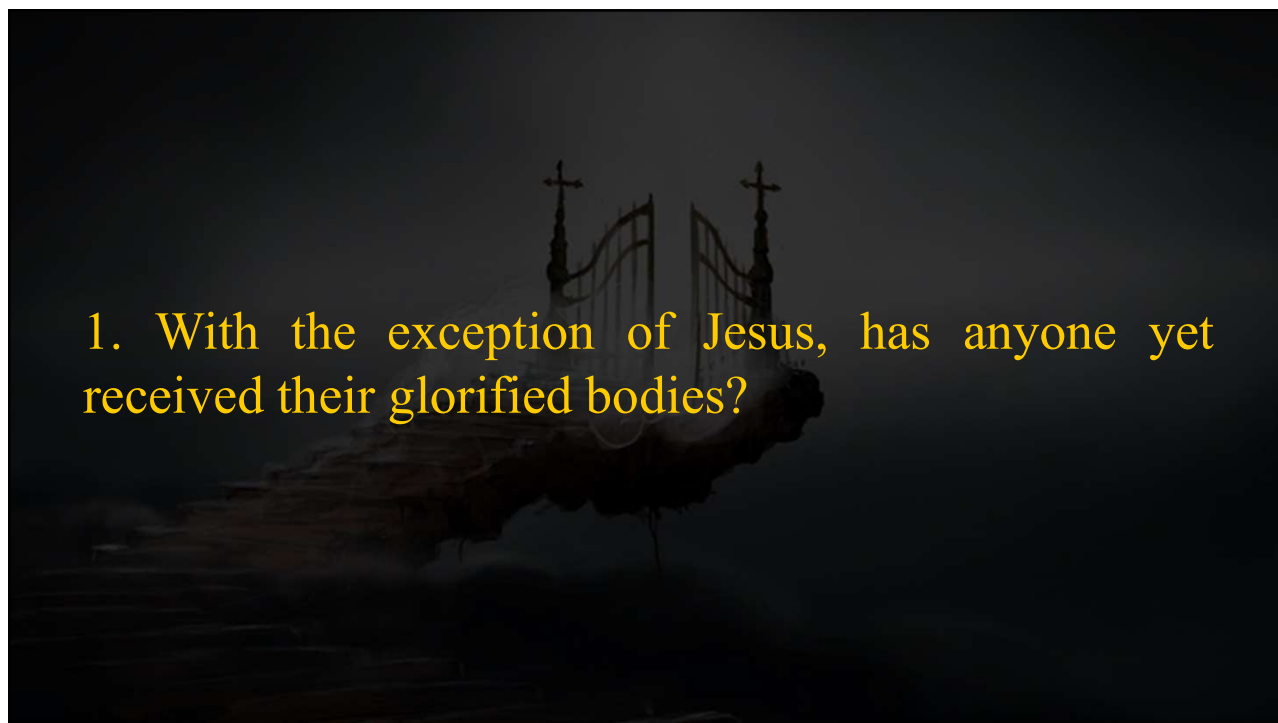




1



2

- Since they did not see death, did Enoch and Elijah receive their glorified bodies when they were taken to heaven?

Gen 5:23-24 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

3

2 Kings 2:11-12 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!” So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.

4

Mt 17:3-4 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴ Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

1 Sam 28:13-15 And the king said to her, “Do not be afraid. What did you see?” And the woman said to Saul, “I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth.” ¹⁴ So he said to her, “What is his form?” And she said, “An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle.” And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down. ¹⁵ Now Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?”

5

- **Others raised from the dead did not receive glorified bodies and died again**
 - Lazarus – Jn 11:1-44
 - Daughter of Jairus – Mk 5:21-24,35-43
 - Eutychus – Acts 20:7-12

6

- We assume those raised from the dead after Jesus was resurrected did not receive their glorified bodies and shed their raised bodies once they were taken to heaven

Mt 27:52-54 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

7

2. In what state are those in who have died but not yet received their resurrection bodies?

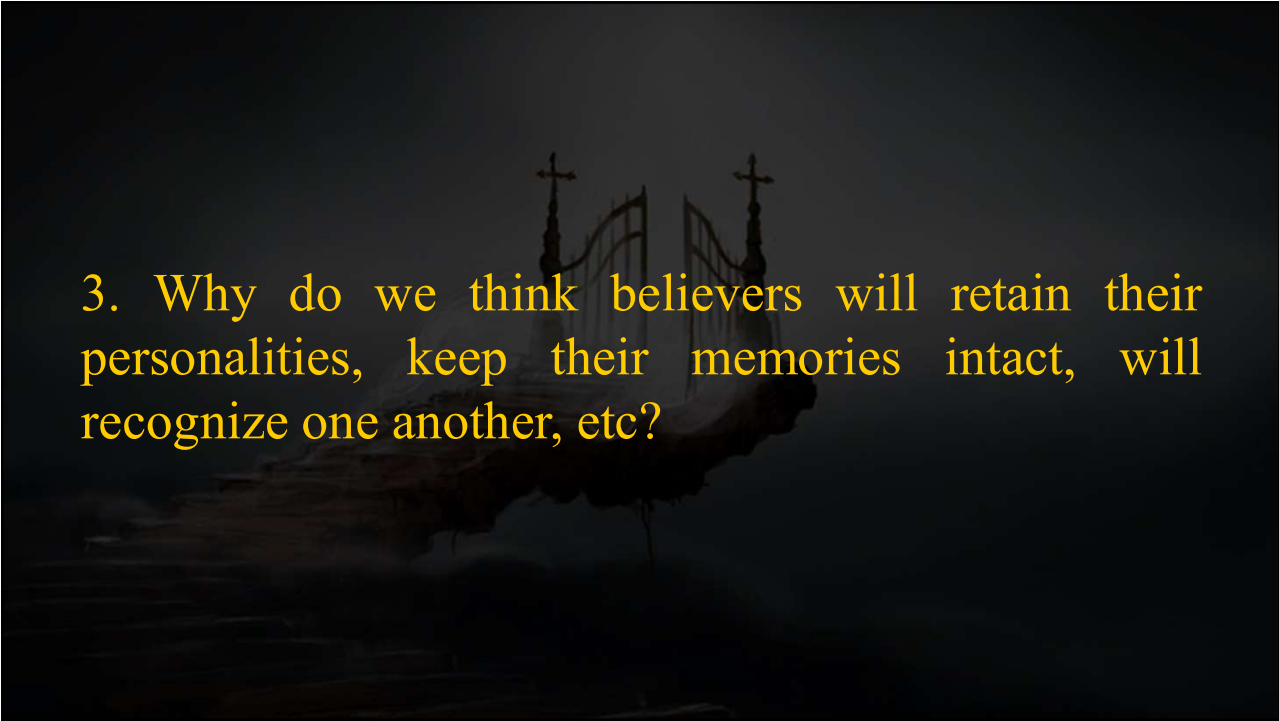
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They are “unclothed” spirits without bodies:

2 Cor 5:1-4 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, ³ if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

9



3. Why do we think believers will retain their personalities, keep their memories intact, will recognize one another, etc?

10

- **The Prophet Samuel**

1 Sam 28:16-19 Then Samuel said: “So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy? ¹⁷ And the Lord has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. ¹⁸ Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day. ¹⁹ Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.”

11

- **Lazarus and the rich man**

Lk 16:23-31 ... he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ... ²⁷ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

12

- **The transfiguration of Jesus**

Mt 17:1-4,8 Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴ Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ... ⁸ When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

13

- **Those martyred by the Beast**

Rev 6:9-11 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

14



4. What is the Christian position on cremation?

15

- **Our bodies are made of dust and will return to dust**

Gen 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Ps 103:14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

1 Cor 15:47-49 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Gen 3:19 ... Till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

16

- **At the resurrection, the Lord will reconstitute everyone's body – no matter what happened to that body at/after death**

Jn 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

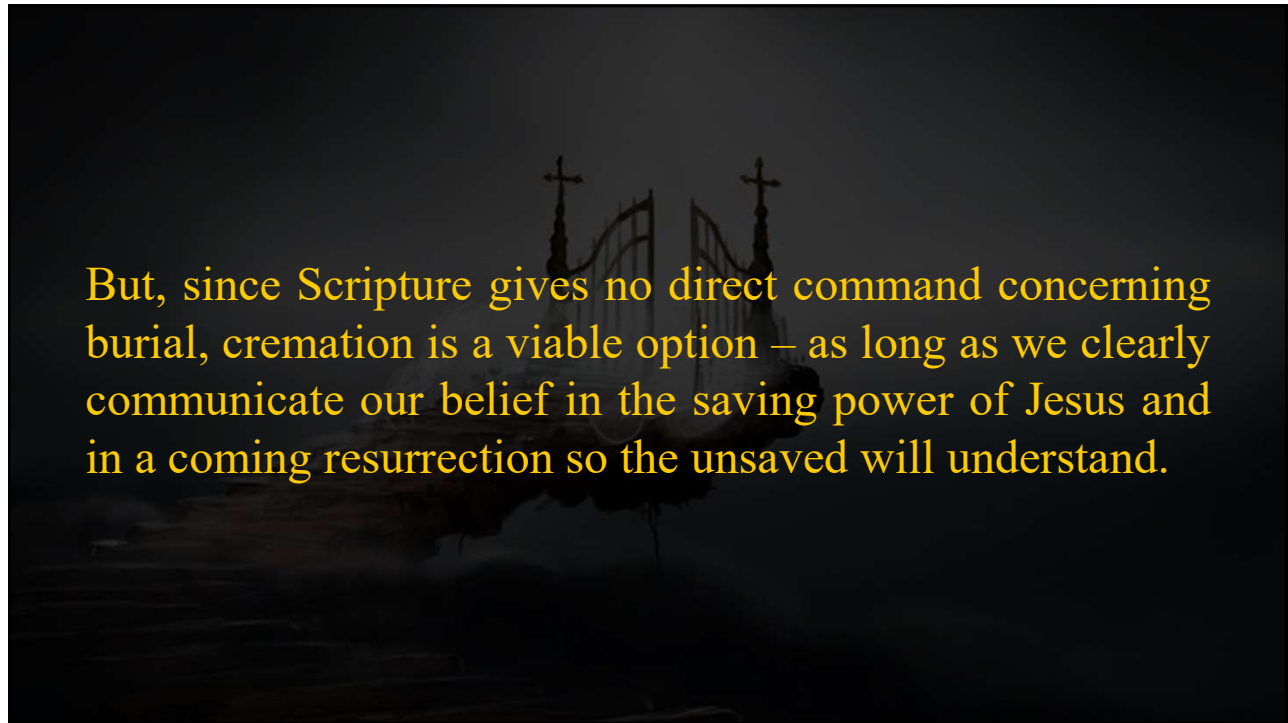
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- **Christians have traditionally buried their dead as an act of faith in a coming resurrection – just as a farmer does with seeds**

1 Cor 15:35-38 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” ³⁶ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain – perhaps wheat or some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

Js 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

18



But, since Scripture gives no direct command concerning burial, cremation is a viable option – as long as we clearly communicate our belief in the saving power of Jesus and in a coming resurrection so the unsaved will understand.