

Tri-County Bible Prophecy Revival
Revelation of Jesus Series
Study #3: Death & Hellfire
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Review questions

What is one of greatest prophecies given in the Bible?
How is Jesus coming the second time?
Where are we going meet Jesus when He comes?
Will Jesus touch this earth at His second coming?
Will there be a secret rapture?
Do you want to be taken or left?
What is sin?
What is the law of God? Where is the Ten Commandment found?
What must we do in order to stand and be ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ?
How Jesus second coming compared to for those who are NOT ready?
Will there be any sin in Heaven?

Today's lesson

What does the Bible teach about death? Are the dead really dead? Does a person go directly to Heaven or Hell after death? What happens when a person dies? Also we will look at how God will end sin forever? Will the wicked burn in hell throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity?

In order to understand death you first must understand the creation of life. How is life given?

Genesis 2:7

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The Biblical formula for our existence is body (made from dust) + breath (from God) = a living soul or life. In the original Hebrew of Genesis 2:7 a "soul" is a "breathing creature." It is clear that a soul is a living person, consciously aware and breathing that was given to him by God.

So if the body or breath is subtracted from the Biblical formula there is no soul or life. Imagine the light of a light bulb representing life, now if the electricity is cut off from the light bulb the light will cease to exist. **The same is true with human life, when the breath is taken from the body, the living soul, ceases to exist.** Let's go deeper into our study to get a better Biblical understanding of this.

Does the Bible give us evidence that living souls can die?

Ezekiel 18:20

20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die...

We are mortal, meaning subject to death. God is immortal. He is not subject to death.

1 Timothy 6:15-16

15 Which in his (Jesus) times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

What happens to a person after death? Does a dead person go straight to heaven or hell?

Ecclesiastes 12:7

7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 makes it plain that when a person dies the body which was made up of the dust of the ground decomposes and returns to the dust of the ground and the spirit goes back to God. Before we move on we must understand what is meant by “spirit” in this text. **Does it mean that a spirit is a bodiless person with a conscious existence that goes to heaven or hell?**

To clearly understand what “spirit” means in Ecclesiastes 12:7 we must go back to the Old Testament Hebrew meaning.

The Hebrew word for spirit in Ecclesiastes 12:7 is “ruwach” which literally means, “breath”.

In other words Ecclesiastes 12:7 reveals that when a person dies their body which is made from dust returns to the dust of the earth and that the **breath** goes back to God.

Psalms 146:4

4 His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

There are many places in the Bible that the word “spirit” means “breath” or “to breathe”. There are a couple of examples in James 2:26 and Job 27:3.

James 2:26

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

The Greek word for spirit in this text is “pneuma” [pnyoo'-mah] which also means “breath”. So the text literally reads, “For as the body without the breath is dead.”

Can a person live without breathing the breath of God?

Job 27:3

3 All the while my breath *is* in me, and the spirit of God *is* in my nostrils.

Hebrew meaning of “spirit” as “the breath which God gave him.”

What did God tell Adam would happen to him after death?

Genesis 3:19

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

What does Peter say about the death of David?

Acts 2:29, 34

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand.

Are the death aware of anything after death? Can they communicate with the living after death?

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6

5 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.

6 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.

Psalms 115:17

17 The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

Isaiah 38:18

18 For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

Job 7:9-10

9 As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.

10 He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

The Bible is abundantly clear, that when a person dies he or she is not aware or conscious of anything. The dead are not living in another existence in heaven or hell. They are not enjoy the bliss of heaven or being tortured in the flames of hell. They are simply dead in there graves with no consciousness or awareness. They are not floating around as “ghosts” like some movies like to portray.

How does Jesus describe death?

Example 1: Jesus and Lazarus

John 11:11-14, 17, 21 - 26

11 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.

12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

13 Howbeit Jesus spake 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.

17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Jesus compares the death to sleep, a state of unconsciousness. There is NO mention of Lazarus being in heaven. Martha understood the resurrection of the dead in Christ at the last day – the second coming of Jesus. Jesus is the resurrection and the life!

What command did Jesus give to Lazarus?

John 11:39-44

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Example 2: Jesus raises 12 year old from death

Luke 8:52-55

52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.

53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.

55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.

In Luke 8:55, the “spirit” that was given back to her was simply her breath.

In either case of Lazarus or the twelve year old girl, there is no mention that either one is in heaven. Even after each one was resurrected to life, there are no testimonies from either one about their heavenly experience. Neither one went directly to heaven after death.

Did the repentant thief on the cross next to cross of Christ go directly to heaven after death? (This is a text that many people try to use to prove that people go to straight to heaven after death)

Luke 23:42-43

42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Does this text mean that the thief went straight to heaven after death?

First let answer some basic questions: Jesus and the thief died on the same day Friday, sixth day of the week. How long was Jesus in the tomb before His resurrection? Three days! Jesus rested in his tomb on the seventh day of the week, Saturday. Early on Sunday, the first day of the week, Jesus rose from the tomb.

Jesus does not lie. Jesus himself did not go straight to heaven after death.

What did Jesus tell Mary when she saw Him in the garden after His resurrection?

John 20:17

17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

So what does Luke 23:43 mean. Let’s re-examine briefly. The early Greek manuscripts of the New Testament did not contain any punctuation at all. The words and sentences were written in all capital letters with no space or punctuation. Punctuation was added later to the Greek manuscripts as it was translated into other languages. The Bible is inspired by God, but not the punctuation. In English a comma can make the difference in the meaning of a text. With that in mind let’s look at Luke 23: 43. It says “And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” From this passage of scripture, it appears that the thief of the cross went straight to heaven, but based on the weight of the evidence we know that this can not be the case. Also note again that Jesus did not go to heaven that same day, He would have been lying to the thief to say that He will see him in paradise that very same day.

If we place the comma in its proper place then the text will make more sense and it will totally agree with the weight of the evidence of the Bible concerning death:

“Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Do you see the difference in meaning now? The comma should have been placed after the “today” instead of the first “you”. Today is referring to what Jesus is presently saying. In other words, Jesus is telling the thief, listen to what I am saying at this present time (today), you will be with me in paradise.

What promise does God given to those who “sleep” or die believing in Jesus Christ?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 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.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 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.

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.

Those who die in Christ will be resurrected at the second coming of Jesus Christ! This is when they will receive new bodies and immortality (eternal life).

Job 19:25-26

25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

“Absent from the body is to be present with the Lord,” is one of the most misquoted texts of the Bible which erroneously suggests that a person goes immediately to Heaven after death.

The correct quote and meaning:

2 Corinthians 5:8

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Read full context in 2 Corinthians chapter 5 for homework. In summary, Apostle Paul is teaching that God’s faithful should yearn to be “absent” from this corruptible body and “to be present with the Lord” clothed with incorruption and immortality.

When will God’s faithful receive new bodies and immortality? Remember, at the second coming of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, 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.

Since the Bible is abundantly clear about death, why are many people including some churches confused about death?

Jesus speaking to the Pharisees, Israel leaders who rejected Him:

John 8:44

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

What was Satan's first lie to Eve?

Genesis 3:4

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

But what did God say?

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Surely die: The Hebrew word "mûth" [mooth] is actually repeated twice for great emphasis on dying.

In the Hebrew it would sound more like this "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt muth muth, meaning die die. KJV got it right when it interpreted "die die" into our English language meaning "surely die", cease to exist, no more life – dead with out consciousness.

In Genesis 3:4 Satan as a snake plainly lied! Satan is using that same old lie today to deceive billions of people. He is inferring that people will still have life after death even if they disobey or sin against God. Satan also lies and deceives other in believing that they can communicate with the dead.

Remember the dead no not anything and cannot come back to communicate with the living. Beware the Devil and his evil demons can transform themselves to look like dead loved ones. Don't be deceived!

2 Corinthians 11:14

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Will God's faithful be deceived about Satan's lies about death?

Isaiah 8:19-20

19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?
20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Since will have and understand about what happens after death, let's clear up some things about hell fire. Will the wicked burning in hell forever, throughout eternity?

First, who did God promise everlasting life to?

John 3:16

16 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.

Jesus present two choices, everlasting life or death. No in between. Those who live by Jesus will have everlasting life those who do not choose Jesus will have everlasting death.

NOTICE: There is NOT one scripture in the Bible in which Jesus will give the wicked everlasting life!
Sin = everlasting death not life.

Jesus does not give immortality (not subject to die) to the wicked, only the righteous at the second coming of Jesus.

How will God eradicate or get rid of sin from this earth forever?

Psalms 145:20 The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

Psalms 37:38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

Revelation 21:8 (Jesus speaking) **But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (eternal death).**

Will sinners burn and be tormented with fire throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity?

Malachi 4:1-3

- 1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh **shall burn them up**, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.
- 2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.
- 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be **ashes** under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 47:14 Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall **burn them**; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be **burned up**.

The wicked will be totally burned up or eradicated. The wicked will not be burning throughout eternity for billions and trillions of years. There is no statement in the Bible were it talks about "eternal torment." It is not Biblical, to say that those who are lost will burn throughout eternity, to say this is saying that the wicked are immortal or have eternal life.

How will Satan and his angels be destroyed?

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Does "everlasting fire" and "torment day and night for ever and ever" mean burning throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity?

Think about it. God is not going to say I will burn them up, but then say I will burn them forever. Let's get understanding.

Did you know that Sodom and Gomorrha was burned with "eternal fire"?

Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire

Is Sodom and Gomorrha still burning today? No! Peter confirms this. They are ashes!

2 Peter 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

“Everlasting fire” or eternal fire is the “eternal” or “lasting” RESULTS. It is the last fire in which NO hope of those burn in it ever living again. Eternal fire does not mean it is burning forever, but that it will eventually go out, but all that burned will be forever gone.

What does Revelation 20:10 mean when it says “torment day and night for ever and ever?”

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

In this context those burn will at least burn for a day and night, but the forever means a specific period of time until their fire goes out.

What did Jonah say when he was in the belly of the fish?

Jonah 2:6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

Is Jonah still in the belly of the fish today, “for ever”? NO! It felt like forever but it was a definite period of time, until he was vomited up by the fish.

When will hellfire and brimstone of destruction and eradication of sin take place?

Matthew 13:40-42

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Order of Events (Main: Revelation 20:1 - 15)

- 1) Second coming of Jesus
- 2) Righteous (Sleeping / living) meet the Lord in the air
- 3) Wicked killed from the brightness of the second coming of Jesus (like dug on the earth – feast for birds)
- 4) Satan and his demons bound on dark earth for 1000 years like a dark pit
- 5) (At same time) Righteous in Heaven For 1000 years
- 6) After 1000 years New Jerusalem Comes to earth from Heaven with Jesus leading
- 7) Jesus raises the wicked dead in preparation to receive their punishment (hell fire)
- 8) Wicked see all they lost. Life flash before eyes.
- 9) Every knee bow and confess that Jesus is Lord
- 10) Satan rally wicked to take over the heavenly city new Jerusalem
- 11) Hell Fire - Jesus rains fire and brimstone.. the wicked, Satan, and demons BURNED UP!

Where are the dead wicked now?

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to **reserve** the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Job 21:30 That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.

Job 21:32 Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.

How will God feel when He has to destroy the wicked [sinners]?

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

After the earth is eradicated from sin by fire, what promises are in store for earth and God's people?

Isaiah 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Revelation 21:3, 4

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.

Next study the End Time Prophecies about the Ten Commandments of God!

Appeal