

## Life After Death

### Invocation

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. **4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. **5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

### Responsive Reading

#### Life After Death

The Biblical perspective of life after death comes from a variety of places. Here a little and there a little, line upon line and precept upon precept.

John 11:11 Jesus said unto them, Our friend Lazarus is asleep; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. **12** Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleeps, he shall do well.

**13** Howbeit Jesus spoke of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. **14** Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

Jesus was drawing a parallel between death and sleep.

1 Kings 2:10 So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

1 Kings 11:43 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father

There are 81 texts in the bible that are similar to these with the, slept with his fathers, phrase. Jesus said:

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all** that are in the graves shall hear his voice, **29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. Jesus left us with the understanding that the dead are in their graves waiting a resurrection.

Eccl 9:5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. **6** Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in *anything* that is done under the sun.

When you are asleep, you don't notice the passage of time or what goes on. The next thing you know is what happens when you wake.

The basic concept here is that the dead will sleep until a resurrection. There have been many resurrections. Jesus raised Jairus's daughter. He raised the son of the widow of Nain. Paul brought Uticus back to life but these people died again.

There was a resurrection when Jesus was resurrected.

Matt 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints **which slept** arose, **53** And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

In the Hebrew religion, there is the waving of the first fruits, this is symbolic of these first humans to be gathered to Jesus throne. These were saints who were brought to life. Again, we see the idea of sleeping until a resurrection.

There were two men who met Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah. Elijah was taken to heaven in a fiery chariot but Moses died and was buried.

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke you.

Michael the Archangel is Jesus, here He came and took the body of Moses so he could be in Heaven with Him.

Again, we see the need to have a body and a resurrection comes into play.

The Bible speaks of two major resurrections, one of the righteous and one for the lost.

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Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

So the question is, When is this first resurrection? The answer is in

1 Thess 4:16 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.

So when is the first resurrection? At the second coming of Jesus.

This says that we which are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air but we are still human. The resurrected ones have their new bodies but not us.

1 Cor 15:51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all **sleep**, (sleep here refers to death, we are not all going to die) but we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

Here is another reference to death as a sleep. This happens at the trumpet of Jesus coming. The righteous, dead and living are rising to meet the Lord in the air, where are the wicked? We know that man can't look at God and live. When Jesus comes, the wicked living will die.

2 Thess 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:  
Jer 25:33 And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

This is an interesting text, the wicked living at the coming of the Lord, die and the righteous all went to Heaven with the Lord, so there is no one to bury the dead.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.

The rest of the dead would be referring to the wicked, since the righteous are already in heaven. The text we read earlier said that those in the first resurrection lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. What are they doing? The books are opened that tell what people did on the earth.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

We will be able to understand why we are in heaven and the wicked are lost. God is very smart, before He eliminates the wicked, He wants us to see and understand why things are what they are. Mankind looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart. He knows what we are really like. If wicked people go to Heaven, it will be just like here, full of pain and sin. The elimination of the wicked is a must.

John 14:2 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. **3** 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. The house Jesus was referring to is the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. At the end of the thousand years, between the two resurrections, the Holy City, where the saints are living, will be put on the earth. The wicked will be raised, they will see what they have lost and thinking that they can conquer the city, they will try.

Rev 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. **10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, The surface of the earth becomes the lake of fire and burns up the wicked then God makes it over.

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Jesus said in Matt. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

In closing, The Bible refers to death as a sleep. We sleep until a resurrection. There are two major resurrections. The first happens at the second coming of Jesus where the living righteous are changed in the twinkling of an eye into an eternal body and the dead in Christ are raised with new bodies. The wicked who are living when Jesus comes, will die seeing Him. The righteous live with Jesus in the New Jerusalem and the books are opened and we see why the wicked are lost. Then we return to the earth, the wicked try to conquer the Holy City and God rain fire on the wicked from the sky. The surface of the earth becomes a lake of fire, it will burn up the wicked and the Devil. Then God will recreate the earth with no seas and put the New Jerusalem on it and He will be our God and we will be His people.