

# WHAT AWAITS YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE?

WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON WHEN THEY DIE?

“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” Rom. 8:23

*By Pastor Del Wray*

Many years ago I experienced something inconceivable. I had a glimpsed of the other side and what it was like to die. I didn't have a near-death experience like many speak of but I must admit though it was a very fearful death-like experience. I literally found myself transiting time where there was no time, separating life as we know it from death, or more accurately, God's Spirit of grace poured out on His child. Through the years, I have come to realize that this was God's way of having His Spirit testifying to man's spirit that I was a child of God. *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”* Rom. 8:16. I found myself crying out to God and immediately I was in time back to reality. I was only nineteen years old. Mind you this preacher does not trust experiences as the one I've just described; it is only the Word of God that can be trusted! God dwells in absents of time where there is no such thing as time or timelessness. And let me tell you if there is anything that I have learned in life after these last seventy-three years it's that I'm not wise or smart enough to take care of myself. He takes care of this old grouch.

*“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.”* Eccl. 3:14

What is it going to take to prepare Americans to meet God? For Baptist preachers, it has become an uncertain business to preach on the negatives and judgment, especially the Judgment of God. This kind of message is not advantageous to filling pews. Nevertheless, it's Bible and must be preached. Our pastors have forsaken their first love, our churches have gone into apostasy and the people are not prepared nor are they being prepared to meet God. What is it going to take? Is God going to have to shake the very foundation of Christianity? Or has He been taken for granted for so long that He's given us up as a nation.

“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, **PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD**, O Israel” Amos 4:12.

Americans are wallowing in moral filth just like the Canaanites of old that Israel was commanded to cleanse the land from. Our society is completely polluted and is weakening daily

from the terminal disease that the Jews found in Canaan. We are reaping the sins of Canaan. America is bearing the Mark of Cain it's like cancer eating at our soul and spirit. It's aggressive and deadly. We're killing and supporting the killing of babies in the womb of mothers which is no different than "child sacrifice" that was practiced by the Niger Canaanites, the blackish immigrants that have invaded America. Our death warrant has been issued the great reaper is by every mean filling our graveyards with death. Is time up? What kind of preaching is it going to take to get people PREPARED TO MEET GOD? For surely death awaits each of us.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Rom. 5:12

As we all know, sooner or later, every single one of us is going to die and cross over to the other side. As Christians, there seems to be a division as to exactly what occurs at death. I will use this article, along with the appropriate verses from Scripture, to fully explain to you exactly what occurs at the moment we die and depart from this world. The first thing you will need to know is that there was a major difference as to what occurred at death in the Old Testament as versus what occurs at death in the New Testament. I will first break down what occurred to people when they died in the Old Testament before the Crucifixion of Christ and then what happens to everyone who dies after the Crucifixion of Christ in the New Testament. Death is certain as destinies are determined by the free moral agency of men we all have a choice to make and determine our own destiny. I'll discuss death before the crucifixion first:

#### **BEFORE THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST:**

In the Old Testament when people died, they were not allowed to enter into heaven because Jesus had not come yet to die on the cross for all of their sins. God the Father obviously could not throw all of the good and righteous people into hell, so what He did with them until Jesus could come down and set them free through His death on the cross, was to put all of them in a place called "Abraham's bosom."

The people who were not good and righteous, who were bad and evil and who could not live proper righteous lives before the Lord, these people were then thrown directly into hell. In this article there are 46 verses or statements Jesus made or spoke on Hell found in the Bible showing you that not only does a hell exist and that it will be for all eternity but that all of the unrighteous people were immediately thrown down into hell back in the Old Testament, even though Jesus had not come yet to die on the cross for all of their sins. Then after Jesus had fully completed His sacrifice on the cross for all of us, these bad and unrighteous people were still not allowed to come out of hell to be able to enter into heaven, as all of their judgments were final.

Only the good and righteous people in Abraham's bosom were allowed to go up to heaven after Jesus had paid the full price for them with His sacrificial death on the cross. In other words, God was already separating the good apples from the bad apples even back in the Old Testament. Here is the verse that gives us perfect revelation on this entire scenario. The subtitle of this passage is "The Rich Man and Lazarus."

*"There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his*

*gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you, there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee, therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:19-31*

Notice that Lazarus was in Abraham's bosom and that he immediately went there right after he had died and crossed over. However, the rich man immediately went down into hell due to the type of bad lifestyle that he must have lived.

Then notice what happens next, the people in hell could not cross over and reach the people who were in Abraham's bosom due to a "great gulf" that separated these two places from one another. And Lazarus likewise could not cross over to try and reach the rich man who was burning in hell due to this great divide that was separating these two places from one another. This great gulf that was separating these two places from one another was telling you something right off the bat, and that was the people who were in hell would now be down in there for all eternity, with no chance of ever being able to make it back out again, and the people who were in Abraham's bosom would be getting out of there as soon as Jesus comes down and goes to the cross for all of them.

Now here is the verse that will show you that all of the people in Abraham's bosom were immediately allowed to enter into heaven after Jesus pays the full price for all of them with His sacrificial death on the cross:

*"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." Matthew 27:50-53*

Now that Jesus has already died on the cross for all of us, this will now take us into what happens to those who died after the crucifixion into the New Testament account, the day we are now all living in.

## **AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST:**

Now here is where there is a bit of a divide between some in the Body of Christ as to what happens to all believers when they die and cross over.

Some Christians believe in something called “soul sleep.” This is a belief that when we die, our soul will go into an actual state of rest and unconsciousness until the time of our bodily resurrection, which will be explained below. And until that event occurs, all of the “dead in Christ” are now in some type of unconscious, sleep-rest state. Not so! For the record, we do not believe or ascribe to this theory. The reason being is that there is one verse in particular that completely discredits this theory. Here is the verse:

*“And he said unto Jesus, Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise,”* Luke 23:42-43.

Notice that Jesus tells the thief next to Him on the cross that he will be with Him in Paradise that very day after they both die together, not sometimes far off in the future when He comes back for His church. If the soul sleep theory was correct, then God the Father would not be making an exception for this thief on the cross next to Jesus.

When Jesus makes this statement to this man, I believe this statement applies to every single believer in Him from that moment on – which means that when we all die, we will immediately be granted entrance into heaven to be with Jesus on the very day that we die, not sometimes far off in the future when our physical bodies are fully resurrected by the Lord.

The apostle Paul also makes an additional statement on this issue. He says that to be “absent from the body” is to be present with the Lord. And once you die, your soul and spirit will immediately become absent from your body. And according to Paul, once your soul and spirit become absent from your body, then you will immediately be allowed to come into the presence of Jesus in heaven, not at some far-off time in the future.

Here is the verse from Paul making this specific statement to all of us:

“Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)

In this verse, Paul is definitely tying in the fact that we are in the presence of Jesus once we are absent from our bodies. And the only way that we can be absent from our bodies is if we literally die, at which time our soul and spirit will then ascend up into heaven to be with Jesus for all eternity. There is no other way that this can happen.

And if we are in the presence of Jesus immediately after our deaths and departure from this world, then there is no room or possibility for any type of soul sleep to be occurring with our souls and our spirits.

### **Resurrection of the Body:**

The apostle Paul tells us that we have three distinct parts to our actual beings – a body, soul, and spirit. Here is the verse giving us this specific revelation:

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23)  
What happens when we die now is that our soul and our spirit will lift up together out of our physical bodies and then ascend up into heaven. Our natural physical bodies are then left temporarily behind to rot and perish on the earth.

Paul tells us that we now have two types of bodies – a natural body and a spiritual body. Our natural body is obviously our human, flesh, physical body, but our spiritual body right now is our soul and spirit united together. In other words, the saints who are now living in heaven are in their spirit bodies, since their natural bodies are still lying down here on this earth in a corruptible state.

But at a later date at Jesus’ second coming back to our earth, God is going to fully resurrect all of our physical bodies just like He did with Jesus on that third day from His death on the cross. On the third day after Jesus died on the cross, His soul and spirit were reunited with His physical body and then God fully resurrects His physical body.

But there is now one major difference with His fully resurrected body – it is no longer a natural body, it is now a new, glorified, spiritual body. A transformation has now taken place, and we as Christians are going to have the exact same thing happen to all of us.

God is going to fully resurrect our physical bodies from this earth and then transform them into new, glorified, spiritual bodies. When that occurs, our souls and our spirits will then be reunited and put back into this new spiritual body, and this new glorified, spiritual body will then be the one that we will live with for all eternity.

Here is the specific verse that is telling us that our physical bodies will be raised up and transformed into new, glorified, spiritual bodies at the second coming of Jesus.

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” (1 Corinthians 15:44)

Notice this verse says that we are all born with a natural body, which is our human physical body, but that same body will then be raised up and fully resurrected as a new, glorified, spiritual body just like God did with Jesus. So in one simple little verse, Paul gives us complete and full revelation as to exactly what is going to happen to all of our bodies at the second coming of Jesus back to our earth.

And these new, glorified, spiritual bodies will also no longer age, deteriorate, or corrupt on us – ever again! They will no longer ever get sick again.

Notice in the above verse it says that our bodies were initially sown in “corruption” and “weakness,” but they will be raised in “incorruption.” This means that our new bodies will be imperishable, immortal, and indestructible.

These new resurrected spiritual bodies will also be capable of eating foods, as the Bible tells us that Jesus ate food with the apostles in His new glorified spiritual body before He ascended to the Father. Here is the verse showing that Jesus was able to literally eat food with the apostles after He had already resurrected from the grave:

But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.” (Luke 24:41-43)

Even though our new bodies will be spiritual bodies, they will also still have actual flesh and bone to them, which means we will still be able to feel and touch things as we do now. Here is another verse where Jesus is specifically making the statement that His new, glorified, spiritual body is still a physical body that has actual flesh and bone in it:

“Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” (Luke 24:39)

Though we are being given these new spiritual bodies, these new bodies will not be immaterial or ghost-like, like what we think about when we think of the word “spiritual.” These will be physical, flesh-and-bone bodies that will be capable of eating, feeling, touching, and smelling, but with a spiritual component and makeup to them that will literally make them indestructible, incorruptible, and immortal.

Also notice that just as God made Jesus wait for three days before He fully resurrected and transformed His earthly natural body into a new, glorified, spiritual body, in the same way, we all have to wait for a certain number of years before our physical bodies are fully resurrected and transformed into the same kind of new, glorified, spiritual body that Jesus now has.

We do not get these new, glorified, spiritual bodies at the time we die and depart from this earth. These new spiritual bodies will be given to us when Jesus returns back to us in His second coming, not at the time we die and leave this world. Here is the verse that specifically tells us this:

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord,” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

We also believe that this is a verse of the rapture. If it is, notice that the “dead in Christ” will rise first. If the dead are already in heaven, then what is going to rise? It will be the resurrection of their physical bodies from the grave. In other words, all of the saints who are now living in heaven will receive their new, glorified, spiritual bodies right before the rapture occurs.

And then once this event has occurred with the saints who are up in heaven, then the saints who are still alive and down here on this earth at the time of the rapture will not have to go through any type of physical death. Once the rapture actually occurs, their natural physical bodies will then be immediately and instantaneously transformed into their new, glorified, spiritual bodies.

This means that all of the saints who have died and who are now living up in heaven with Jesus are still waiting for their new resurrected spiritual bodies to be given to them by the Lord.

Conclusion

In nine (9) very powerful and direct verses from our Bible, God has given all of us very good and powerful revelation as to what is going to happen to all of us and our physical bodies after we die and depart from this earth. Again, here is exactly what is going to occur to every single believer in Christ at the moment of their deaths upon this earth:

At the moment of our deaths upon this earth, our souls, and our spirits will lift up from our physical bodies and immediately be granted entrance into heaven. We will then be in our spirit bodies when we initially enter into heaven.

But then at the second coming of Jesus back to our earth, and possibly right at the time of the rapture, all of the saints in heaven will then have their physical bodies fully resurrected and then transformed into brand new, glorified, spiritual bodies.

These new spiritual bodies will still be physical, flesh-and-bone type bodies, but they will have a spiritual component and makeup to them that will now make them totally immortal, indestructible, and incorruptible.

In other words, we will all be given brand new, physical, flesh-and-bone, glorified, spiritual bodies that will last for all of eternity. These new bodies will never age, corrupt, die, or ever get sick on us – ever again!

And if anyone down here has bodies that are deformed, scarred, or disabled in any way, they will all be made completely whole again once they receive their brand new, fully resurrected, spiritual bodies from the Lord.

With the flawed and imperfect bodies that we are now forced to live in on this earth, we will really be able to appreciate these new, glorified, spiritual bodies once they have been given to us by the Lord. What a relief it is going to be to think that these brand new, glorified, spiritual bodies will never age, wear out, or ever get sick on us ever again! And this will be for all eternity!

What more can you say about how good and how great our Lord is with the final ending and final chapters that He has already prepared for all of us with these brand new glorified, spiritual bodies that will be given to all of us, not to mention the New Heaven and the New Earth that we will all be given as our final resting place in the Lord.

We are all God conscience meaning we were made as free moral agents with the ability to choose for ourselves, who will you chose to spend eternity with? The choice is yours to make.

**WHAT AWAITS YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE?**

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the **second death**.”