

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ALPHIE?

I Corinthians 15:35-44

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INTRODUCTION

- A. A popular song from a movie in the Sixties asked an age old question? "What's it all about Alphie? Is it just for the moment we live?"
- B. Three thousand years ago, Job asked the same questions.
Job 14:14 If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come.
- C. The Apostle's Creed says yes, we will live again after we die ("I believe in the resurrection of the body").
- D. The Bible says it too.
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
 - 1. The Bible teaches what has been called "whole salvation". That is, the resurrection of the body as well as the soul.
 - 2. The Creed does too "resurrection of the body".

I. HOW DO WE KNOW THE RESURRECTION IS REAL?

- A. Because Jesus' resurrection was real.
1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- B. Because the same God who raised Jesus from the dead promises he will do the same for us.
2 Corinthians 4:14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

II. WHAT WILL OUR RESURRECTION BODIES BE LIKE?

- A. I hope it won't be like the one we have. Article called "**51 Signs You're Getting Older....**Some of these signs are...."
 - 1. Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
 - 2. You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
 - 3. Your knees buckle but your belt won't.
 - 4. You're asleep but others worry you may be dead.
- B. What will our resurrection bodies be like? Just like Jesus'-15:20 "first fruits". Paul tells us what that will be like- & 15:35.
1 Corinthians 15:35 But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"
 - 1. In some ways just like our present bodies. For example...
 - a. Jesus could be touched.
Luke 24:39 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."
 - b. Jesus could eat.
Luke 24:41-43 ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.
 - 2. In many ways our resurrection bodies will be different than our present one.
 - a. Jesus could enter locked doors.
 - b. Jesus ascended into heaven.

3. Paul lists four more ways our resurrection bodies will be different.
 - a. It will be indestructible-15:42 (Not subject to decline or decay).
⁴² **So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;**
 - b. It will be glorious-15:43a. (Perfect).
⁴³ **it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory;.....**
 - c. It will be powerful-15:43b. (Can do anything, like Jesus).
.....it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;
 - d. It will be spiritual-15:44. (Suited for Heaven).
⁴⁴ **it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.**

CONCLUSION

- A. C. S. Lewis concluded his "**Chronicles of Narnia**" with Aslan, the lion, who represents Jesus Christ saying to the children who died in the end of their quest...
"You are—as you used to call it in the Shadowlands—dead. The term (school term) is over: the holidays are begun. The dream is ended; this is the morning (beginning)".
- B. Lewis was saying he believed in the resurrection.
 1. The Bible says it.
 2. The Apostle's Creed says it.
 3. I believe it too, how about you?