

Source night

Topic-

What happens when I die?



Why look at the topic? (Bit morbid?)

1. Assurance, free from fear, instead a strong hope. 1 John 5 :13
2. Makes a difference to how we live now. 2 Corinthians 5 :8-10 c.f. 1 Corinthians 15 :32
3. Accumulation of earthly things, pursuit of earthly status, seems less important. Luke 12 :16-21

People around the World and throughout history have believed in the afterlife. **The main theories** are;

1. Nothing (annihilation) Atheist idea
2. Reincarnation, idea of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs. Becoming more popular in West, 27% in the UK.
3. Go to another place, often a physical place, sometimes in modern culture a woolly 'nice place idea'.
4. Heaven with God or Hell

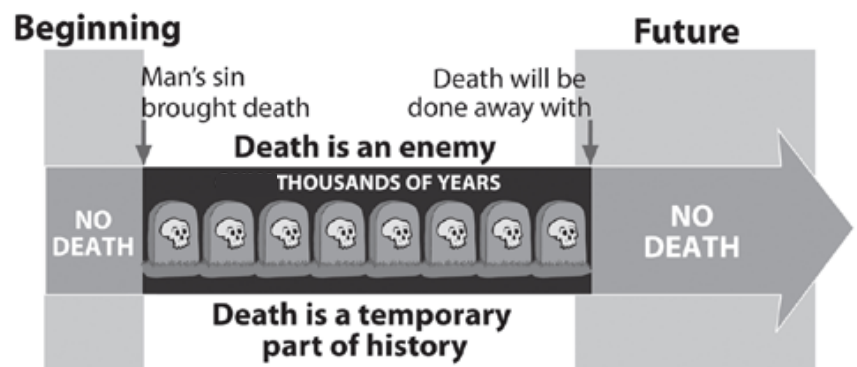
Key Principles — God is the Lord over death and life. John 11 :25 1 Corinthians 15 :54-55 Phil 1 :21

Origin of death Genesis 3 :19

Romans 5 :12

1 Corinthians 15 :21-22

There is a link between physical death and the spiritual.



Heaven and Hell

People like the idea of a Heaven (55% believe) when they die, belief in Hell is less popular (less than half)

What happens to those who die without faith? (Also issue of those who never heard) Some answers are;

1. Annihilation, became as never existed
2. Universalism, all will be saved in the end but, John 14 :6, Acts 4 :12, Some try to use 1 Cor 15 :22
3. Conscious endless existence in either Heaven or Hell

Among Evangelical Christians, a few recently suggested annihilation instead of endless punishment in Hell.

For annihilation

1. How could a God of love endlessly punish?
2. Fire destroys and consumes, could the fire of Hell could destroy the soul?
3. Immortality is of God, only God can give immortality 1 Timothy 6 :7 2 Timothy 1 :10

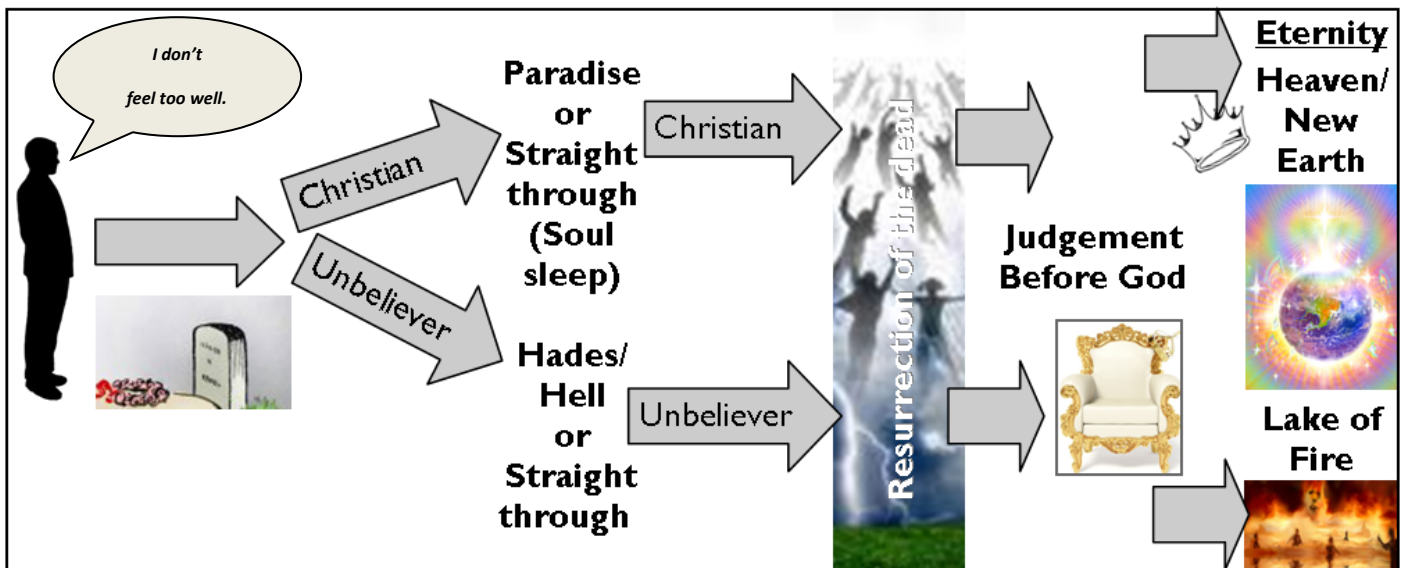
Against annihilation

1. We are told to 'flee from the wrath to come' how is annihilation something to flee from?
2. Most of scripture references seem to infer an endless punishing Matthew 25 :41-46 clear in Greek
3. A Greek word for annihilation did exist in New Testament times but is not used.
4. It's wrong to avoid clear teaching of scripture just to have a more pleasant sounding message.

What about the idea of purgatory?

This is a Roman Catholic idea, that emerged during the medieval period. The idea is of refining those who are destined for Heaven so they are 'Heaven ready'. Little Biblical support for this but 1 Cor 3 :15 is used.

So what happens when we die?



Paradise or soul sleep or train? Also called the intermediate state

What happens the minute after I die? Is it;

1. Soul sleep until Resurrection Day. Sometimes death is referred to as sleep 1 Cor 15 :51 or just phrase?
2. Do we live in a 'paradise'/intermediate state until the resurrection the dead Luke 23 :43
3. Does time work differently than we understand, so that whenever we die we all arrive at Resurrection Day at the same time?

Judgement Romans 14 :10 Great White Throne and/or Judgement Seat of Christ

The Bible is clear all will be judged. Christians will not be judged for their sins!

For Christians judgement about rewarding our service and use of gifts given us. 2 Corinthians 5 ;10

Parable of Talents Matthew 25 :14-30 Crowns given e.g. 2 Timothy 4 :8, 1 Peter 5 :4, Revelation 2 :10



Heaven or New Earth?

Most people's idea of Heaven is a 'cloud like' different existence, with harps! However the Bible says there will be a new physical Earth, God's creation will be renewed. Romans 8:19-23, Revelation 21:1-2 It will be Heaven because we will be in the presence of God.

The word Jesus used for "paradise" is *paradeisos* which means a park, that is, an Eden.

Paradeisos is the Greek word taken from the Hebrew word *pardes* which means "a park, forest, orchard"

Our new bodies also called Glorification Phil 3 :21

We will not be spirits floating around, we will have definite, recognisable bodies.

1 Corinthians 15 :42-44, :49, :51-52 Spiritual body does not mean non-physical but raised to perfection.

Jesus had a resurrection body, that could touch, eat, walk etc Luke 24 :39-43

Our old body is like a seed that our new bodies comes from. 1 Corinthians 15 :36-38

In the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16, the Rich man in Hell remembered his old life, so surely those in Heaven will do to?

What will we be doing for eternity?

1. Enjoy seeing our Lord face to face 1 John 3 :2 Note also understand 'why' 1 Corinthians 13 :12
2. Worship Revelation 19 :1-5
3. Rest Hebrews 4 :9-11
4. Service Luke 19 :11-27, Revelation 22 :3,
5. Fellowship with each other. On the Mt of Transfiguration the disciples recognised Moses and Elijah
6. Feasting Matthew 8 :11, 26 :29
7. Judge angels 1 Corinthians 6 :2-3
8. Music Revelation 14 :2-3



What do you most look forward to in our future life?

How can we lay up treasures in heaven?

Has tonight's study changed your attitude to death?

