

The Present Heaven
Part 3

Physical bodies in Heaven

5/2/2010

I. Jesus resurrected body...

1. Was recognizable

“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.” Matthew 28: 8-9

2. Was a real / physical body

“They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have... And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” Luke 24:37-39, 41

II. Jesus resurrected body could do some amazing things...

1. Appear or materialism out of nowhere

“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them.” Matthew 28:8-9a

“While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” Luke 24:36

2. Fly

“After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9-11

- Where did he go?
- He told us the answer when He was answering the high priests questions at his trail.

“But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Mark 14:61b-62

III. People who took their physical bodies to Heaven

1. Enoch

“Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.” Genesis 5:24

The Septuagint translates it as Enoch: “was not found”. There was no body to bury. Hebrews 11:5 explicitly says that Enoch didn’t die: “By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away.”

2. Elijah

“Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha... saw him no more.” 2 Kings 2:11-12 NKJV

Elisha ...saw him no more... because there was no body left to look at. Elijah was gone...body and all.

Given that this one (Jesus) and perhaps three people now have bodies in Heaven (Jesus, Enoch, & Elijah), isn't it possible that others might be given physical forms as well?

IV. People who have returned to Earth from Heaven in physical bodies

1. Two men

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?" Acts 1:11

Earlier in this message, when you read this verse, did you see the words "two men dress in white" and somehow read it as "two angels dressed in white"? Where these two men, angels dressed up as men, or were they two men?

2. Moses and Elijah

"After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:1-5

Moses died and they buried him...

"They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre..." Gen 50:13. Yet, here he is in Mt 17. Peter, James and John someone knew it was Moses.

How? Where there introductions made by Jesus? "John, I want you to meet Moses and Elijah." No. Somehow the disciples knew who they were and were prepared to build three altars in honor of their appearance.

Now how did Moses and Elijah know when to appear at the transfiguration? The fact that they appear at exactly the right moment, for just the right occasion, leads us to believe people in Heaven are, to some extent, aware of what is happening here on Earth.

Elijah as you recall, never died a physical death. He was taken, in a whirlwind in a chariot or fire pulled by horses of fire.

In the apostle Paul's account of being caught up into the present Heaven, he expresses uncertainty about whether he'd had a body there or not: "Whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows" 2 Corinthians 12:3

"In the present Heaven or Hell, we will await the time that Jesus foretold, "when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out – those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." John 5:28-29 Until that days comes, Scripture teaches that those who dies will go to a real place, either the present Heaven or the present Hell, as conscious human beings with memory of their lives and relationships on Earth. Those in Hell will live in misery, hopelessness, and apparent isolation, while those in Heaven will live in comfort, joy, and rich relationship with God and others." Heaven, by Randy Alcorn