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No One Gets Out Of Here Alive!

Gen. 5:27

Voltaire the noted French infidel, who boasted, “In twenty years Christianity will be no more.” Of Christ he said, “Curse the wretch!” But Voltaire forgot that he too had to die.

The nurse who attended Voltaire said: “For all the wealth in Europe I would not see another infidel die.” The physician, Trochim, waiting up with Voltaire at his death said that he cried out most desperately:

“I am abandoned by God and man! I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months’ life.

The doctor replied, “Sir, you cannot live six weeks.”

Voltaire replied, “Then I shall go to hell; and you will go with me. O Christ! O Jesus Christ!”. #2287, Vol. 2

Since the days of Adam all have died, according to the words of God, “For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Gen. 2:17b

The record in Genesis chapter five confirms the words of God to Adam as authoritative and true, all died physically, regardless of their longevity.

* “So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.” Gen. 5:27

Physical death is one of the most tragic thing, for the simple reason that it never had to of taken place if man only would of obeyed.

There are countless religious beliefs, opinions, theories, speculations regarding life after death in our day of so called “progressive thinking” in our age of information.

1. Some believe whole-heartedly that this life is all there is with no existence after death and that heaven and hell are but mere inventions of man to place guilt and fear on people, therefore they live for today because they only live once.

2. Others believe that this life is a mere passing from a previous life and the result of their former life by reincarnation, this is their karma, their destiny and must not be disturbed.

* The New Age Movement is nothing less than revived Hinduism with it’s assortments of channers, crystals and pyramid power and the god in you that needs to be tapped into.

3. Yet others trust their religion to secure them into heaven, be it through works or ceremonial ritual.

4. Still others teach that all will go to heaven because of two reasons, man is good and Jesus died for all regardless of their deeds, weather they repent or not.

The amazing amount of paranormal interest and life after death experiences in our present time is staggering.

1. The people are sincere in their testimonies.
2. The testimonies all seem to have a common thread, a bright light, peace, the presence of a supreme being and the awareness on one's death and at times knowledge of others who had died before them.
3. The unmistakable message by all is that there is no need to worry about death, in fact it should be welcomed by all, utter deception.

There are even television and radio programs that help people speak to their dead love ones, through spirit guides, which are nothing but demons or frauds, one of the two.

Who are we to believe and how do we know who is right?

* Is the experience of life after death, all one needs to be an authority on what happens after one dies?

The Bible reveals to us the origin of life and death telling us exactly what takes place after physical death.

So we want to look to the scriptures and see what they teach, for they alone are the absolute authority regarding the truth about life and death that can be trusted. Gen. 5:27

- I. The introduction of death.

- II. The location after death.
- III. The instruction about death.

I. The introduction of death.

- A. The first mention of death is by God as He warned Adam not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Gen. 2:16-17
 1. The prohibition was not unjust nor unfair for Adam could eat of every tree in the garden except for one. Gen. 2:16
 2. The prohibition implies the capacity of choice. Gen. 2:17a
 3. The prohibition communicates a clear consequence, literally dying you shall die. Gen. 2:17b
 - a. The reference to “dying” was spiritual death that would take place immediately. Gen. 3:9-11
 - b. The reference “you shall die” also was to physical death after many years. Gen. 3:19
 - c. Literally “dying you shall die”.
- B. The first temptation through deception brought death. Gen. 3:1-7, 15, 24
 1. The enemy and rebel Satan came to Eve and engaged her in conversation to entice her thoughts and curiosity causing her to desire the fruit. Vs. 1-3

2. Then he moved to challenge God's word, by questioning His authority, "Has God indeed said." Vs. 1
3. The woman Eve speak misquoting and adding to God's word b her own authority. Vs. 2-3
4. Then Satan straight out contradicted God's promise of death, "You will not surely die." Vs.4
5. Finally Satan attacks the goodness of God, "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Vs. 5
6. The woman ate and gave to her husband. Vs. 6-7
 - a. She saw that the tree was good for food, this is the lust of the flesh. Vs. 6a
 - b. She saw that it was pleasant to the eyes, this is the lust of the eye. Vs. 6b
 - c. She saw the tree desirable to make one wise, this the pride of life. Vs. 6c
 - d. She ate of the fruit. Vs. 6d
 - e. She gave to her husband and he did eat knowingly. Vs. 6e
 - f. She and his eyes were both opened and they knew they were naked. Vs. 7a-b
 - g. She and her husband experienced guilt and shame and attempted to

cover their nakedness with fig leaves but death had entered in, it was too late. Vs. 7c

4. God pronounced the verdict of the curse and expelled them from the Garden in order that they not eat of the fruit of the Garden and live forever in a fallen state thereby securing the promise of redemption through the Messiah, the "seed of the woman". Gen. 3:15, 24

- C. The first recordings about death is personal and historical.
1. The personal record is found in the death of Abel. Gen. 4:8
 - a. The death of Able was through violence, not natural consequences of physical death, as Cain slew his brother Abel in the field.
 - b. Cain must of been astonished as his brother who was just able to move and express himself and was all of a sudden a lifeless form, a shell.
 - 1) Cain had seen animals die, through sacrifice.
 - 2) Cain had for the first time seen the reality of God's proclamation on his own brother.
 2. The historical record is found in the genealogy of Adam. Gen. 5

- a. Eight times we read the phrase “and he died” after the length of the person's life. Gen. 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31
- b. The only exception regarding death, as we have seen was Enoch, for God took him. Gen. 5:24
- c. The longest living person was Methuselah, he lived 969 years. Gen. 5:27

Illustration

In Washington D.C., a friendly undertaker closes all his correspondence with “Eventually your.”
#2260, Vol. 2

Application

1. The disobedience of Adam as the federal head of man was recognized by God as acting and affecting the entire race of man. Rom. 5:12
 - a. Through one man sin entered the world. Vs.12a-b
 - b. Through sin, death entered the world. Vs. 12c
 - c. Through Adam's fall death spread to all men because all sinned. Vs. 12d-e
2. The result being a race of fallen men and women who end in physical death. Rom. 3:23
 - a. They are called children of disobedience. Eph. 2:2c

- b. They walk according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air. Eph. 2:2a-b
 - c. They are called children of wrath by nature. Eph. 2:3c
 - d. They are said to be without Christ, having no hope and without God in the world. Eph. 2:12
 - e. They are called children of the devil. 1Jn. 3:10a
 - f. They are capable of all manner of sin from lying to the shameful sin of changing the natural use of the man and woman, filled with uncleanness, vile passions due to reprobate minds. Rom. 1:18-32
 - g. They are all under sin nature without any regards to God or the things of God and guilty before God. Rom. 3:9-20
3. The failure to recognize and agree with the record of God is eternally fatal.
 - a. If we say that it is not fair that we should pay for Adams sin or that we are not responsible, then we must explain why it is that we do bad and evil things that have their root in our hearts. Jer. 17:9, Math 15:18-21
 - b. If we say that there is no such thing as sin, how do we explain guilt in our conscience when we did something wrong for the first times. Rom. 2:15

- c. If we say we have fellowship with God and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 1Jn. 1:6
- d. If we say we have no sin nature, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1Jn. 1:8
- e. If we say that death is not related to the ridiculous story about the fall of Adam and Eve, then how do we explain death?
- f. If we say that there is no God then we are said to be fool by the scriptures. Ps. 14:1

The introduction of death was not God's doing!

II. The location after death.

- A. The Old Testament describes the place after death as Sheol as a common place without distinction.
 - 1. Sheol is the Hebrew word which means the world of the dead and is used to describe the place of the departed souls and spirits of the righteous and wicked who had died and continued in a conscience existence.
 - 2. The word appears 65 times and in the Old Testament, translated in the KJV "grave" 31 times, "hell" 31 times and "pit" 3 times.
 - 3. The word is used prophetic of Christ the Psalms, "You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy

- One to see or undergo corruption". Ps. 16:10
- 4. The patriarch Jacob mourning for Joseph said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Gen. 37:35
- 5. The barren woman Hannah's prayed "The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up." ISam. 2:6
- 6. The dead were not to be sought nor could they return from Sheol.
 - a. Saul sought to bring up Samuel through the witch of EnDor, but Mediums were condemned by God. 1Sam. 28
 - b. David said about his dead child, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." 2Sam. 12:23
 - c. Job asked, "If a man die, shall he live again?", he answers immediately in the affirmative, "All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes." Job. 14:14
- B. The New Testament describes the place after death as Hades, the commentary with great distinction.
 - 1. Hades is the Greek word which means the place of the unseen or departed, equivalent of the Old Testament "Sheol", appearing eleven times in the New

Testament and all referred to by Jesus, except for one translated “grave”! 1Cor. 15:55

2. The condition of the dead before the cross is explained in the Gospel of Luke. Lk. 16:19-31
 - a. Hades was divided into two places, the bosom of Abraham a place of comfort for those who died in faith and the place of torment for those who died apart from faith. Vs. 22-23, 25
 - b. The dividing line was clear and fixed so as to prohibit both groups from passing over to each other. Vs. 26
* Limbo and purgatory are fictitious doctrines by the invention of man!
 - c. The plead for someone to return from “Hades” to warn the living was denied and also reveals consciousness and memory after death for those in torment. Vs. 27-28
 - d. The hardness of man’s heart to believe is revealed by the rejection of the scriptures and even if one returned from the dead. Vs. 29-31
 - 1) Hades can only be avoided by paying heed to the scriptures. Vs. 31
 - 2) Jesus returned from the dead and people don’t believe.

3. The dead who died in faith before and up to the cross were redeemed by Jesus.
 - a. Peter tells us that Jesus went down to “Hades” and preached to the spirits in prison. 1Pet. 3:19
 - b. Paul tells us that Jesus led captivity captive as He ascended into heaven after He first descended into Hades. Eph. 4:8-9
 - c. The wicked remained in Hades and will so till the White throne judgment. Rev. 20:11-15
4. The dead since the cross are ushered before Christ at the moment of their death. 2Cor. 5:1-8
 - a. The believer has two tents, one temporal on earth and the other eternal in the heavens. Vs. 1
 - b. The believer groans to put on his eternal house. Vs. 2
 - c. The believer is never found naked for he is either in the one or the other. Vs. 3-4
 - d. The believer was prepared by God for this. Vs. 5
 - e. The believer is confident that the minute he is absent from the body he or she is instantly present before the Lord. Vs. 6-8
 - f. The believer is in the third heaven where God dwells also called Paradise

and a place where things are indescribable to man. 2Cor. 12:2-4

- 1) Jesus told the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." Lk. 23:43
- 2) Paradise was the Bosom of Abraham, the place of comfort, now transferred to the third heaven.

C. The dead who know not Christ will ultimately be cast into Gehenna with the rebellious angels for all eternity.

1. Gehenna is equivalent to the Valley of Tophet which signified "the place of burning" which was the place of idolatrous worship of Molech by the sacrificing of their children. Jer. 7:31-32, 19:2-10, 32:35, 2Kings 23:10, 2Chron. 28:3.
2. Josiah cleansed the land of such worship and the Valley of Ge-Himom or Tophet became the site of the city dump.
3. Jesus referred to Gehenna often in the Scriptures.
 - a. The word appears 12 times in the New Testament., eleven of those come from the mouth of Jesus!
 - b. Gehenna is a place of fire. Matt. 5:22
 - c. The whole body can end up there. Matt. 5:29

- d. Both body and soul can end up there. Matt. 10:28
- e. It's better to lose a hand, a foot, or an eye than to be cast into hell with all your members. Mark 9:43
- f. Only Jesus has the power to cast into Gehenna. Lk. 12:5
- g. This is the eternal abode of the unbeliever and angels, being synonymous with the Lake of fire.
 - 1) The lake of fire is described as the place of eternal torment before the holy angels and the presence of the Lamb. Rev. 14:10-11
 - 2) The lake of fire is called the second death. Rev. 20:11-15
 - 3) The lake of fire was prepared for Satan and his angels. Matt. 25:41

Illustration

There are many answers posed to the question of Job, "If a man dies, will he live again?"

Science says, "He may live again."

Philosophy says, "He hopes to live again."

Ethics says, "He ought to live again."

Atheism says, "He will never live again."

Jesus Christ says, "He shall live again."

* The number of deaths in the world may fluctuate widely from one year to the next but a rough estimate of annual deaths is 60,000,000 or about 2 every second. (1982, #980. #981)

Application

1. God has allowed us to know our own mortality.
 - a. It is appointed for every man to die, after this the judgment. Heb. 9:27
 - b. The obvious truth is that no one gets out of here alive for the wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23a
 - 1) We are all born as little babies.
 - 2) We are all growing older and diminishing in strength and ability.
 - 3) We all see people die all around us daily, be they young or old.
 - 4) We will all have to go through that door also.
 - c. The clear statement is that man is temporal, having a beginning and end in this life and is going to give an account to his Creator one day.
2. God has allowed us to know that Jesus Christ died in our place. 1Jn. 2:2
 - a. He became our substitute. 2Cor. 5:21
 - b. He tasted death for every man. Heb. 2:9
 - c. He destroyed him who has the power of death. conquered death. Heb. 2:14
3. God has allowed us to know that personal repentance alone can forgive us of our sins and give us eternal life.
 - a. It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance. Rom. 2:4

- b. Death doesn't mean you cease to exist, it only seals for all eternity what you have lived and believed in throughout your life.
- c. Death respects no one, be they rich, poor, young or old, black, white, religious, atheist, agnostic or Christian.

The location after death is not candy coated!

III. The instruction about death.

- A. Death is unnatural to God's original creation.
 1. God gave the capacity of choice to Adam and Eve. Gen. 2:16-17a
 2. God created Adam and Eve with the capacity of never dying. Gen. 2:17b
 3. God honors man's choice to choose.
- B. Death is the result of broken fellowship with our Creator.
 1. By sin we are separated from God. Is. 59:1-2, Ps. 66:18
 2. By one man sin entered the world and death through sin. Rom. 5:12a-c
 3. By that one man death spread to all men because all sinned in Adam as the federal head. Rom. 5:12d-e
- C. Death is an enemy of God and man.

1. The last enemy to be put under God's feet and destroyed is death. 1Cor. 15:25-26
2. The sting of death and the victory of Hades has been taken away by the Christ. 1Cor. 15:55

D. Death is a constant reminder of man's mortality.

1. The genealogy of Adam through Seth records long lives followed by death. Gen. 5
2. The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23a
3. The death experience is appointed to every person once and after the judgment. Heb. 9:27

E. Death is the continuation of eternal life with God or separated from God.

1. Eternal life with God is in heaven.
2. Eternal life apart from God is in hell.
 - a. Hell is the place of temporal torment, now.
 - b. Gehenna is the place of eternal torment after the White Throne Judgment.

Illustration

* In a London cemetery is a grave and a headstone with unusual but beautiful wording. It was erected by the famous pastor Joseph Parker for his beloved

wife. He could not bring himself to write the word "Died", and instead chose the better word "Ascended."

When he himself passed away, his friends had his headstone carved with the following inscription: "Joseph Parker, Born April 9, 1830, ascended November 28, 1902." #1056

* As king Saul came down to death's door, he remorsefully said: "I have played the fool". 1Sam. 26:21

But the apostle Paul said at life's setting sun: "I have kept the faith. 2Tim. 4:7

* Which will you say when you stand at the gates of death?

Application

1. Each person must recognize and agree that death is the result of sin.

- a. Men have died since the beginning of creation.
- b. Men will continue to die until the curse is lifted at the end of the millennium.
- c. Men who do not take God's plan of salvation die twice, once physically and once spiritual eternally, this is the second death. Rev 20:14
- d. Men's philosophies about life and death in opposition to God's word are made invalid by the clear teaching of Scripture.

2. Each person must recognize and agree with God that He raise Jesus from the dead to justify you of

your sins as the corner stone of the gospel message of Acts.

- a. At Pentecost Peter said God raised Jesus from the dead, having loosened the pains of death. Acts. 2:24a
 - b. At the temple court Peter once again said you killed the prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witness. Acts 3:15
 - c. To the Sanhedrin, “Let it be known to you all, that by the name of Jesus of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here whole.” Acts 4:10
 - d. To Cornelius, “Him God raised up from the dead on the third day, and showed him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.” Acts 10:40-41
- 3.** Each person must recognize and agree with the plan of God for the redemption of man, giving hope of the resurrection.
- a. God sent His son to die in our place to pay the price of sin. 2Cor. 5:21, 1Jn. 2:2
 - b. God accepts no one apart from the son.
 - 1) He is the only way. Jn. 14:6
 - 2) He is the only name. Acts 4:12
 - 3) He is the only intercessor. 2Tim. 2:5

- c. God has destroyed the sting of death which is sin by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1Cor. 15:55-57
 * “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- d. Job said, “Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” Job 19:23-27
- e. Jesus said Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” Jn. 11:25-26

The instruction about death is not hidden!

Conclusion

This is what the scriptures teach about death and life after death, they alone are the absolute authority that can be trusted.

- I.** The introduction of death was not God's doing!
- II.** The location after death is not candy coated!
- III.** The instruction about death is not hidden!