

# Cremation and the Rapture

At LFC, we do not hold a stance for or against cremation because we believe that God is not limited to working with our physical structure of skin and bones. Several times in Scripture we find that God brings human life from nothing.

So **God created mankind** in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.  
**Genesis 1:27 (NIV)**

Then the Lord God formed a man **from the dust** of the ground **and breathed into his nostrils** the breath of life, and the man became a living being.  
**Genesis 2:7 (NIV)**

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken;  
**for dust you are and to dust you will return.**  
**Genesis 3:19 (NIV)**

In Ezekiel 37:1-14 the prophet Ezekiel was given a vision from the Lord of a valley of “dry bones” From this passage it is made quite clear that God can *once again* bring something out of nothing.

4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘**Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!**’ 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: **I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.** 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.”  
**Ezekiel 37:4-6 (NIV)**

How do dry bones “hear” anything unless God makes them hear? In verse 5 of this passage in Ezekiel it says, “**I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life**” This again reinforces the fact that God is in control of life, and has full control to make, and reconstruct our human bodies.

In John 11:43 we read that Lazarus had died and was in the tomb for four days. Due to the climate of that region, it is agreed by most all theologians and historians that Lazarus’ body had begun to decompose by the time Jesus arrived on the scene. This means that the miracle Jesus performed of resurrection included physically rebuilding Lazarus body.

There are many more illustrations we could bring to the table; however, the point is this. Jesus is *NOT* limited to our physical structure... He built and can rebuild our physical structure. If this were not true, how would one describe Matthew 27:52?

And the tombs broke open. **The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.**  
**Matthew 27:52 (NIV)**

Were only those who had not decomposed raised? Certainly not! This would be inconsistent with God moral nature. NO! God can, and has proven to be in control of life, and can form man out of the dust. Either for the first time, or in a bodily resurrection.

The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians answered a similar question for the church of Corinth.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 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.**  
**1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NIV)**

In this passage Paul reminds us that we will be raised into a *heavenly* body. What this looks, or feels like, we do not know fully. But what we do know is this, God will not be limited! He is the creator of all things; He can do anything. At the resurrection of dead, or in the rapture, God will be working with those who have been cremated, decomposed, and any other form of physical decomposition known to man... and we will be raised into our spiritual body by the power of God and the Holy Spirit.

So let those who the enemy would try and oppress with guilt, fear, or anxiety stand in peace. If your believing loved one has passed and you have cremated their bodies due to their request or yours, there is no shame. Be at peace, as they are at peace with the Lord today and soon you will be reunited.