

1 Corinthians 15:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

Analysis

All flesh is not the same flesh (οὐ πᾶσα σὰρξ ἡ αὐτὴ σάρξ)—Paul expands from plants to animals, demonstrating God's creative diversity. The word sarx (σάρξ, "flesh") refers to material embodiment. The fourfold classification—**one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds**—demonstrates that physical embodiment takes radically different forms, yet all are sarx.

Paul's logic: if God fashions diverse embodied forms in present creation, why doubt He can fashion resurrection bodies different from earthly bodies yet truly embodied? The variation in created flesh refutes the objection that only one kind of body is possible. God's creative power is not exhausted by present forms—He can and will create appropriate embodiment for the age to come.

Historical Context

Ancient biology recognized broad categories of embodied life. Paul's categorization (humans, land animals, fish, birds) reflects Genesis 1 creation order. His argument: the God who created such diverse embodied life can certainly create new embodied forms for resurrection. Present creation displays God's creativity; eschatological re-creation will display even greater glory.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the diversity of embodied life in creation demonstrate God's power to create resurrection bodies?
2. What does Paul's argument from present to future creation teach about continuity between the ages?
3. Why is maintaining true embodiment (not disembodied souls) important for biblical anthropology?

Interlinear Text

οὐ	πᾶσα	σὰρξ	ἢ	αὐτὴ	σὰρξ	ἀλλὰ	ἄλλη	μὲν	σὰρξ
is not	All	flesh	G3588	the same	flesh	but	another	G3303	flesh
G3756	G3956	G4561		G846	G4561	G235	G243		G4561
ἀνθρώπων	ἄλλη	δὲ	σὰρξ	κτηνῶν	ἄλλη	δὲ	ἰχθύων		
of men	another	and	flesh	of beasts	another	and	of fishes		
G444	G243	G1161	G4561	G2934	G243	G1161	G2486		
ἄλλη	δὲ	πτηνῶν							
another	and	of birds							
G243	G1161	G4421							