

What Happens After We Die?

One of the biggest questions in the history of the world is, "what happens After we die?" There are many opinions based on both religious ideologies and secular theories, but what does the Bible say about this question? The only way to answer that question is to go to the scriptures and take an honest look. Let's begin by taking a look at several scriptures.

- *For the living know that they shall die: but the **dead know not any thing**, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now **perished**; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.* - Ecclesiastes 9:5-6
- *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the **grave**, whither thou goest.* - Ecclesiastes 9:10
- *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are **asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which **sleep** in Jesus will God bring with him. 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**. 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**: 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.* - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
- *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all **sleep**, but we shall all be changed, 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.* - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
- *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all** that are in the **graves** shall hear his voice,* - John 5:28
- *But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. O that thou wouldest hide me in the **grave**, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!* - Job 14:10-13
- *And the Children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we **perish**, we all perish.* - Numbers 17:12

The Bible shows when we die we are simply asleep and are in the graves. Scripture also shows that those who are asleep have no knowledge, no wisdom, no love, no envy, no hatred, and so on. They have simply perished and they are in a state of sleep until they are resurrected. Everyone who has ever lived is simply sleeping in their graves.

When does God's people, who have died and are asleep, get resurrected? The scriptures above show that the dead in Christ are resurrected at the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. Notice in one of the scriptures above it says "at the last trump". In the book of Revelation the last trump, or trumpet, is sounded when the 7th last plague begins. This is exactly when Jesus Christ comes to raise His people to meet Him in the air, Both His people who are still alive, and His people that are dead. Let's take a look at what Jesus said about this topic.

- *These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, **Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.** Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his **death**; but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus is dead.** - John 11:11-14*
- ***Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all** that are in the **graves** shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of Judgement.** - John 5:28-29*

Jesus said that Lazarus sleepeth because he was dead. Jesus also showed how there will be two resurrections. Why would there be a resurrection of people from their graves if they had already gone to heaven as soon as they died? The next question is, "is our soul separate from our physical body?"

- *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the **souls** of those who had been **beheaded** for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God,.... - Revelation 20:4*

Could our soul be beheaded if our soul is separate from our physical body? Biblically a "soul" encompasses both our physical body and our spiritual nature. It's a complete package that cannot be separated from each other. The idea that our soul is separate from our physical body comes from many no Christian religions including Greek mythology. Everyone who has ever lived is still on this earth, Jesus said:

- ***No one has ascended to heaven...** - John 3:13*

Jesus Himself was killed and was resurrected after three days by God our Father. If we went to heaven as soon as we died Jesus would have as well, and He wouldn't have had to be resurrected. He also wouldn't have truly died for our sins if He didn't experience the Bible's definition of death. Jesus was in His grave asleep for three days and was

resurrected by His Father just like we will be resurrected by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

What's great about this truth is when we die we have no more conscious thoughts, we are completely unaware of any time or really anything going on after our last breath. When Christ comes to resurrect the dead in Christ it will feel like only one second has passed from their last breath to their resurrection. Even if a person died 2000 years ago, that time will feel like a blink of an eye. How hard would it be if when we died we went to heaven and then had to look down and see our loved ones struggling through their own lives? We would see all their sins and we would see their eventual deaths. Heaven is a place of love, peace, and happiness and this would ruin all of that. The truth about the state of the dead is truly a beautiful thing and it shows God's character of love. Let's take a look at some more scriptures on this topic.

- *His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts **perish**.* - Psalms 146:4
- *But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt **rest**, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.* - Daniel 12:13
- *Consider and hear me, O Lord my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the **sleep** of **death**;* - Psalms 13:3
- *And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt **sleep** with thy fathers;* - Deuteronomy 31:16
- *And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was **buried** in the city of David his father:* - 1 Kings 11:43
- *So David slept with his fathers, and was **buried** in the city of David.* - 1 Kings 2:10
- *For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on **sleep**, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:* - Acts 13:36
- *For David is not ascended into the heavens:* - Acts 2:34
- *For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?* - Psalm 6:5
- *The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.* - Psalm 115:17

There is more than enough evidence in the Bible on what happens to people when they die. The wages of sin is death because those who die in sin, those who have not given themselves fully to God, will not be given everlasting life, but rather eternal death. An eternal death is the result of a life in sin, which each individual has chosen for themselves because of their free will. Those who die in Christ and choose to draw nearer

and nearer to our Lord will be resurrected at His 2nd coming to live an eternal life with Him and His Father.

The idea of going to heaven as soon as we die stems from many non Christian religions, like Greek mythology. The Romans adopted Greek mythology and then later mixed it with Christianity. This is what later became the catholic church, a mixing of Greek mythology with seemingly scripture that proves Greek mythology to be correct.

It's important to know the state of the dead subject, and the biblical truth of this because there is bound to be many deceptions brought forth by Satan over the state of the dead. Currently in the mainstream Christian world it is becoming more popular to communicate with dead relatives. How could we communicate with dead relatives if they are dead asleep in the ground? Satan is crafty and can take many forms, let's not forget how he took the form of a snake in the garden of eden. Luckily the truth is simple and it can keep us from any deceptions, praise God!

- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not **perish**, but have everlasting life.* - John 3:16