

How will God resurrect the dead out of dirt?

First Corinthians 15:35 asks, "How are the dead raised?" We might find it easy to believe that Jesus was resurrected because, although He was dead for three days, He hadn't disintegrated into dust like someone who has been dead for 3,000 years. But how will God raise people who have decayed into dust or have been cremated?

The Bible teaches that ultimately everyone will be resurrected from the dead—even those who have disintegrated. The prophet Daniel said, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, some to eternal life, and some to shame and eternal contempt" (Dan. 12:2). Jesus said, "Do not be amazed at this; because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come out—those who have done good things to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28). The apostle Paul said, "There will certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked" (Acts 24:15).

The Sadducees were a religious sect at the time of Christ that did not believe in the resurrection. Jesus told them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures or the power of God" (Matt. 22:29). Their inability to believe was rooted in their underestimation of what God is able to do.

The Lord created the first man out of dirt and told him, "...you (shall) return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19). But how is it possible to reconstruct a dead body from dust? Humanly speaking it isn't possible. Jesus acknowledged this by saying, "With people this IS impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26).

If you can explain how God created man out of dust in the first place, then I will explain how He will resurrect us out of it. Since God was able to make a man out of dirt, He won't have a problem reassembling a dead person from it. The resurrection is only possible through a supernatural God who has knowledge of all things and is all-powerful. He must know where every atom is in the universe and have the power to bring them back together. Hebrews 11:3 says God created everything out of nothing, so He is able to resurrect people out of dust.

Sir Michael Faraday, one of England's greatest chemists and physicists, heard a student scoff at the idea of the resurrection. Faraday decided to demonstrate how it could be done. He placed a silver goblet into a jar of acid, which completely dissolved it. He then added other chemicals which caused the silver to settle to the bottom of the jar. He took the silver to a silversmith who made it into a goblet more beautiful than the original, and showed it to the student. Faraday held up the goblet and said, "If I, an ordinary scientist, can dissolve and remake a silver goblet, why is it hard to believe that God can raise the body from the dead?"

Paul says, "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain . . . but now Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Cor. 15:13,14, 20).

It all comes down to this. If Jesus rose from the dead, it validates that everything He taught is true. If He didn't rise from the dead, then Christianity is a myth. You get to choose which one is correct. Choose wisely.

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