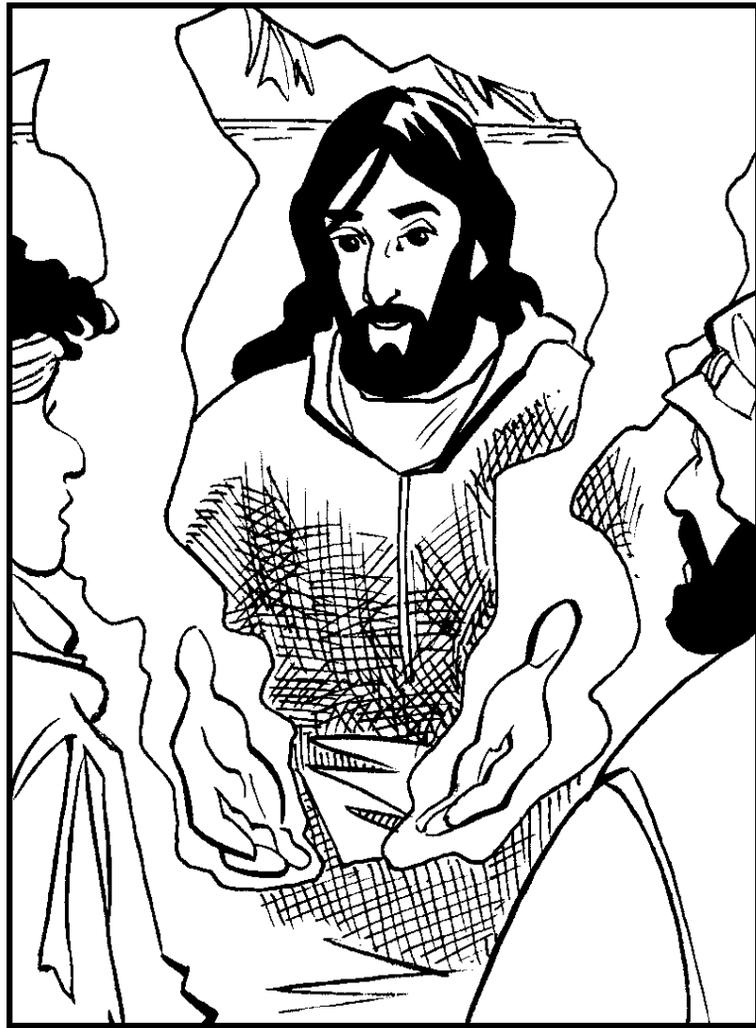


God Does Something New

When Jesus rose from the dead, His resurrection was the first phase of God's new creation, a new kind of existence—a human body was transformed by the power of God into one that is no longer affected by death, decay, and corruption. Nothing like this had ever happened! "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him." (Romans 6:9)



Jesus' resurrected body no longer suffered from the torture He had undergone—His back torn to shreds from the whipping; His head bloodied by the crown of thorns; His hands, feet, and side pierced. He was no longer battered, nor was He exhausted from all He had endured.



Jesus appeared as a man, but usually even His closest friends didn't recognize Him immediately. He had substance—"flesh and bones"—walked, talked, and could eat, but He could also materialize and disappear at will.

Jesus was still very much Himself, but His body had undergone a quantum upgrade. The same will be true for us. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye ... we will be changed. Then the saying that is written will take place: Death has been swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:52,54)



The apostle Paul speaks about our bodies raised from death in terms of a seed that is planted, and from which the more complete plant grows. He goes on to explain that these new bodies will be imperishable, raised in glory and power as spiritual bodies.

When you sow a seed, it must die in the ground before it can live and grow. And when you sow it, it does not have the same 'body' it will have later. What you sow is only a bare seed, maybe wheat or something else. But God gives it a body that he has planned for it, and God gives each kind of seed its own body. ... It is the same with the dead who are raised to life. The body that is 'planted' will ruin and decay, but it is raised to a life that cannot be destroyed. When the body is 'planted,' it is without honor, but it is raised in glory. When the body is 'planted,' it is weak, but when it is raised, it is powerful. The body that is 'planted' is a physical body. When it is raised, it is a spiritual body.... He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body. (1 Corinthians 15:36-37,42-44 NCV; Philippians 3:21 HCSB)



As Christians, we are part of God's new creation. We can look forward to the time when Jesus will return and raise our bodies as well.



And that's why we have so much to celebrate!—That God dwells in us and helps, guides, and renews us; that we are part of His new creation; that we will live eternally in our new bodies, with perfect health and no aging, sickness, or disease. This is the good news of the Gospel: the love that God has for each individual, the offer of everlasting life, of resurrection from the dead, of being a new creature in Christ Jesus today and a part of the overall new creation for eternity.

