

I DON'T GET IT
Tough Topics in the Bible
"What Happens After We Die?"
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The Three Views of Humans:

1. **Secular-Materialist:** you and your body are nothing more than biochemical materials and processes. When you die, that is the end of your existence.
2. **The Spiritualist (Platonist):** your body is a corruptible (even evil) piece of matter that will pass away. However, you have a spark of divinity (your spirit) that may ascend to God or heaven. Therefore, your body is just your "earth suit."
3. **The Christian:** you are—as a human—a composite being made of a real material body and an immortal soul. You are not a spirit.

Genesis 2:7 *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 being.*

Luke 24:39 *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit **does not** have flesh and bones as you see I have."*

From a Christian perspective, death is the separation of the soul from the body. For the soul to be separated from the body is not a natural state of existence for mankind. In other words, biblically death is seen as an enemy of mankind.

Death is not seen as a "friend" or just a "transition" to a higher "plane."

1Corinthians 15:25-26 *For He (Christ) must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

The Real Goal for Mankind

Ultimately, what we are headed for is the resurrection which is the reuniting of the soul to an everlasting body that is ours (and only ours).

John 5:28-29 *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice **29** and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

The Goal...

Is not annihilation (Materialism),
Is not spiritual existence (Platonism),
It is the resurrection. (Christian).

1Corinthians 15:13 *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. **14** And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty... **16** For if the dead do not rise, then*

Christ is not risen. **17** And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! **18** Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

What is Death Then?

For humans, death is a temporary state (i.e. the separation of the soul from the body) in which we await our resurrection and final judgment followed by our eternal destination.

1Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell 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 trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Thessalonians 4:15-18 For this we say to you by the **word of the Lord**, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then **we who are alive** and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Where Do We Go to Await the Resurrection?

Before Christ (i.e. BC), our “remains” remained on earth while our souls went into Hades (GK.)—known in the Hebrew language as Sheol.

Acts 2:27 For You will not leave my soul in **Hades**, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
Acts 2:30-32 He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, **31** he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in **Hades**, nor did His flesh see corruption.
32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.
1Corinthians 15:55 “O Death, where is your sting? O **Hades**, where is your victory?”
Isaiah 14:11 Your pomp is brought down to **Sheol**, And the sound of your stringed instruments; The maggot is spread under you, And worms cover you.’

Jesus’ Victory Over Death and Hades/Sheol

Apostles Creed: He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he **descended to hell**. The third day he rose again from the dead.

Acts 2:27 and 2:30-32

1Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, **19** by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, **20** who formerly were disobedient,

This doctrinal teaching has traditionally been called the “Harrowing of Hades.”

After Christ, believers go to be “with the Lord” in heaven to await the resurrection. This is considered a temporary state of existence.

2Corinthians 5:6-8 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. **7** For we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Revelation 6:9-10 *When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*

On the other hand, after death, the unrighteous continue to go to Hades/Sheol until the resurrection and judgment.

Revelation 20:13-14 *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Take-Away: these are serious and important doctrinal truths that every Christian should know and that should not be watered-down to make them palatable to a feel-good culture. The reality is that people actually want to know the truth about life and death.