

● Judgment

* Romans 14:10-12 * 2 Corinthians 5:10 * Hebrews 9:27

Who will face judgment? _____

* Matthew 25:31-33 * John 5:19-30 * Acts 10:42, 17:31

Who will be our judge? _____

Because our salvation depends on whether or not we have believed in Jesus, he is in a position to determine our standing before the father.

* Daniel 7:9-10 * Revelation 20:11-12 * Jeremiah 32:19



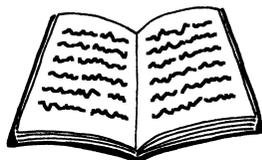
What is written in the books? _____

If we expect to depend upon our good works to be saved, we will be very disappointed. Nobody has been good enough to earn their own salvation (*Romans 3:10-20*).

Book of life

* Exodus 32:32-33

(See also *Ps 69:28, Dan 12:1, Phil 4:3, Luke 10:20, Heb 12:23, Rev 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 20:15, 21:27*.)



Why is the book of life the most important book?

How do you get your name in it? _____

* Revelation 20:13-15, 21:8 What is the second death?

* Revelation 21:1-22:5 What is the final destination of believers?

death

extra thought and discussion

• Old Testament perspective

The Hebrew word *Sheol* (NIV "grave") described a shadowy existence of darkness, silence and weakness after death (*Job 10:20-22, Ps 30:9, 88:10-12, 89:48, 115:17, Prov 15:24, Is 14:9-11*). Occasionally there are optimistic statements describing release from *Sheol* and resurrection from the dead (*Job 19:25-26, Ps 16:10-11, 23:4-6, 49:15,*

73:24, Prov 14:32, Is 26:19, Dan 12:2, 12:13).

Jesus proclaimed the resurrection of the dead by his teaching, his miracles and his own resurrection (*Mark 12:18-27, John 11:17-44, 20:1-21:25*)

• Ghosts and spirits

Any form of communication with the dead is strictly forbidden in the Bible. We should not consult mediums, attend seances or engage in any activity which seeks to contact dead people (*Lev 19:31, 20:6, 20:27, Deut 18:11, 1 Sam 28:1-25, 1 Chron 10:13-14, Is 8:19*). God himself may choose to demonstrate resurrection in special circumstances (*Luke 9:30-31, Matt 27:51-53*).

death



● The origin of death

* Genesis 2:17, 3:19 * Romans 5:12

What is the origin of death?

* Romans 6:23 What is death? _____

* 1 Corinthians 15:56 What is the sting of death? _____

* Ephesians 2:1 What kind of death is being referred to here?

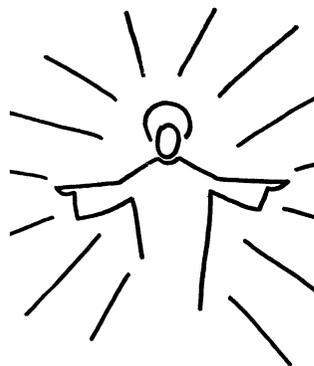
There is a strong connection in the Bible between sin and death. As well as dying physically, we can be dead spiritually — this means that we are separated from God by our sin.

● Death destroyed

* 2 Timothy 1:10 Who has destroyed death? _____

What do we have now instead of death? _____

What has Jesus done?



Heb 2:9 _____

Heb 2:14 _____

Heb 2:15 _____

Heb 9:26 _____

Jesus has conquered sin and death!

This is the central message of the Bible. Jesus Christ came to take away sin. In doing so he removed the sting of death, disarmed Satan and opened the way to eternal life for all who believe. We are reconciled to God, no longer spiritually dead and have assurance of life beyond the grave with a new body.

● Biological death of believers

* Psalm 102:11 * Psalm 103:14-16 * Job 14:1-2

What is our life like? _____

We share in the decay and death of the earth around us (*Eccl 3:19-21*). Our bodies eventually deteriorate, die and return to the dust.

* Job 14:5 What has God determined? _____

Choose one or more of these words to describe your feelings towards your death. Try to explain your feelings.

fear expectancy dread sadness
 uncertainty confidence joy relief

Are you prepared to die today? yes no

How would you prefer to die? suddenly slowly asleep active



* 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 * Philippians 1:20-24 * 2 Tim 4:6-8

What were Paul's feelings about his own death? _____

Death is a gateway to the next stage of our eternal life.

Mourning and burial

Mourning — The Bible includes many examples of mourning. People weep, wail, groan, lament, tear clothes, wear sackcloth, fast, shave their heads, play sad music, sing a dirge, take off turban and sandals, cover the lower part of the face and wear no cosmetics (Gen 37:34, 2 Sam 1:11-27, 14:2, Ezek 24:15-24, Matt 9:23, 11:17, Luke 8:52, John 11:31-37, Acts 8:2, 9:39). Mourning took place for a week or for one or two months (Gen 50:1-11, Num 20:29, Deut 21:13, 34:8).

Christians are encouraged not to grieve like others (1

Thess 4:13). There is special comfort for those who mourn (Matt 5:4).

Burial — Close relatives walked behind the body to the burial (2 Sam 3:31-35, Luke 7:12-15). The body may have been wrapped in cloth with spices and buried in a family tomb (Gen 23:1-20, 25:9-10, 49:29-50:14, 2 Chron 35:24, John 11:38-44, 19:38-42), at home (1 Sam 25:1), near a landmark (Gen 35:8), under a monument (Gen 35:19-20) or in a common grave (2 Kings 23:6, Jer 26:23).

Cremation — Cremation was only practiced in special circumstances when immediate burial was impossible (1 Sam 31:11-13, 2 Sam 21:12-14).

* Genesis 5:24 * Hebrews 11:5 * 2 Kings 2:11-12

What was unusual about Enoch and Elijah? _____

For believers, physical death is no longer a punishment for sin and therefore not a spiritual necessity. It is usually a biological necessity unless God decides to take us in a different way, as in these two cases.

* 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

When will many others be taken without seeing death? _____

● Rest in peace

* Ecclesiastes 12:7

What happens at death? _____



* Acts 13:36 * 1 Corinthians 15:6 * 1 Thessalonians 4:13

How is death sometimes described? _____

* Luke 23:43 Whom are we with after we die? _____

After death it seems that we rest in the presence of the Lord, conscious of his love and waiting for the resurrection (*Romans 8:38-39*).

● We shall rise

* John 6:40, 44, 54 What will Jesus do for believers? _____

What will happen (Matt 24:30-44, 1 Cor 15:51-53, 1 Thess 4:13-18, 2 Thess 2:1)?



- Jesus will come from heaven with a loud command, the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God.
- Believers who have died will be raised from the dead.
- Believers who are alive will be transformed and given new resurrection bodies.
- All will be taken to be with the Lord for ever.

* Matthew 22:30 * 1 Corinthians 15:35-54 * Philippians 3:21

Write down all you can about your resurrection body.

● Unbelievers

* Daniel 12:2-3 * John 5:24-30 Will they rise from the dead? _____

What is the difference between the believer and unbeliever? _____

Our fate is sealed by our response to the gospel in this life (*John 3:16-18*). Unbelievers also wait after death but away from the presence of the Lord (*Luke 16:19-31*). Their resurrection is later than that of the believers and they immediately face God's judgment (*Revelation 20:13*).