

1 Corinthians 15:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

Analysis

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? (Ἄλλὰ ἐρεῖ τις, Πῶς ἐγείρονται οἱ νεκροί;)—Paul anticipates the skeptic's objection: resurrection is mechanistically impossible. The verb egeirontai (ἐγείρονται, "are raised") uses passive voice—God raises the dead; they don't self-resurrect. The question pōs (πῶς, "how") demands mechanism, process, explanation.

And with what body do they come? (ποίῳ δὲ σώματι ἔρχονται;)—The second question addresses identity and continuity. If the body decays, decomposes, is eaten by animals or burns to ash, how can it be reconstituted? What about amputees? The obese and emaciated? Greek philosophy found bodily resurrection absurd—souls yes, bodies no. Paul will answer with agricultural analogy (vv. 36-49) demonstrating continuity-in-transformation.

Historical Context

Greek intellectual culture mocked bodily resurrection (Acts 17:32). Plato taught the body is the soul's prison; release from embodiment was salvation. Platonism's influence on Corinthian believers created this objection. They couldn't conceive how decayed corpses could be reconstituted. Paul doesn't mock the question but addresses it seriously with theological and analogical reasoning.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does Greek philosophical dualism find bodily resurrection repugnant—what does this reveal about biblical vs. Greek anthropology?
2. How do modern objections to resurrection (scientific naturalism) parallel ancient Greek objections?
3. What does the 'what body' question indicate about concerns over identity and continuity?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ᾽	έρει	τις	Πῶς	ἐγείρονται	οἱ	νεκροί	ποίω
But	man will say	some	How			the dead	with what
G235	G2046	G5100	G4459		G1453	G3498	G4169
δὲ	σώματι	ἐρχονται					
and	body	do they come					
G1161	G4983	G2064					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 37:3 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

Romans 9:19 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?