the Lord appeared unto the woman," and Judges 13:6 says, "Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A **MAN** of God came unto me." There is no question, that in this passage of Scripture, "[T]he **ANGEL of the Lord**" is a **MAN**.

Again in Judges 13:8 we read, "Then Manoah intreated the Lord, and said, O my Lord, let the **MAN** of God which thou didst send come again to us..." And in verse 9, "And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and **THE ANGEL** of God came again unto the woman..." Once more, we see that "the **ANGEL** of God" is a **MAN**.

We also see them in Luke 24, after Jesus' body had been put in the tomb. Verse 4 says, "And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two **MEN** stood by them in shining garments." Verse 23, "And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of **ANGELS**, which said that he was alive." **Those MEN were ANGELS.**

Finally, we read in Revelation 21:17, "And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a **MAN**, that is, of the **ANGEL**." **The MAN measuring the wall is an ANGEL.**

So, the *Scofield Reference Bible* errs in its note for Genesis 6:2, in saying that angels are sexless. Angels are *never* sexless. Angels *always* appear as *men*. Dr. Scofield says they are sexless, because he is trying to prove that “*the **sons** of God,*” mentioned in Genesis 6:1-6 were *godly descendants of Seth* while “*the **daughters** of men*” were *ungodly descendants of Cain*. That is not true at all. Here is a brief explanation.

First, we notice that *every occurrence* of the term “sons of God” in the Old Testament is a clear reference to angels. The one exception cited by Dr. Scofield’s supporters is in the book of Isaiah.

*“I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring **my sons** from far, and **my daughters** from the ends of the earth;”*
— Isaiah 43:6

This is not really an *exception*, as we shall see. Let us now look at Dr. Peter Ruckman’s list of seven things overlooked in the *Scofield Reference Bible* note accompanying Genesis 6:2.³

“Before laying the text bare (with its accompanying scriptures), allow me to say that the Old Scofield Reference Bible— not the ‘New’ one— was as fine a reference Bible as God ever allowed to be published. Its editors were godly men and they have produced a Bible which has kept American Conservative Christianity premillennial for half a century. No one can go wrong on any one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity with an Old Scofield Reference Bible.”

1. “They⁴ forgot that Adam fell. To call any man, in any ‘*line*’ of men, in the Old Testament a ‘*son of God*’ would be ridiculous, for the ‘*Son of God*’ was God’s image, and John 1:12 is for those who become ‘*Sons*’

³ The Book of Genesis • The Bible Believer’s Commentary Series by Dr. Peter Ruckman • Bible Baptist Bookstore • Box 7135 • Pensacola, FL

⁴ The editors of the Scofield Reference Bible.

of God' by receiving the 'image.' One would think this would be sufficiently clear after reading Genesis 5:1-3.

2. They forgot that the designation 'sons and daughters' (Isaiah 43:6) is not the equivalent of 'sons of God' because the words are spelled differently in the English. (This is a tongue in cheek remark. But how else can a sober man take it when an editor running references on 'sons of God,' or 'Son of God' insists on defining it with expressions that don't mention either designation?) The 'sons and daughters' of Isaiah 43 are all 'Israelites,' not pre-deluge sons of Seth! Seth had plenty of descendants who were not 'Israelites' (see Genesis 11:22, 26).
3. The contrasting expressions 'sons of God and daughters of men' (Genesis 6:2) would never allow such a careless and loose interpretation as, 'The sons of Seth and the daughters of Cain' regardless of what the 'uniform Hebrew and Christian interpretation' has been. Why would a man insist the text says what it does 'not' say and try to make it say something it was never intended to say to prove his point? 'Yea, hath God said?'
4. If it 'were' the 'sons of Seth with the daughters of Cain,' how is it that the whole operation takes place again 'after that' (Genesis 6:4— after the days of the flood), when all the daughters of Cain were drowned out?
5. If it were the 'daughters of Cain with the Sons of Seth,' how did they then produce Giants? The giants were 'WHEN the sons of God came in...' etc., not 'anytime.' Do saved people beget giants when they marry lost people? Will you not have to change the word 'giant' also, before you get through and imagine that it is 'giants in adventure?'

6. How can it be that the ‘*godly line of Seth*’ intermarried, when the term ‘*godly line*’ is an illusory fabrication of the most non-Christian character, and is not even hinted at in 66 books of Holy Writ?⁵ There is a ‘*Messianic line*’ through which the Messiah comes, but this line is just about as ‘*ungodly*’ as you could make it [Note: Judah, a fornicator (Genesis 38); Phares, an illegitimate child; Rahab, a harlot; Bathsheba, an adulteress (Matthew 1:1-6); David, an adulterer— but why go on?] The ‘*godly line*’ like ‘*apostolic succession*’ is a figment of the imagination...’
7. ‘*Sons of God*,’ in the Old Testament, are defined in a book written shortly after the flood (Job 1; 2; 38) and they are present in time, before Adam is created (Job 38:7). They are mentioned in a connection between Satan (Job 1; 2) and the creation (Job 38). The ‘*sons of the mighty*’ (Psalm 89:6) are undoubtedly the ‘*gods*’ of Psalm 82:1— note the flood in the context!!”

Scripture seems to clearly indicate that these “*sons of God*” are indeed *fallen angels* who have chosen to follow Satan (cf. Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). Since Dr. Scofield could not *understand* how an angel could *know* a woman (the *daughters* of men), he assumed these “*sons of God*” could not be angels. His erroneous interpretation of Matthew 22:30 also led him to believe that an angel could not have sexual relations with a woman. There Jesus answers the question about a woman who had been married to several husbands. The Sadducees wanted to know which one of them would be her husband in Heaven.

Jesus said,

“*[I]n the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*”

— *Matthew 22:30*

⁵ Holy writings (the Scripture)

Look closely now: the key to this verse is “as *the angels of God **in heaven.***” That is an entirely different situation from the one in Genesis 6:2 dealing with the “sons of God.” The angels in Matthew 22:30 do not leave Heaven and come down to this earth as those in Genesis 6. The angels of God **in Heaven** do not marry, because every one of them are **MEN**. But if they left Heaven and came down to this earth to appear as “sons of God” (Genesis 6), they certainly *could* marry the “daughters of men.” That is a male marrying a female. Now that may seem strange to our understanding, but so are many other things in the Scripture. We may not *understand* all of the Bible, but we should *believe* it. But what we want to get out of all this is that every angel in the Bible is male; they are not sexless. And there is no marriage between the angels of God in Heaven because they are all males, and there are no female angels.

Angels Have No Wings

Another thing few Christians ever realize is that angels have no wings. They are always pictured as having wings, but there is nothing whatsoever in the Bible to indicate that this is true. Angels in the Bible simply appear as ordinary men, and *never* with wings.

“Let brotherly love continue.

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

— *Hebrews 13:1-2*

As I understand this passage of scripture we would not even know if we were in the presence of an angel unless it were revealed to us, because he would look just like any other man. If he had wings coming out of his back, anyone would know he was an angel. But there are no wings, otherwise there would be no need for the instruction not to forget to entertain strangers lest they actually be entertaining angels without knowing it. Nowhere in the Bible do angels have wings. There are some creatures

found in Zechariah 5:5-11 that have wings, but these things are not angels, *they are devils*. There are also creatures called Cherubim and Seraphim around the throne of God who have wings, but they are never mentioned as being anywhere else (Exodus 25:20; Ezekiel 10:5).

Angels Can Fly

The next thing we want to note about angels is that they can fly even though they have no wings. They do not need wings; they can fly like the fictitious *Superman*.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,”
— Revelation 14:6

Again in the book of Daniel we see that angels can fly.

*“Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the **man Gabriel** [AN ANGEL], whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.”*
— Daniel 9:21

These angels can fly, and the Bible says that we will be as the angels of God in Heaven in the resurrection. So when the resurrection takes place and we get that new body, we will not need wings, but will be able to fly just like the angels of God.

Angels Do Not Have Long Hair

Another misconception about angels is that they have long, blonde hair. This image has been communicated to the general Christian community by artists who have painted them that way through the years. But nowhere does the Bible even suggest that angels have long hair. That idea comes from the Roman Catholic Church, where their art almost always depicts them with wings, halos, and long hair. The men who painted those angels were all

Roman Catholics. Now, we do know that *demons* have long hair. For example, the demonic monsters coming out of the bottomless pit in Revelation 9:8 have “*hair as the hair of women.*” But these are devils, not angels. Furthermore, we read in I Corinthians 11 that nature itself teaches us that *it is a shame* for a man to have long hair; and angels always appear as men. So, the general concept held by most people about angels is all wrong; they do err, because they do not know the scriptures. That’s not just *my* opinion, that’s what the Bible teaches. We want to get our doctrine from the Bible, apart from *any* man’s *opinion*, and Matthew 22 tells us, we will be as the angels of God in Heaven.

The Angel of the Lord

In Judges 13 and throughout the Old Testament, the son of God makes his appearance as ‘the angel of the Lord,’ sometimes called the “*angel of God*” in the Old Testament.

Paul says:

“*For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and **whom I serve,***” — Acts 27:23

If we want to know who Paul served, we need only read Romans 1:1 where he refers to himself as, “*a servant of Jesus Christ.*” So there is no question that He served the Lord Jesus Christ, and Him alone. We see then, that the “*angel of God*” (or the “*angel of the Lord*”) in the Old Testament is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. We see this again in Galatians 4.

“*And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as **an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.***” — Galatians 4:14

Now turn in the Old Testament to the familiar story of the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, being cast into the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:3). Notice what Nebuchadnezzar says.

*“Lo, I see four **men** loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of **the fourth is like the Son of God.**”*
— Daniel 3:25

Evidently, the “Son of God ” is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Daniel continues:

*“Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent **his angel**, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.”*
— Daniel 3:28

It is clear then that, “his angel” is none other than the “Son of God” of verse 25, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And in Romans 8 we learn still more:

*“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to **the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

*“Moreover whom he did **predestinate**, them he also **called**: and whom he called, them he also **justified**: and whom he justified, them he also **glorified.**”*

— Romans 8:29-30

Writing to believers in the body of Christ, Paul says we are *predestinated* to be conformed to the image of his son, the Lord Jesus Christ. According to God’s foreknowledge (not the heretical Calvinistic system of *absolute predestination*), we are *predestinated, called, justified*, and one day, when we are *glorified*, we will be “conformed to the image of God’s son.” Our destiny as believers, by the will of God, is that one day we will have a new body made in the physical likeness of our Saviour, “*the man Christ Jesus*” (I Timothy 2:5).

In contempt of God’s word, the new *Women’s Lib Bible* takes out all references to God being male, making it impossible to find the truth that every believer will be like *Him* in Heaven.

John says:

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the **sons** of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

“Beloved, now are we the **sons** of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is.”

— I John 3:1-2

And Paul says:

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

“Who shall **change our vile** body, that it may be fashioned **like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

— Philippians 3:20-21

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns for us at the rapture, we will be resurrected like Jesus was and given a glorious body like He has, and “*we shall be like Him.*” Jesus Christ was a 33½ year old, sinless male when He died on the cross. So His glorified resurrection body is that of a 33½ year old, sinless, male. In Philippians 3:21, the Bible teaches that our bodies will be “*fashioned like unto his glorious body.*” That literally means we will have 33½ year old sinless, male bodies when we come up in the resurrection. Furthermore, Jesus Christ is *the angel of the Lord* in the Old Testament, and the Bible says we will be “*as the angels of God.*” Therefore, it seems apparent that every angel in the Bible would appear as a 33½ year old *male*. That is what we were studying in Matthew 22:30. So, of course, in Heaven the angels of God “*neither marry, nor are given in marriage,*” because they are all males. The age between 30-40 years old is commonly

considered the prime of life, so God picked that for the age of our eternal bodies. That means there will be no babies and no old folks in Heaven. Even the most crippled, pain ridden earthly body that enters the grave will be resurrected as a sinless, glorified, 33½ year old body like the Lord Jesus Christ.

An Incorruptible Body

Paul writes to the church at Corinth.

“So also is **the resurrection of the dead**. It is sown in corruption; it is **raised in incorruption**:

“It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

“As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

“And as we have borne **the image of the earthy**, we shall also bear **the image of the heavenly**.

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”

— I Corinthians 15:42-50

Thus far, we have seen that our resurrection bodies will be like the glorified body of the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, we will be as the angels in Heaven. Since angels do not have long hair or wings, neither shall we. Our bodies will be male like those of the angels and like that of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:42 says the body that goes to the grave is *sown in corruption* (it rots and turns to dust— Genesis 3:19). It also says that it is *raised in incorruption*. The incorruptible resurrection body that comes up from the grave will never grow tired and never grow older than 33½ years. Through all the ages men have searched for a way to stay young. The Spanish explorer, Ponce deLeon, spent his whole life searching for the *fountain of youth*. Movie stars still try to use makeup, and have surgical *face lifts* to stay young looking. Of course they just grow older and older until their faces look hideous. We will not have to worry about that when we get our glorified resurrection bodies, because they will never age one day, even after a million years; they will stay young for eternity. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we have found the real fountain of youth, because we have eternal life.

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

*“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that **ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”*

— I John 5:12-13

I Corinthians 15:43 says our natural bodies will go to the grave because they are dishonourable, weak, sinful, and corruptible. That's why Paul said *“I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing”* (Romans 7:18). Again, in Romans 7:24, he said *“O Wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”* However, the believers' spiritual bodies that will be raised in glory will be powerful, sinless, and incorruptible.

This earthly life is hard and full of trouble, but believers have hope in the Saviour, knowing that when Christ returns He will give us new glorified bodies. In those bodies, we will never again know death, sorrow, sadness, nor pain. Former things will have passed away, and the disappointments, miseries, heartaches, and

unforgettable tragedies we have known in this life will never be remembered again. We will not even remember our wretched sinful life on earth. Our minds and hearts will be filled with joy and contentment. In eternity we will never be sad again, and all our tears shall be wiped away.

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more **death**, neither **sorrow**, nor **crying**, neither shall there be any more **pain**: for the former things are passed away.”*
— Revelation 21:4

Isaiah confirms this

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”
— Isaiah 65:17

After the *Great White Throne Judgment* of Revelation 21, when the Lord makes a new Heaven and new earth, He will wipe away all the tears and the remembrance of all things past—they will never come to mind again. In eternity, there will be no remembrance of unsaved loved ones who perished, else we would grieve for them forever. (If we really love them, let's do all we can to win our loved ones to the Lord *now*.) Nevertheless, there *will* be tears, even in Heaven, prior to Revelation 21:4. There will be tears at the *Judgment Seat of Christ*, when it is revealed to us all the times we had opportunity, but failed to serve our Saviour. We will know too, what part of our service for the Lord was done in the flesh (wood, hay and stubble) that we *thought* was spiritual. There will also be tears during the *Great White Throne Judgment* itself, as we see unsaved loved ones we did not witness to, cast into the *Lake of Fire*. We will see friends, acquaintances and folks we passed on the street drop into the *Lake of Fire*. There will be tears if we see that we neglected to give them a gospel tract or take the time to tell them about the Saviour.

I Corinthians 15:44 are talking about the natural body that goes to the grave:

*“It is sown a **natural body**; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a **spiritual body**.”*

— I Corinthians 15:44

Our resurrection bodies will be like Christ's glorified body. He had a spiritual body when He rose from the grave. When I say He had a spiritual body, I do not mean to say that it was not a *literal* body, because He had a literal body, but it was a *spiritual, supernatural body of flesh and bone*. We will have a body just like the resurrection body He has now. Note that Luke 24:39 takes place *after* Christ rose from the dead and had received His resurrection body.

*“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not **flesh and bones**, as ye see me have.”*

— Luke 24:39

The disciples thought they had seen a spirit (Luke 24:37), but Jesus told them to come near and touch Him, for a spirit did not have flesh and bones as He had. That means *our glorified bodies* will also be bodies of *flesh and **bones***, not *flesh and **blood***.

Ephesians 5 says,

*“For we are members of his body, of his **flesh**, and of his **bones**.”*

— Ephesians 5:30

Notice that *blood* is not mentioned. When the Lord Jesus Christ came up from the grave, *He* had no blood, because He shed His blood on the cross at Calvary for you and me. Romans 8:29 says we are predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. So, if *our glorified bodies* will be like His (and He had no blood in *His glorified body*) then we will have no blood in *our new bodies*.

I Corinthians 15:50 says that **“flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.”** So, if we had blood in our bodies when we came up from the dead, we could not inherit the spiritual Kingdom of God. Rather than bodies of *flesh and blood*, our bodies will be made of *flesh and bones*. Blood is the source of corruption and decay in our bodies. Blood keeps our flesh alive, and blood causes us to age and fall apart. (*“The life of the flesh is in the blood”* Leviticus 17:11.) At death, all the blood is drained from the dead body to preserve it and prepare it for burial. Our new bodies will not be human flesh, and will not need blood to stay alive. Jesus Christ will be our life (cf. John 3:36).

Our new bodies will have supernatural flesh and bones, and we will be able to see and enter the spirit world whenever we want to. That spirit world is hidden from us now, but it won't be then. For example, in II Kings 6:8-17 we read about Elisha and his servant being surrounded by the armies of Syria. Seeing the situation, Elisha's servant became understandably concerned (verse 15). There they were; surrounded by these armies who had been sent to take them into captivity or kill them. In fear he asked Elisha how he thought it was possible to escape.

Elisha answered

“Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”
— II Kings 6:16b

Of course the servant did not know what Elisha was talking about. I imagine he looked about in despair, wondering if the old prophet had lost his mind. All he could see were the multitudes of soldiers in Syria's army that surrounded them. Then Elisha showed the servant what he could not see with his natural sight.

“And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”

— II Kings 6:17

When the Lord opened the servant's eyes to the spirit world, he saw the *supernatural* horses and chariots of fire that were surrounding him and Elisha to protect them from the *physical* Syrian army. In our natural bodies of flesh and blood our vision is limited, but when we get our resurrection bodies, we too will be able to see into the spirit world. Then we will have x-ray vision like the comic book character *Superman*. *Superman* seems so strong and invincible, but he is just a counterfeit of the glorified resurrection body we will have one day.

We see another example of this in the gospels. After Christ's resurrection, He appeared to His disciples. He walked along with them explaining the scriptures, and then He stopped to have a meal with them (Luke 24:23-31). We read in Luke 24:31 that while they were still eating, "*their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.*" He did not hide behind a curtain or jump out of a window; he vanished while they were standing there looking at Him. He merely stepped beyond the veil that hides the spirit world from our physical vision. With our glorified bodies, the veil will no longer separate us from the spirit world. Later the disciples met to talk about the things they had seen and heard about Jesus' resurrection.

"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

"But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

— Luke 24:36-37

Why were they *terrified* at Jesus' appearance? Why did they think they had seen a spirit? The answer is in John 20.

*"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when **the doors were shut** where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

*“And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, **the doors being shut**, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.”*

— John 20:19, 26

Christ’s appearance must have made quite an impression on John. Notice in both passages John emphasizes that *the doors were shut*. Just imagine them sitting in the room *with the door shut*, meeting secretly for fear of being crucified like Jesus. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the midst of them. He did not walk through the door. He just *appeared*. That would shake us up real good if it happened today, wouldn’t it? Well, in our new resurrection bodies, we will have the ability to vanish and appear at will just like Jesus did.

People all around the world have seen the TV program, *Star Trek*. It shows the spaceship with this chamber-thing that has light rays that disintegrate their bodies and then reintegrate them somewhere else. They always try to counterfeit the miracles of the Bible like that, but when we get our new glorified bodies we really will be able to do that without the machinery. If we want to go to a certain place on this earth, we will be able to simply vanish from where we are and appear where we want to be. We will not be confined to the earth with our new bodies; we will be able to travel through the universe to any planet. We will have access to the first, second, and third Heaven. We will be able to do what technology could only dream of: travel faster than the speed of light like Jesus did in John 20. There see Jesus talking with Mary Magdalene after he rose from the grave (John 20:11-18).

*“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for **I am not yet ascended to my Father**: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”* — John 20:17

It was early that morning when Jesus told Mary not to touch Him. Why? because He had to ascend to His Father first. His

Father was in the third Heaven, an unimaginable distance from earth; beyond the universe. Then in verse 19 we read, “*the same day at evening.*” There He appeared in the midst of the disciples and He let them touch Him. Eight days later He tells Thomas to do the same if He wishes.

“[R]each hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side...”

— *John 20:27*

If no one could touch Him until He had been to the Father, then He must have ascended up to the third Heaven to His Father and come back in the very same day without a rocket ship. Just as He, we will be able to travel through the universe faster than the speed of light.

We see this amazing travel in the Old Testament when Daniel was praying in Daniel 9.

“Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

“And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

“At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee...”

— *Daniel 9:20-23*

The angel *Gabriel* left the presence of God in the third Heaven, and came all the way down to earth with the answer before Daniel ever even finished his prayer. That's fast! It took the satellite *Voyager* four years just to reach *Saturn* (which is in our own solar system), but like *Gabriel* and *Christ*, we will be able to travel ten thousand times farther in a matter of minutes. We will also have a *mind* like *Christ*.

*“But when that which is perfect is come [CHRIST], **then** that which is in part shall be done away.*

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

*“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but **then** face to face: now I know in part; but **then shall I know even as also I am known.**”*

— I Corinthians 13:10-12

“[T]hen” is a reference to “when that which is perfect is come.” Paul is saying that we see spiritual things as through a dirty window, but when Christ returns, we’ll be able to see clearly. Then we will have knowledge about spiritual things just like the Lord Jesus Christ has. That is absolutely incomprehensible to our finite human minds.

I once read that the nerve fibers in one cubic inch of the human brain would stretch all the way to the moon and back, if placed end to end. We only use one small part of our minds’ total capacity now, but then our capacity will be *unlimited*, because the Lord will enable us to have supernatural knowledge and understanding. We will know all of the things that unsaved men spent their lives trying to discover. Furthermore, our new bodies will never hunger or thirst.

John says of the saints in glory:

“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.”

— Revelation 7:16

We will never be hungry or thirsty again; nor will we ever need nutrition from food to keep our bodies functioning properly, because those bodies will be eternal. Just think, no one will have to diet or watch their calories. If they enjoy eating, they can just eat for the sheer pleasure of eating, just like Christ did in Luke 24.

“And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

“And he took it, and did eat before them.”

— Luke 24:42-43

In His glorified body *He* could eat, and *we* will be able to do the same when we get our new bodies. There won't be any fat people or skinny people in Heaven; everyone will have perfectly healthy bodies in the prime of life. For now, we must live in these corruptible bodies, but we have the Spirit of God in us that gives the hope that one day we will receive our incorruptible bodies.

*“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in us**, the hope of glory:”* — Colossians 1:27

Every saved woman has a man inside her. The Holy Spirit dwells within her, and as II Corinthians 3:17 says, “[T]he Lord is that Spirit.” Just as He dwells within every saved male, He also dwells within every saved female. Every Christian man and woman are already “sons of God” (John 1:12). In their glorified bodies women will finally be completely liberated. The woman will no longer be the weaker vessel; she will no longer be subject to man in eternity like she is on this earth (as the scriptures teach). She will be like Jesus Christ. The woman came from the man (cf. I Corinthians 11:8; Genesis 2:23). She was bone of Adam's bone, flesh of Adam's flesh (Genesis 2:23-24). In the beginning God formed man from the dust of the earth, then He formed the woman from the man He had already created. The first woman was named Mrs. Adam. In Genesis 5:2, the Bible says that God “called **their name** Adam, in the day they were created.” Adam was the one who called her *Eve* (Genesis 3:20). No woman who ever lived had a name of her own. She either has the name of her husband, or the name of her father. The word “woman” means “a man with a womb: a wombed man.” God made a man, then He took that man's rib and made another man with a womb, and called her *woman*.

Look what Peter says to ladies.

*“But let it be the hidden **man** of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”*

— *I Peter 3:4*

In I Peter 3:1 he is addressing *wives*, and he speaks of the “*hidden man*.” A saved woman already has a man inside her, “*the man Christ Jesus*” (I Timothy 2:5). At the resurrection, our outward man will be conformed to the image of Christ who is dwelling inside (cf. Romans 8:29; Philippians 3:20-21; I John 3:1-2). There is no respecter of persons with God— women will be conformed to His image as well as men.

LET'S REVIEW

The Two Resurrections (outline, pp. 3-7)

Without referring back to the lesson itself, look up the verses below and put the references in the blanks at the correct place in the outline.

I. The Fact of the Resurrection

A. Old Testament proof of the resurrection

Psalms 16:9,10

Daniel 12:2

II Kings 13:21

I Kings 17:17-24

Job 19:25-27

Genesis 22:5

II Kings 4:32-35

Isaiah 26:19

Hosea 13:14

Hebrews 11:19

1. Job believed in Christ's Resurrection. _____ .
2. David prophesied the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as well as his own future resurrection
_____ .
3. The prophets looked for a final resurrection of the dead.
_____ .
4. Abraham believed God could raise the dead.
_____ .
5. Several accounts of the resurrection are given.
_____ .

B. New Testament proof of the resurrection**Romans 1:4; 4:25****John 5:21,28-29****Acts 2:32;4:10****Matthew 27:52****I Corinthians 15****John 11:43****I Corinthians 15:4-8****Luke 8:52-55****Revelation 20:4-6,13-14****John 11:23-26**

1. The Lord Jesus Christ taught a resurrection. _____

2. The apostle Paul expounded the resurrection.

3. The apostle John saw the two resurrections.

4. Christ raised people from the dead. _____
5. Christ himself was raised from the dead. _____

II. The Importance of the Resurrection**I Corinthians 15:22****Philippians 3:10a****I Corinthians 15:17****I Corinthians 15:58****Romans 1:4**

A. It declares his death to have been of redeeming value _____ .

B. It declares the extent of power available to us _____ .

C. It declares the fact of our own resurrection

III. The Nature of the Resurrection**Acts 24:15 (use twice) John 5:28-29****I Corinthians 15:37-40,44 John 5:29b****Revelation 20:5 Luke 14:14****A. It is literal and bodily** _____**B. It is universal** _____

C. It is twofold

1. The resurrection of the just _____

2. The resurrection of the unjust _____

3. The two phases of the resurrection are not
simultaneous _____**IV. The Order of the Resurrection****Revelation 20:4 I Corinthians 15:22-24****Revelation 14:3 Revelation 7:9-14****I Corinthians 15:23b I Corinthians 15:23c****Matthew 27: 52-53 Revelation 6:9-11**

The first resurrection is like a harvest

A. The First Fruits _____

B. The Harvest _____

C. The Gleanings _____

1. Believing Jews and Gentiles _____

2. Church Age and Tribulation saints will reign

3. Time of Tribulation resurrection _____

V. The Resurrection Body

I Corinthians 15:43,53 I John 3:2 John 20:19

Luke 24:31 (2 times) John 21:12 Luke 24:39

Philippians 3:20-21 Romans 8:23 John 20:27

Matthew 5:29-30 Luke 24:42-43

A. The resurrection body of the believer

1. A redeemed body _____

2. A glorified body _____

3. A Christlike body _____

a. Recognizable _____

b. touchable _____

c. unlimited _____

d. able to eat _____

e. able to vanish _____

B. The resurrection body of the unbeliever

The Resurrection Body (pp. 9-33)

Read each statement below *paying special attention* to the italicized words in bold print. If the statement is correct as written, write the word “True” in the blank. If the statement is not correct, cross out the incorrect word(s) and write the correct word(s) in the blank.

1. _____ The Pharisees **did not** believe in a literal resurrection of the dead.
2. _____ In the “*resurrection **of the dead***” believers will come up, but the unsaved stay down.
3. _____ The first resurrection is made up of **unbelievers** only.
4. _____ The second resurrection is the ‘*resurrection **of the dead.***’
5. _____ At the second resurrection all saved souls will be brought before the **Great White Throne Judgment**.
6. _____ Resurrected bodies of the saints will be as the **angels** in heaven.

7. _____ In the Bible all angels appear as **men**.
8. _____ The “sons of God” in Genesis 6 refer to **heavenly** angels.
9. _____ Fallen angels **cannot** have children with “daughters of men.”
10. _____ Angels in heaven do not marry.
11. _____ **Some** angels have wings.
12. _____ With our resurrected bodies we will be able to fly **like the angels**.
13. _____ God’s holy angels **have** long hair.
14. _____ The **angel of the Lord** (or God) is an appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ.
15. _____ Paul says we are **hoping that we will be** conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.
16. _____ Our resurrected bodies **will** be “fashioned like unto his glorious body.”
17. _____ Our resurrected bodies **will** be corruptible.
18. _____ In heaven we **will** remember all the sorrows and sadness of our earthly lives.
19. _____ A resurrected **spiritual** body has flesh and blood.
20. _____ A flesh and blood body **can** inherit the kingdom of God.

21. _____ Our resurrected bodies **will be able** to disappear and reappear at will.
22. _____ Our minds in our resurrected bodies will have a **limited** capacity.
23. _____ Our resurrected bodies **will** need to eat.
24. _____ Just as saved men, saved **women will** be conformed to the image of Christ.
25. _____ In heaven **most** people will have perfect, healthy bodies in the prime of life.

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