

So Great a Salvation
Glorification

Review for the last time—Order of Salvation (Ordo Salutis)

Reformed	Arminian
Election	God's electing grace in Christ
Call	Christ's atoning death
Regeneration	Prevenient grace
Conversion	Conversion (repentance/faith)
Justification	Regeneration
Adoption	Sanctification
Sanctification	Death
Perseverance	Glorification
Death	
Glorification	

Final Step (in both theological constructs) is Glorification

I. Biblical Understanding of Glorification

A. Redemptive work of Christ was not just our spirit (souls) but also our bodies.

1. Redemptive work of Christ not fully applied to us until our bodies are redeemed.
2. At this point we will be fully removed from the effects of the curse.

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:16-19 NKJV

3. Return of our bodies to state of perfection for which God created them.
4. Will only occur at Christ's return: We eagerly await.

Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? Romans 8:23-24 NKJV

5. This is the final stop of our redemption and Scripture calls it glorification

And if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:17 NKJV

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:30 NKJV

B. Glorification will be the ultimate defeat of Satan and death

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 NKJV

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 NKJV

C. Glorification articulated

1. Final step of application of redemption
2. Happens at the return of Christ
3. Happens when the dead are raised and bodies and souls are reunited
4. We will receive resurrected bodies like Him!

II. Other Religious Views of After-Death Experience

A. Roman Catholicism

1. At death, the body begins decomposition. The soul leaves the body and is immediately evaluated in a "particular judgment"

NOTE: Based on Hebrews 9:27

2. Three outcomes

- a. Heaven (only a few whose love for God has been perfected in this life have bodies immediately glorified and taken immediately to eternal rest in Heaven. (Mary, Apostles, Saints, other few)
- b. Hell—Must have committed a mortal sin and not been forgiven OR have rejected God

Mortal Sin

- Grave matter (murder, rape, incest, adultery)
- Full Knowledge—knows fully the depth of sin
- Deliberate Consent—chose to act

Venial Sin

- Don't meet all three criteria or only minor violations of moral law

- c. Purgatory—die in state of grace but “love imperfectly”—souls go directly to purgatory to suffer for a time to be cleansed of their imperfections. Can be shortened by prayers from living friends and family.

3. At Second Coming—General (Final Judgment)

- a. Those previously died and have faced “particular” judgment; that decision will continue in force.
- b. Those in Heaven and Hell will continue
- c. Those in Purgatory transferred to Heaven immediately.
- d. Bodies of the dead will be re-united and join the soul
- e. Those alive at the Second Coming will be assembled together—same criteria as Particular Judgment

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. Matthew 25:31-32 NKJV"

B. Judaism

- 1. Does not believe death is the end of human existence
- 2. But, focus is on life here and now
- 3. Little dogma regarding the afterlife—much flexibility
 - a. Most believe souls of the righteous go to a place like Heaven
 - b. Some believe reincarnation and many lifetimes
 - c. May just wait in limbo until the Messiah returns and resurrects them
 - d. Many believe wicked are tortured by demons of their own creation
 - e. Many believe they cease to exist

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C. Islam

1. Soul remains in soul sleep until resurrection when Allah comes to judge
2. When judgment day comes all are judged according to deeds
3. Non-muslims can ascend to Heaven after purification in purgatory

D. Hinduism

1. Cycle of birth/death/rebirth—reincarnation
2. In Eastern religion this is not a happy thing—they are trapped
3. Karma (reap/sow theology) keeps one trapped
4. May escape or be released (Moksha) by proper performance of certain rituals to highly disciplined forms of yoga
5. Once they reach moksha they merge into the cosmic Brahma—the unchanging Godhead (like a drop of water in the ocean)

E. Buddhism

1. Accept reincarnation like Hindus and the goal of escaping
2. What keeps us in the cycle is desire for something in the world
3. Might be freed from desire to escape the Ferris wheel
4. Nirvana is the Buddhist term for liberation
5. Nirvana means extinction—extinction of all craving and desire
6. Unlike Hinduism—Buddha taught the doctrine of “anatta”—notion that humans do not have eternal souls
7. Constant influx of habits, desires, memories, sensations that hold together from one form to another. Once its abandoned—Nirvana is achieved
8. After death the spirit goes through a 49 day, 3 stage process called Bardos. After its over one re-enters in a new birth or enters nirvana

III. Biblical Evidence of Glorification

A. New Testament Evidence

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-58

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 1 Corinthians 15:22-23 NKJV

1. Some will die, some will just be changed

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NKJV

2. Bodies and souls will re-unite

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 NKJV

Changed in the Twinkling of an Eye

When the trump of the great archangel Its mighty tones shall sound, And, the end of the age proclaiming, Shall pierce the depths profound; When the Son of Man shall come in His glory To take the saints on high, What a shouting in the skies From the multitudes that rise, Changed in the twinkling of an eye.

*Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
The trumpet shall sound, the dead shall be raised,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye.*

When He comes in the clouds descending, And they who loved Him here, From their graves shall awake and praise Him With joy and not with fear; When the body and the soul are united, And clothed no more to die, What a shouting there will be When each other's face we see, Changed in the twinkling of an eye.

*Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
The trumpet shall sound, the dead shall be raised,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye.*

*O the seed that was sown in weakness Shall then be raised in pow'r And the songs of the blood bought millions Shall hail that blissful hour; When we gather safely home in the morning, And night's dark shadows fly, What a shouting on the shore When we meet to part no more,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye.*

*Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
The trumpet shall sound, the dead shall be raised,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye.*

3. Other New Testament passages

*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. **John 5:28-29 NKJV***

*This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day." **John 6:39-40 NKJV***

*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. **John 6:44 NKJV***

*Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. **John 6:54 NKJV***

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. **Romans 8:11 NKJV***

READ: **2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. **Philippians 3:20-21 NKJV***

B. Old Testament Support for Glorification

1. Some say there is no support in the Old Testament but more than we might think
2. Before Christ's resurrection clearly some have hope of a resurrection

Martha—

*Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." **John 11:23-24 NKJV***

Paul before Felix about Jewish accusers

*I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. **Acts 24:15 NKJV***

3. Abraham

For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:10 NKJV

4. Other Old Testament Saints

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:13-16 NKJV

Concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. Hebrews 11:19 NKJV

5. Job

For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Job 19:25-26 NKJV

6. Psalms

But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me. Psalms 49:15 NKJV

You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. Psalms 73:24-25 NKJV

7. Prophets

Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. Isaiah 26:19 NKJV

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2 NKJV

IV. What Will Our Glorified Bodies Be Like?

A. Like Christ's

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:20-21 NKJV

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 1 Corinthians 15:23 NKJV

And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. 1 Corinthians 15:49 NKJV

Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. Philippians 3:21 NKJV

B. Paul's explanation—seed

So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NKJV

And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. 1 Corinthians 15:49 NKJV

SEE ALSO:

But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. 27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." John 12:23-28 NKJV

C. Imperishable—won't wear out, grow old, or be subject to sickness of any kind.

(No sign of aging, probably youthful but mature manhood or womanhood forever)

NOTE: Humanity as intended to be

Raised in glory (43) vs. dishonor

1. Beauty/attractiveness
2. Maybe even bright radiance

*Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! **Matthew 13:43 NKJV***

*Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. **Daniel 12:3 NKJV***

(ILL) Moses at Sinai/Transfiguration

- D. Raised in power vs. weakness
- E. Raised spiritual vs. natural

“Spiritual” pneumatikos—rarely means “non-physical” but rather consistent with the acting of the Holy Spirit.

NOTE: Natural-subject to natural desires and wants

F. We will be like Christ

*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 **John 3:2 NKJV***

*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **Romans 8:29 NKJV***

G. Continuity

1. Difference between what is sown and raised but also continuity
2. This is clearly supernatural
3. Bodies changed—not re-recreated

(ILL) Jesus different but recognized

4. Recognizable

*And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 8:11-12 NKJV***

*And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah Luke 9:30 NKJV
And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" Luke 9:35
NKJV*

V. The Importance of Glorification to the Theology of the Body

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Genesis 1:31 NKJV

VI. All of Creation Will be Renewed as Well

A. Curse on the ground

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:17-19 NKJV

B. Creation liberated

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Romans 8:19-23 NKJV

C. New Heaven and Earth

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. Isaiah 65:17 NKJV

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13 NKJV

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:1-4 NKJV

VII. Unbelieving Dead Will Also be Raised for Judgment

A. Jesus warned

And come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. John 5:29 NKJV

B. Paul's Affirmation

I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. Acts 24:15 NKJV

C. John described

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 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. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15 NKJV