

## THE SPIRITUAL BODY

Rev. Douglas Taylor

*Lessons: Revelation 22:1-4,8,9; Heaven and Hell 461:1,2R*

The Lord arranges for us to be awakened two days after death, that *is*, on the *third* day. The first angels to come to us are from the celestial heaven. Then come angels from the spiritual heaven. Finally, good spirits visits us from the natural heaven.

It is important to know that when we wake up in the spiritual world, we are not in heaven or hell. We are in a place in between called “the world of spirits.” The angels and spirits that welcome us do not live there, but come to greet us.

Heavenly societies are on mountains and hills. The societies in hell are in caves and caverns underground. But the world of spirits (which is where every new arrival wakes up) is in a valley beneath the mountains of heaven. In the book of the prophet Joel, the world of spirits is called “the valley of decision.” This is a good name because it *is* a valley of decision. It is where we decide whether we belong in heaven or in hell.

But what do we look like when we wake up in this world of spirits? In a way we look exactly like we do here. We have a body that looks so much like our physical body that many spirits do not realize they are in the spiritual world. They have to be told about it. We have eyes, ears, nose, tongue, and skin that look and feel just like our earthly sense organs. We see, hear, smell and taste things as before. And when we touch things or are touched, we will feel the touch exactly as we do now. We will be in a spiritual body. It will be just as real and just as solid as our physical body. Also, we will look the same age as at the end of our life in this natural world. That gradually changes until we reach the age of a young adult.

People are in complete human forms and shapes in the spiritual world. There are many places in the Word where this is made plain. Take, for example, those verses from the Book of Revelation that we read as our lesson. They tell us that the angel who was speaking to John had feet. “John fell at his feet.” It is also said that the servants of the Lord in the spiritual world “will see His face”—so they must have spiritual eyes. Also, they must have foreheads, because it is said that the Lord’s name will be in their foreheads. Other parts of the spiritual body are mentioned in the Word. In the Lord’s parable about the rich man and Lazarus, it mentions the tongue and the tip of the finger, as well as the eyes.

We can also conclude that in the spiritual world they must have ears and mouths because spirits talk to one another.

In the Old Testament we read that King Saul wanted to speak to Samuel who had recently gone into the spiritual world as an old man. Saul saw him as an old man—in other words, in the human form and of the same age as when he died.

In the Old Testament, when an angel appeared to someone on earth, that angel was often mistaken for an earthly person. This shows that angels are in the human form. The angel did not put on a physical body so that the person could see him on earth. No. Instead, the person or prophet who saw the angel had spiritual eyes or ears opened. For a while they were in the spiritual world. They were aware of what was going on in the spiritual world. And each time the person on earth mistook the angel for a man on earth. In Genesis, you can read about two cases when this happened to Abram and Sarai. And in the Book of Judges it happened to Manoah and his wife.

There can be no doubt, then, that after resurrection we will have a spiritual body with all its senses. And when what is spiritual sees or touches what is spiritual, it is exactly the same as what is natural seeing or touching what is natural.

But what do we see in the spiritual world? We see land, sky and a sun with its warmth and light. We see hills, valleys, fields, trees, gardens and houses. There are toys and balls and other things for playing games, as well as books, schools and places where people work. In many ways the spiritual world seems so like this world that at first some spirits do not realize they are there. But slowly, differences appear.

The Lord will arrange for us to have similar surroundings to what we left on earth, and we will be with people similar to those we left behind. Why is this? It is because the Lord is merciful. He does not want anyone waking up in the world of spirits to feel strange and lost. He wants everyone to feel at home.