



LifeSpot ... We will rise!

Really

Defiance of death, a quest for eternity—this is the history of the world. We see how fragile life is, how brief. We're alarmed! Humanity devises a thousand theories to get us beyond the grave. Some part of us must surely endure. It's intolerable to think we come from nothing, we are nothing, and we go to nothing. The prevailing view is that a vague spiritual essence goes on. But distinctively, Judaism and Christianity teach specific hope—the real you, the real me, will rise again! This is not an “afterlife”—it's the *real life* intended by God. Now is our preparation. Can you echo Job's assurance? I'll “see God myself, with my very own eyes. Oh, how I long for that day!” Job 19:27 (MSG).

Completely

In history, some have taught that the body hardly matters—it's just a vehicle to carry the soul around. Others have said the soul doesn't matter—as long as the body is satisfied, the spiritual component comes along for the ride. The Word of God has it right. “May he make you holy through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept free from blame. . . . until our Lord Jesus Christ comes.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIRV). Here's truth. We are a unity of the physical and the spiritual. It's our privilege to be holy in body and in spirit. Why resurrection? Because God creates and recreates the physical along with the spiritual. Today, will you let God make you holy through and through?

Joyfully

Jesus arrives at the funeral of a friend. What a funeral this is! At Jesus' command, Lazarus walks out of his tomb. Jesus has to snap the mourners out of their trance—“Unwrap him and let him loose.” John 11:44 (MSG). There's something else astonishing. Unlike today's funerals, Jesus does not speak about Lazarus being in Heaven already. The comfort Jesus gives is a single, joy-filled truth—“I am the resurrection and the life.” Martha affirms this comfort. “I know my brother will rise again in the resurrection at the end of time.” Have you lost someone close to you? Or, do you fear your own death? Life and resurrection in Jesus—this is your comfort, and the miracle of Lazarus brings it home.

Undoubtedly

There's no need for atheists to waste time debunking the Christian concept of resurrection. A succession of theologians has already done it. But nothing they've said can destroy the assessment of the apostle Paul. “If there's no resurrection, there's no living Christ. . . . If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot. But the truth is that Christ has been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries. . . . On signal from that trumpet from heaven, the dead will be up and out of their graves, beyond the reach of death, never to die again.” 1 Corinthians 15:13, 19–20, 52 (MSG). Today, will you declare your faith and place your hope in resurrection?