

What Does Really Happen After Death?

There is only One human being who is alive today who has died, been buried, and resurrected back to life.

His name is Jesus Christ the Son of Man and the Son of God, our Saviour from death.

John 1:1, 14 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” ... “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

This same Jesus is the Word of God personified so it is only from Him and His Word, the Christian Bible, our Handbook For Life, that we can know the truth about what happens after death.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 [NIV] *“For the living know that they will die, but **the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten.**”*

Ecclesiastes 9:10 [NIV] *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.”*

When we die we have **no** further part in what happens in society, this will be a shock to many people, not what they have been taught.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who **fall asleep**, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the **trumpet call** of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

Death is likened to a sleep. While we sleep we are totally unaware of what is happening around us.

Note: Just as Jesus when here on earth died and was resurrected back to life, Christians can also expect to be resurrected from the dead.

This resurrection is linked in with the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

Note: trumpet call mentioned.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 [NIV] *“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the **trumpet will sound**, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.”*

When New Testament scripture uses the word “we” it is always referring to Christians.

Note: again the event is announced by a trumpet call.

The dead Christians will be resurrected and given a new body that will be eternal.

Those Christians still alive at this time will also be changed in body substance.

Why is the sound of the trumpet mentioned in both these scriptures?

Revelation 10:7 [NIV] *“But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”*

During the period following the sounding of this seventh trumpet the culmination of God’s Plan will be revealed to all people living at that time, and it is during this period of time that Christ’s return will take place.

Revelation 19:11-16 [NIV] *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no-one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and **his name is the Word of God**. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron sceptre.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**”*

The triumphant return of Christ to bring justice and peace to this evil society.

It is for this earth shaking event that all who have died in Christ await, for it is their time of resurrection to life.

What about all the rest of people who have never known Christ as their Saviour, who are not Christians?

Revelation 20:11-13 [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw **the dead, great and small, standing before the throne**, and books [of The Bible] were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books [of The Bible]. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”*

Here is another resurrection for all who have **not** known Christ.

The books of the Christian Bible, our Handbook For Life, will be opened to them for the first time and their resurrected lives will be judged from its pages to see they may be added to the book that records all who are given eternal life, the Book of Life.

We can all be comforted by these words as we face death.

We also need to be aware of other scriptures referring to our life and death.

Ecclesiastes 11:7-9 [NIV] *“Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun. However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all. But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything to come is meaningless. Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, **but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment.**”*

2 Corinthians 5:10 [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 [NIV] *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”*