

Is the Lord Jesus in a Literal, Physical Body of Flesh and Bones in Heaven Today?

The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus rose from the dead with a literal, physical body, that He ascended to heaven with that same body, and that He is in heaven today in a body of flesh and bones.

First of all, Christ rose from the dead with a literal, physical body. This can be proved first by several Scriptures which speak of the place where the Lord's body had been, but where it was no longer, after His resurrection.

Matthew 28:5, 6: "...come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Mark 16:6: ". . . behold the place where they laid him."

John 20:12: ". . . where the body of Jesus had lain."

The point to notice in these verses is that the body of Jesus was no longer in the sepulcher.

In Luke 24:39, the risen Lord clearly stated that He had a body of flesh and bones. "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."

Again In John 20:27, He invited Thomas to thrust his hand into His riven side. "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."

Christ ascended into heaven with the same body He had after He rose from the dead.

Mark 16:19 describes Christ, in His resurrection body, speaking to His disciples, then being received up into heaven. "After the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God."

In Luke 24:50, 51 we see the Lord lifting up His hands to bless His disciples, so He obviously had a physical body. While He blessed them, He was carried up into heaven. This can only mean a bodily ascension.

After Jesus ascended to heaven, the angels said to the disciples, ". . . this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." He departed with a literal, physical body; therefore, He will return with the same body.

The third main point is this: Christ is in heaven today in a body of flesh and bones.

When Stephen was martyred, he looked up into heaven and saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God (Acts 7:55, 56).

At His second coming, the Lord's feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:4). Other

passages speak of His coming in a visible, bodily form.

We therefore conclude that Christ ascended in the same literal body of flesh and bones with which He rose from the dead, and that He has that same body in heaven today.

In closing, perhaps we should add that the resurrection body of the Savior was the same body which He had before his death, yet in a glorified form. For instance, while He was still recognizable by His disciples, He could enter a room while all the doors were shut (Jn 20:19, 26). It was a body which could eat broiled fish and honeycomb (Lk 24:42, 43), yet it was no longer subject to death (Rom 6:9).

When the apostle Paul speaks of the resurrection body as being a spiritual body (1 Cor 15:44), he does not mean that it is non-material, intangible and invisible. Rather he means that it is suited to life in heaven, whereas a natural body is suited to life on earth.