



Hope beyond the Grave 12

The truth about Death

God warned our first parents that disobedience would result in death. He cautioned them that any departure from His instruction would result in the curse of death. Thousands of years removed from the perfection of Eden we recognize the truth of God's word. Since the fall of humanity the mortality rate has been 100%. We inherited the best that Adam could offer—the DNA of death.

The question that has alluded the minds of so many is, what happens when you die? What condition are we in after death? Where do we go? Are we immortal by nature? Are we able to communicate with the living?

At funerals many walk away confused about the answers to these important questions. One person teaches that our loved ones are looking down on us. Others teach that our deceased are now our guardian angels and have been exalted to a place where they are intricately still involved in the affairs of our lives. Some even teach that we can communicate with the “dead” and they can communicate with us.

If television and society were our only source for answers then we could compile a list of conflicting views that would be left to our preferences. But, the Bible does not leave us to wonder on this very important topic. You will discover that a clear understanding of the condition of man in death will reveal the truth about the character of Jesus.

THE NATURE OF MAN

- Genesis 2:7** - Dust of earth plus the breath of God created a living soul.
- Genesis 2:17** - God warned man that sin would result in death.
- Genesis 3:4** - Satan lied and said that sin does not lead to death.
- Genesis 3:19** - God told Adam that his sin would result in death.
- Romans 6:23** - The wages of sin is death.
- Genesis 5:5** - Adam died when he was 930 years old.
- 1 Corinthians 15:22** - Adam's fallen nature passed on sin and death to all mankind.
- Romans 5:12** - Through Adam death affected the whole human race.
- Romans 3:23** - All are sinners and fall short of God's glory.
- James 1:15** - The end result of choosing sin is death.
- Ezekiel 18:4** - Because of sin all souls die. There is no immortal soul.
- Job 4:17** - Man is mortal by nature and is therefore subject to death.
- 1 Timothy 6:13-16** - No one but God has immortality.

THE CONDITION OF MAN IN DEATH

- Ecclesiastes 9:5-6** - Every function of life ceases at the time of death.
- Ecclesiastes 9:10** - Man's final resting place is the grave.
- Ecclesiastes 12:7** - At death the breath of life returns to God.
- Job 27:3** - The breath of God is in the nostrils of man.
- Psalms 146:4** - Man's breath returns to God but man returns to the earth.
- Psalms 6:5** - When we die our thanks to God also cease.
- Psalms 115:17** - The dead don't go up into praise but down into silence.
- Acts 2:29, 34** - The patriarch David is buried and did not go to heaven.
- Psalms 115:17** - The dead don't praise God they go down into silence.
- John 11:11-14** - Jesus taught that death is a sleep.
- Job 7:9-10** - The dead cannot return to the house where they once lived.
- Job 14:10-13** - The dead will not be raised to life until the end of the world.
- Job 14:14** - The dead will not be raised until the change comes.
- 1 Corinthians 15:51** - Those that are raised in Jesus will be changed to immortal life.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13** - Those that die in Christ as described as being in a “sleep.”

THE VICTORY OVER DEATH

- Job 19:25, 26** - The righteous will be resurrected to see God at the last day.
- Job 14:14** - The dead will not be changed until they are raised to life.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16** - The dead in Christ will be resurrected at the last trumpet.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17** - The living and the resurrected saints meet Jesus together.
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-24** - The saints come to life again at the return of Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 15:50** - We must be changed before we enter heaven.
- Philippians 3:20-21** - Jesus will give us glorious bodies when He returns.
- 1 Corinthians 15:52** - We will be changed from mortal to immortal at Jesus' return.
- 1 Corinthians 15:55** - The first resurrection will bring complete victory over death.
- John 14:1-3** - We cannot go to heaven until Jesus returns to receive us.