

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE

Three People Who Died & What the Bible Says About it

PAUL - 2 Corinthians 12:1-5

2Co 12:1 NLT

This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord.

2Co 12:2 NLT

I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know--only God knows.

2Co 12:3 NLT

Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know

2Co 12:4 NLT

that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.

2Co 12:5 NLT

That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses.

1. Do we have a body?
2. What is heaven like? ("**astounding**" means unspeakable because it is so sacred and human words cannot describe it)

LAZURUS & THE RICH MAN - Luke 16:19-31

Luk 16:19 NLT

Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury.

Luk 16:20 NLT

At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores.

Luk 16:21 NLT

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As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

Luk 16:22 NLT

"Finally, **the poor man died** and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried,

Luk 16:23 NLT

and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

Luk 16:24 NLT

"The rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.'

Luk 16:25 NLT

"But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish.'

Luk 16:26 NLT

And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.'

Luk 16:27 NLT

"Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home.'

Luk 16:28 NLT

For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.'

Luk 16:29 NLT

"But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.'

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Luk 16:30 NLT

"The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.'

Luk 16:31 NLT

"But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even if someone rises from the dead.'"

1. Do we see angels when we die?
2. Is there a hell?
3. Is there fire in hell?
4. Can we move from hell to Heaven?
5. Our faith is in God's Word not personal experience.

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WHAT ARE WE MADE OF?

Gen 2:7 NLT

Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. (Body) He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, (Spirit) and the man became a living person. (Soul)

1Th 5:23 NLT

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

Heb 4:12 NLT

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Ecc 12:7 NLT

For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

BODY

1. The house we live in on the earth

2Co 5:1 NLT

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.

2Co 5:2 NLT

We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.

2Co 5:3 NLT

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For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies.

2Co 5:4 NLT

While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.

2Co 5:5 NLT

God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

2Co 5:6 NLT

So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord.

2Co 5:7 NLT

For we live by believing and not by seeing.

2Co 5:8 NLT

Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.

2. The location of our fleshly desires

Mat 5:30 NLT

And if your hand--even your stronger hand--causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Rom 6:13 NLT

Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

Jas 1:13 NLT

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And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else.

Jas 1:14 NLT

Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

Jas 1:15 NLT

These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

3. It will be part of our existence in eternity

Hell:

Mat 10:28 NLT

"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Heaven

1Co 15:52 NLT

It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

1Co 15:53 NLT

For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

1Co 15:54 NLT

Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory.

SOUL

STRONG'S CONCORDANCE: (BlueLetterBible.org)

The Greek word for soul is "psyche" meaning "breathe."

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1. the breath of life

the vital force which animates the body and shows itself in breathing.

2. the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions (our heart, soul etc.)

SPIRIT

The Greek word for Spirit is "Pneuma."

1. The third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son
2. the spirit, the vital principal by which the body is animated.
3. The rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides.
4. The disposition or influence which fills and governs the soul of anyone.
5. A spirit higher than man but lower than God, i.e., an angel

Let's sum it up like this:

Body - the physical house we live in on the earth.

Soul - our personality, our uniqueness, our mind, will and emotions.

Spirit - Our God consciousness, that part of us that gives power to and influence on our soul and the decisions, and emotions that flow from who we are.

We connect with God in our spirit. As a result, our life should be controlled by the spiritual not the fleshly (our body). Our soul (personality, mind will emotions) is where the action and decisions take place. The question then becomes what controls our soul, our body, or our spirit?

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Rom 6:16 NLT

Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

Rom 8:9 NLT

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

Rom 8:10 NLT

And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.

Rom 8:11 NLT

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Rom 8:12 NLT

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.

Rom 8:13 NLT

For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

Rom 8:14 NLT

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

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Rom 8:15 NLT

So, you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

Rom 8:16 NLT

For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

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THE MOMENT WE DIE

2 Corinthians 5:1-9

2Co 5:1 NLT

For **we know** that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), **(1) we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself** and not by human hands.

2Co 5:2 NLT

We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.

2Co 5:3 NLT

For we will put on heavenly bodies; **(2) we will not be spirits without bodies.**

2Co 5:4 NLT

While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that **(3) these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.**

2Co 5:5 NLT

God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

2Co 5:6 NLT

So, we are always confident, even though we know **(4) that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord.**

2Co 5:7 NLT

For we live by believing and not by seeing.

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2Co 5:8 NLT

Yes, **we are fully confident**, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, **(5) for then we will be at home with the Lord.**

2Co 5:9 NLT

So, whether we are here in this body or away from this body, **our goal is to please him.**

JOB

Job 19:25 NLT

"But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last.

Job 19:26 NLT

And after my body has decayed, **yet in my body I will see God!**

Job 19:27 NLT

I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!

ANGELS

Luk 16:22 NLT

"Finally, the poor man died and **was carried by the angels to be with Abraham.** The rich man also died and was buried,

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They exist by the millions

Dan 7:9 NLT

I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire,

Dan 7:10 NLT

and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. **Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him.** Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.

They are protectors of God's Children

Psa 91:9 NLT

If you make the LORD your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter,

Psa 91:10 NLT

no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home.

Psa 91:11 NLT

For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.

Heb 1:13 NLT

And God never said to any of the angels, "Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet."

Heb 1:14 NLT

Therefore, angels are only servants--spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

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Mat 26:53 NLT

Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for **thousands of angels** to protect us, and he would send them instantly?

They are around us even if we do not recognize them

Heb 13:2 NLT

Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this **have entertained angels without realizing it!**

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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE DIE?

The period between death and Jesus return is not mentioned much in the Bible, other than what we learned in our last lesson, about the moment we die. However, the next event the Bible talks about is the resurrection when Jesus returns. So, let's start there.

1 Corinthians 15:35-54

1Co 15:35 NLT

But someone may ask, "How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?"

1Co 15:36 NLT

What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first.

1Co 15:37 NLT

And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting.

1Co 15:38 NLT

Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed.

1Co 15:39 NLT

Similarly there are different kinds of flesh--one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

1Co 15:40 NLT

There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The glory of the heavenly bodies is different from the glory of the earthly bodies.

1Co 15:41 NLT

The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And even the stars differ from each other in their glory.

1Co 15:42 NLT

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It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever.

1Co 15:43 NLT

Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength.

1Co 15:44 NLT

They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

1Co 15:45 NLT

The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam--that is, Christ--is a life-giving Spirit.

1Co 15:46 NLT

What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later.

1Co 15:47 NLT

Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven.

1Co 15:48 NLT

Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man.

1Co 15:49 NLT

Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.

1Co 15:50 NLT

What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

1Co 15:51 NLT

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But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!

1Co 15:52 NLT

It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, **when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.**

1Co 15:53 NLT

For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

1Co 15:54 NLT

Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory.

1. His return to get his bride, the church - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1Co 15:51 NLT

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!

1Co 15:52 NLT

It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

1Th 4:13 NLT

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.

1Th 4:14 NLT

For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

1Th 4:15 NLT

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE

We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died.

1Th 4:16 NLT

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.

1Th 4:17 NLT

Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

1Th 4:18 NLT

So encourage each other with these words.

Several things will take place during this time.

- The Judgment Seat of Christ - Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Rom 14:10 NLT

So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Rom 14:11 NLT

For the Scriptures say, "'As surely as I live,' says the LORD, 'every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will confess and give praise to God.'"

Rom 14:12 NLT

Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.

2Co 5:6 NLT

So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord.

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2Co 5:7 NLT

For we live by believing and not by seeing.

2Co 5:8 NLT

Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.

2Co 5:9 NLT

So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him.

2Co 5:10 NLT

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

- The Marriage Supper of the Lamb - Revelation 19:6-10

Rev 19:6 NLT

Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: "Praise the LORD! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Rev 19:7 NLT

Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.

Rev 19:8 NLT

She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear." For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.

Rev 19:9 NLT

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

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Rev 19:10 NLT

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus."

2. His return to set up his earthly kingdom - Revelation 19:11-20:6

Rev 19:11 NLT

Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war.

Rev 19:12 NLT

His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself.

Rev 19:13 NLT

He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God.

Rev 19:14 NLT

The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses.

Rev 19:15 NLT

From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

Rev 19:16 NLT

On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

Rev 19:17 NLT

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, shouting to the vultures flying high in the sky: "Come! Gather together for the great banquet God has prepared."

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Rev 19:18 NLT

Come and eat the flesh of kings, generals, and strong warriors; of horses and their riders; and of all humanity, both free and slave, small and great."

Rev 19:19 NLT

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army.

Rev 19:20 NLT

And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast--miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Rev 19:21 NLT

Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.

Rev 20:1 NLT

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 NLT

He seized the dragon--that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan--and bound him in chains for a thousand years.

Rev 20:3 NLT

The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.

Rev 20:4 NLT

Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

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Rev 20:5 NLT

This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.)

Rev 20:6 NLT

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

3. His creation of the new Heaven and the New Earth - Revelation 20:7-21:5

Rev 20:7 NLT

When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison.

Rev 20:8 NLT

He will go out to deceive the nations--called Gog and Magog--in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle--a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore.

Rev 20:9 NLT

And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

Rev 20:10 NLT

Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Rev 20:11 NLT

And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide.

Rev 20:12 NLT

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I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books.

Rev 20:13 NLT

The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds.

Rev 20:14 NLT

Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.

Rev 20:15 NLT

And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:1 NLT

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.

Rev 21:2 NLT

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Rev 21:3 NLT

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

Rev 21:4 NLT

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Rev 21:5 NLT

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."