



## What Happens When You Die?

February 19, 2023 Message Notes

*TEXT: JOHN 14:2-3, REVELATION 21-22, 1 CORINTHIANS 15*

4,000 years ago the ancient Egyptians built a civilization based on their belief in the afterlife. The ancient Greeks also held a belief system claiming the immortality of the soul. So what happens when we die? What is death?



## NOTES

What happens when you die?

“If a man dies, will he live again?”

*Job 14:14 KJV*

The ancient Egyptians 4000 years ago built a civilization on their belief in the afterlife. The ancient Greeks held a belief system claiming the immortality of the soul.

### Three Popular Theories:

1. **Lights Out:** when you die, your existence is completely over.

*“Death removes all meaning from life.”*

Jean Paul Sartre in book, Being and Nothingness

*“Death awaits us all like cold concrete awaits a falling light bulb.”* – Ernest Hemingway

2. **Bright Light:** Secular spiritism, popular with New Age seekers.

Psychiatrist Elizabeth Kubler Ross claimed to have proof from her patients’ near-death testimonies.

3. **Here We Go Again:** immortal soul continually recycled via reincarnation until, through self-control and self-denial, reach nirvana – which actually means ‘nothingness’.

Only God is infinitely alive without beginning or end.

**What does the Bible teach?** What did Jesus believe?

### What is death?

Death is separation:

- Physical death: separation of soul from the body
- Spiritual death: separation from God’s spiritual life
- Eternal death: separation from God forever

“Our friend Lazarus has gone to sleep. Now I will go and wake him up.”

*John 11:11*

**Believers need not fear death.**



“To die is gain!”

*Philippians 1:21*

### **Is there life after death?**

Yes! Jesus is the number one piece of evidence.

“I am the Resurrection and the Life, the one who believes in me will live even though he dies.”

*John 11:25*

### **Jesus had a resurrection body and we will, too.**

“The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

*Romans 8:16*

### **Do we die many times? No.**

Jesus taught that history is linear and going somewhere - to a climactic end.

### **Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)**

“...those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.”

*Luke 16:26*

We die once. No second chances after you die. Jesus made no mention of purgatory. The Bible doesn't either.

### **What happens when we die?**

“It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment.”

*Hebrews 9:27*

Jesus taught there is coming a day of accountability before God.

“People of all nations will be gathered before the Son of Man and he will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

*Matthew 25:32*

Christ will “separate the chaff from the wheat.”

*Matthew 3:12 NLT*

“We must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.”



2 Corinthians 5:10

“... and the books were opened... The dead were judged according to what the books said they had done.”

Revelation 20:12

Isn't salvation by faith, not works - free gift we receive from God through Christ? Why are we being judged by what we've done?

Good works don't **earn** salvation but they **evidence** it when Christ is in residence in us.

*“It is faith alone that saves, but the faith that saves is never alone. It works.”* – John Wesley

### **After the accounting, then what happens?**

Jesus taught that people will be consigned to their eternal destinies: heaven or hell.

*“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, ‘Thy will be done.’”* – C.S. Lewis

### **Did Jesus believe in heaven and hell? Yes.**

He spoke of each with authority, clarity and reality. Heaven is to be targeted. Hell is to be avoided at all costs.

When Jesus spoke of hell, the word he used for eternity without God was Gehenna. It was a loathsome, despicable place and Jesus used that image.

“What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”

Mark 8:36

“It is better to lose an eye or even your right hand than to lose yourself, to have your whole body thrown into hell.”

Matthew 5:29-30

### **Jesus said more about hell than he did about heaven. Why?**

He didn't want anybody to go there.

Jesus said heaven is a place prepared for you.

Hell exists as punishment and containment for the devil and his demons, not people.

Then why do people go there?



Because they've been deceived by the evil one, distracted to the point they neglect being prepared for eternity.

- Some are so busy they have no time for God.
- Some are in active rebellion.
- Some are in complacent mutiny.
- Some are in moral resistance, believing God to be unfair, oblivious to their own needs and responsibility.

But Jesus went to the cross and gave his life to provide a way for people to avoid hell.

### **What are our choices?**

There are two gates to choose from in life, two roads on which to travel, two types of guides to follow, two ways to build - on sand or on rock, and two ultimate destinies coming from those choices.

One choice is to eternal life with God and the other is to ruin, with his words “depart from me, I never knew you.” (Matthew 7:23)

There is life after death and, as Jesus taught, that life is in God's Son. If you have the Son, you have the life.

Have you received the gift of eternal life through God's son Jesus Christ?

He will give you his Holy Spirit to let you know you have life in him.

Confess him and he will confess you before his Father and welcome you in that day.

