

Dear Friend,

1Th 4:15-18 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I am often asked, "Can those who had their bodies cremated be resurrected on that day?" I have also been asked, "Is it possible for someone who has been cremated to be raised from the dead?" The answer to both questions is "Yes, according to your faith be it unto you." The example from scripture we have is the faith of Abraham when God asked him to offer Isaac as a "burnt offering."

Gen 22:1-13 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*. (2) And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and **offer him there for a burnt offering** upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. (3) And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, **and clave the wood for the burnt offering**, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. (4) Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. (5) And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and **I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you**. (6) **And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.** (7) **And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am I*, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?** (8) And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. (9) And they came to the place which God had told him of; **and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.** (10) **And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.** (11) And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am I*. (12) And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me. (13) And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Notice Abraham took the wood in order to fully obey God's command. He not only intended to kill Isaac with the knife, but also to place him on the wood and burn his corpse to ashes. Yet Abraham had already told the men in verse five that he "and the lad" would return from the mountain. The writer of Hebrews tells that Abraham had already received Isaac raised from the dead "in a figure" [within his own heart].

Heb 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, (18) Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: (19) **Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.**

In order for God not to lie about the promised seed coming through Isaac, Abraham believed God would raise his son from the dead ... knowing that after Isaac had been offered as a burnt offering his body would be nothing but ashes ... God would still raise him from the dead. There it is! Abraham had faith that his son's body could be raised from the ashes of the fire, and so can we.

Pastor Dave Roberson also brought up a valid point years ago in his teaching when he asked, "What about all the Christian sailors over the years who died in shipwrecks? Many of their bodies were eaten by sharks. Can God resurrect their bodies from shark poop on the ocean floor? Yes, He can!"

Our God is an awesome God. Nothing is beyond His power. All things are possible to him who believes. If you have loved ones who have been cremated, or if you choose to have your own body cremated when you die ... don't fear. Our God is able to raise you even from the ashes to meet Him in the air when our Lord returns.

Sue and I love you and appreciate you. We thank God for your generous and giving heart. God bless you!

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY