

Death from Biblical Perspective – Oct. 13, 2021

All people die. (All but Enoch and Elijah)

Psalm 139:16 – “all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

God has a destiny for us; He knows our choices... He knows our race.

2 Tim. 4:7 – “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

Jesus came. He finished His race so we can have faith. Mission complete.

“It is Finished.” Jesus’ death is our example – there is life after death.

He left an empty tomb... we’ll leave an empty place – on to eternal life.

Heb. 2:14-15 [Cont. Engl Ver.] - “We are people of flesh and blood. This is why Jesus became one of us. He died to destroy the devil, who had power over death. But he also died to rescue all of us who live each day in fear of dying.”

Christians should be able to face death without fear.

We don’t die alone. Angels are with us and take us to heaven.

Jesus told parable of poor man and rich man. Rich man lived in luxury.

Poor beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores; he longed to eat what fell from the rich man’s table; dogs came and licked his sores.

Luke 16:22 - “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side.”

Heaven is immediate.

Jesus on the cross - “And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” – **Luke 23:43**

Purgatory is not in the Bible - a state, place, or condition where souls atone for their unforgiven sins and are purified. Catholic Church teaches that this purification is needed “to achieve the holiness necessary to enter heaven.”

That’s not scriptural.

I John 1:7 – “But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.”

Death is an immediate change... we go from this life to the next.
In a moment, we close our eyes on earth and open them in heaven ...

Don Wyrzten - “but just think of stepping on shore, and finding it heaven;
of touching a hand and finding it God's;
of breathing new air, and finding it celestial;
of waking up in glory, and finding it home.” – “Finally Home”

We struggle w/Death. It's both a celebration and a time of mourning.

John 11:35 – Jesus wept.

Jesus said to Martha - “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; And everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” – **John 11:25-26**

Jesus knows what is to come, yet He still cried.

Jesus understands our conflicting emotions. John 16:22 – “So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.”

- **John 14:1** - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.”
- **2 Cor. 5:1** – “For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.”

There are 2 different paths for us.

John 5:24, 28-29 – “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.... Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”

When you know where you're going, you don't need to fear.

When Jesus is your path ... you follow His footsteps – be confident in your destination.

There are some people who don't believe in an afterlife. Take a final breath, die. Cease to exist. For them, yes – death is to be feared. Uncertainty.

For Bible readers & Jesus believers ... we have certainty. We can die with peace. Death isn't the end. Death is just a door that must be walked thru to go home.

Eccl. 12:7 – “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.”

2 Cor. 5:6 – “as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord.”

Heaven is home... the place where you're accepted, welcomed & loved. Be yourself – “make yourself at home” – be comfortable in the fullness of joy.

Other side of that door – our loved ones.

Most importantly, our Savior - arms open wide to welcome us home.

Song of Week – “I Can Only Imagine” – by Mercy Me.

(I Bowed On My Knees & Cried Holy) & bonus – Finally Home

Stay positive. Test negative. Get vaccinated.