

## Sha'ul of Tarsus & His Letters ~ Part 89

### 1 Corinthians ~ Part 29

**Note: To examine the graphics in this series, click on them for a pop-up version.**

As I emphasized in my previous post, we are delving into the profound significance of **Sha'ul's Letters to the Corinthians**, a crucial cornerstone of our faith.

### Regarding the Resurrection ~ Part 3

#### New Bodies in the Resurrection

We pick up where we left off in our last post.

Having proved the necessity of resurrection, **Sha'ul** can discuss his readers' concerns about the practical details.

***<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "In what manner are the dead raised? What sort of body do they have?"  
<sup>36</sup> Stupid! When you sow a seed, it doesn't come alive unless it first dies. <sup>37</sup> Also, what you sow is not the body that will be, but a bare seed of, say, wheat or something else; <sup>38</sup> but God gives it the body he intended for it, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.***

An imaginary *someone* can safely be called *stupid*; this is part of the style of Greek diatribes. **Yeshua** at Yochanan 12:24 used the same seed-sowing analogy. **Sha'ul** compares human resurrection to the life-death-life cycle from agriculture. The seed body that **dies** gives rise to a different plant body, yet there is a retention of identity. So, it is with our present bodies and our future resurrection bodies.

***<sup>39</sup> Not all living matter is the same living matter; on the contrary, there is one kind for human beings, another kind of living matter for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.  
<sup>40</sup> Further, there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the beauty of heavenly bodies is one thing, while the beauty of earthly bodies is something else. <sup>41</sup> The sun has one kind of beauty, the moon another, and the stars yet another; indeed, each star has its own individual kind of beauty.***

**Sha'ul** said that in agriculture, a wheat seed produces wheat (1 Corinthians 15:37–38). Now, he draws his parallel to the issue of resurrection. Just as there are different sorts of seeds, there are also different sorts of flesh. **Sha'ul** points out that just as there are different kinds of seeds (15:37–38) and flesh (15:39), the resurrection body, or heavenly body, will have a different degree of glory from the earthly body. **Sha'ul** adds another illustration to support the idea of different degrees of glory: nature again illustrates the sun, moon, and stars. These are prominent examples of differing degrees of glory.

#### Bodies to Be Spiritual

Imagine a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly. In the same way, our perishable bodies will be transformed into imperishable ones, just as 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 explains.

***<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. When the body is "sown," it decays; when it is raised, it cannot decay. <sup>43</sup> When sown, it is without dignity; when raised, it will be beautiful. When sown, it is weak; when raised, it will be strong. <sup>44</sup> When sown, it is an ordinary human body; when raised, it will be a body controlled by the Spirit. If there is an ordinary human body, there is also a body controlled by the Spirit. <sup>45</sup> In fact, the Tanakh says so: Adam, the first man, became a living human being, but the last "Adam" has become a life-giving Spirit.***

**Adam** "*became a living human being*" (or: "a living soul") after **God** "*breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*" (the word for "breath" in Hebrew is *ruach*), which can also be translated as "spirit" or even "Spirit, as in the **Ruach HaKodesh** (the Holy Spirit). Thus, his life depended on **God**, which is why **God** could make death a penalty for sin (Genesis 2:17).

*<sup>46</sup> Note, however, that the body from the Spirit did not come first, but the ordinary human one; the one from the Spirit comes afterwards.*

**Sha'ul** points out that **Adam** came first and then **Yeshua**—the natural and spiritual man.

*<sup>47</sup> The first man is from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven.*

**Sha'ul** states that **Adam** had his origins from the earth; he was made from the ground (Genesis 2:7) and did not exist previously, while **Yeshua** had a preexistence in **Heaven**, from which He came to earth (compare Philippians 2:6; Yochanan 16:28).

*<sup>48</sup> People born of dust are like the man of dust, and people born from heaven are like the man from heaven; <sup>49</sup> and just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, so also we will bear the image of the man from heaven. <sup>50</sup> Let me say this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot share in the Kingdom of God, nor can something that decays share in what does not decay. <sup>1</sup>*

**Sha'ul** returns to the principle from 15:22 about identifying individuals as part of a group; **Adam** and **Yeshua** have extensive influence on those "in" them. Those in **Adam** bear **Adam's** image (see Genesis 5:2–3; Romans 5:19). Those in **Yeshua** bear **Yeshua's** image (see Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 3:18). **Sha'ul** speaks of **Adam** and **Yeshua** as spheres of influence, or overarching representatives, who shed their influence on those in them. All people are subsumed either in **Adam** as their representative head or **Yeshua** as their head. All those who are "in **Adam**" die. **Adam** sinned and brought guilt, condemnation, and death to his descendants (see Romans 5:17–19). On the other hand, **Yeshua** brings righteousness, justification, and life to all who are in Him, that is, to all **Believers** in **Yeshua**. This profound influence of the two Adams explains ultimately how there is a natural body, which is ruled by **Adam's** nature, and a spiritual body, which is ruled by God's spirit. **Believers** have begun to share in **Yeshua's** image to greater and greater degrees (2 Corinthians 3:18), and this image will be completed at glorification when they receive their resurrection bodies.

In our next post, we will eagerly explore **Sha'ul's Letters to the Corinthians**, starting with 1 Corinthians 15:51 and delving deeper into our topic of **Regarding The Resurrection**. Stay tuned for more insights and revelations.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:35–50.