

Old Testament Evidence of the Resurrection

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We all shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law: but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:50-57).

“Did the Law and the Prophets speak of a resurrection?” To assist, we appeal to an essay, entitled, “A Journey to Heaven: The Jewish Search for Life Beyond.”

Concerning the writing of Isaiah 26:19 the following quote is of interest: “If a 6th century date for the Isaiah Apocalypse is correct, as we believe, it would show that a belief in resurrection was already in evidence before Daniel, as our discussion of Hosea and Ezekiel suggested” (Ibid.)

The Isaiah Apocalypse clearly proclaims the resurrection of the dead stating that those who lie in the dust of the earth will arise and shout with joy:

*Oh, let Your dead revive! (hyh)
Let corpses (neveilati) arise! (qwm)
Awake and shout for joy, (hqys)
You who dwell in the dust!
For Your dew is like the dew on fresh
growth;
You make the land of the shades
(refa'im) come to life*

Ezekiel 37:4-5 — Dry Bones Come to Life

*O dry bones, hear the word of God.
Thus says the Lord God to these bones,
Behold, I will cause breath to enter you,
and you shall live.î (hyh)*

“In his apocalyptic vision of the valley of the dry bones, the prophet responds to the peoples despair and, in a hopeful prophecy involving the resurrection of dry lifeless bones, predicts national restoration. The prophet speaks directly to the bones, and delivers the powerful word of God.”

Ezekiel 37:6 — Dry Bones Come to Life

*And I will lay sinews upon you and will
bring up flesh upon you, and cover you
with skin, and put breath in you, and
you shall live; and you shall know that
I am the Lord. (hyh)*

“This imagery of resurrection may portray more than a metaphor of revival of the collective body of Israel but may also present a graphic image of bodily resurrection.”

“But some one will say, How are the dead raised? and with what manner of body do they come? Thou foolish one, that which thou thyself sowest is not quickened except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not the body that shall be, but a bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other kind; but God giveth it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own” (1 Corinthians 15:35-38). ret