

Biblical Topics

Resurrection

Temporal death is the separation of body and soul. This state continues unto the day of resurrection. In the meantime the body lies in the grave and returns to dust. The soul, however, is either in heaven or in hell.

- Genesis 3:19: By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.
- Acts 1:25: to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.
- Luke 23:43: Jesus answered him (thief on the cross), "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Scriptures teach that at the Last Day God will raise up me and all the dead. The same bodies that have died shall be made alive. This will be accomplished by God's omnipotent power, at whose voice all the dead shall hear and obey. The souls of people will return to the very bodies from which they departed in death. Those living at the coming of Christ will not die and then be raised again. They shall be changed in a moment to fit them for their future existence.

- John 5:28-29: ²⁸ "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.
- Job 19:25-27: ²⁵ I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

The believers will rise with glorified bodies to everlasting life in heaven. Believers will be freed from all defects and weaknesses which have been the result of sin. Believers with their incorruptible bodies will inherit eternal life.

- Philippians 3:21: who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-52: ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- John 5:29: and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

The unbelievers also will rise and continue to live a conscious existence. They will rise to eternal death which is everlasting shame, contempt, and torment in hell. They shall be an abhorring to all flesh.

- Matthew 10:28: Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- Isaiah 66:24: And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.
- Matthew 7:13: Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

Much of the above information is taken from: "Luther's Small Catechism" annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.