

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 121

THE TRANSFORMATION

The fleshly body of a saved person still has its old sin nature and it continues to sin after salvation (Romans 7:23-25). Since the material body of a saved person still has its old sin nature, how can God end up with perfect people on the New Earth"? The answer is simple. Our sinful, material body will not get out of this world alive. It is going back to the dust. It is not going to be living on the new earth that our Lord will create

⁴²So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body." 1st Corinthians 15:42-44 New International Version

When the spiritual body of a saved person is resurrected at the catching up (called by many, the Rapture), God will give that spiritual body a heavenly, glorified body to live in for eternity. Just as our spiritual body is now living within a fleshly body on this present earth, so God will give the spiritual bodies of the saved heavenly, glorified bodies to dwell in on the New Earth (Revelation 21:1-2).

If a saved person is still alive when the catching up takes place, their fleshly body will also be changed in the twinkling of an eye into a heavenly, glorified body just like the one Jesus Christ had at His resurrection. That is why the Bible refers to Christ as "the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep".

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him." 1st Corinthians 15:20-23 NIV