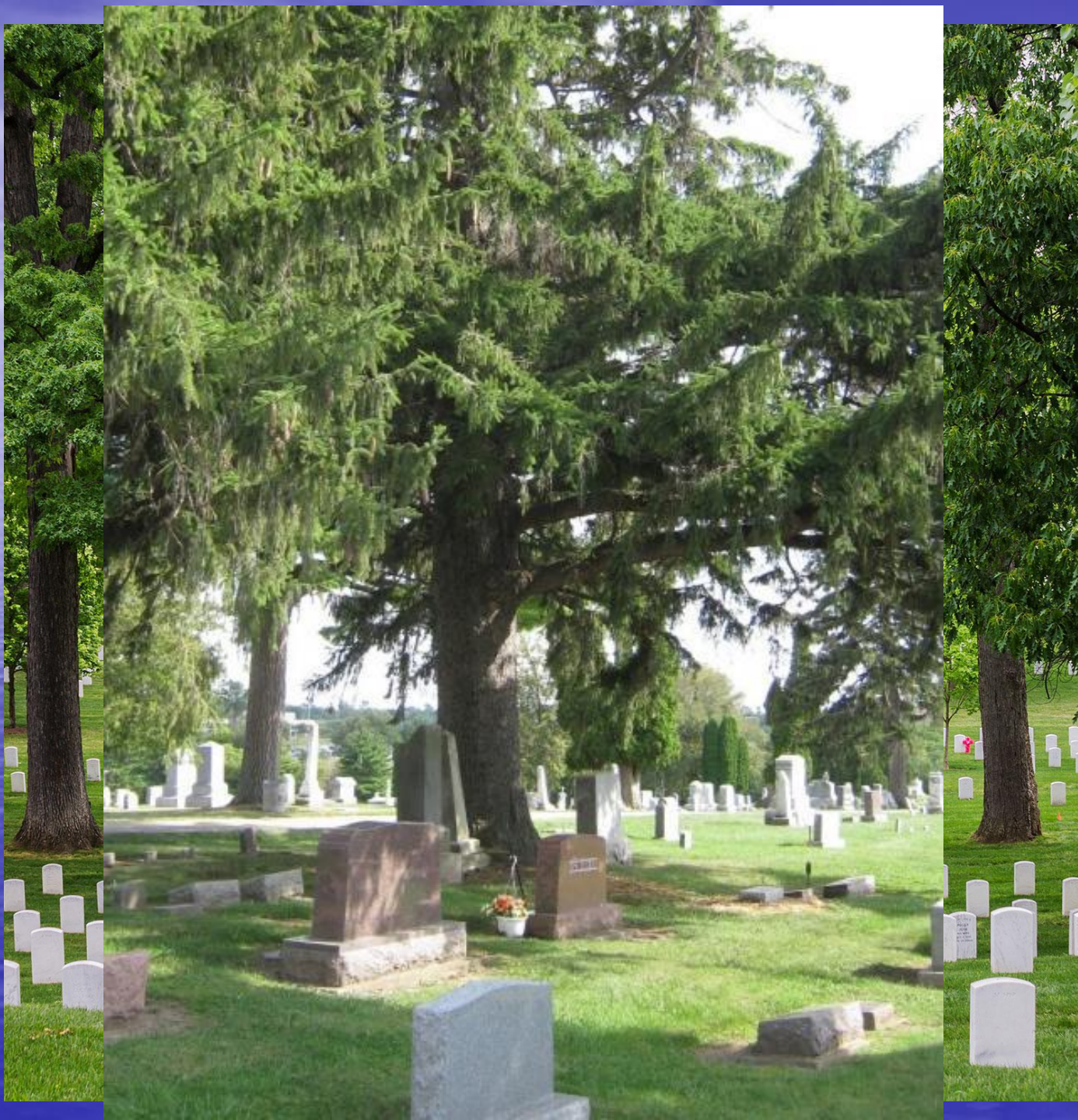


Difficult and Hard to Understand Passages

What is Death??









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What is Death??

The world's view of Life & Death
(Dictionary Definitions)

Life

A vital force

Existence

Way or manner of living

Death

State of being dead

Cessation of existence

Loss of life

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What is Death??

**Our first exposure to the teaching of death:
Genesis 3:17-19**

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

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What is Death??

**Our first exposure to death: Adam & Eve
Genesis 3:17-19 (cont.)**

18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face you will eat bread,
Till you return to the ground, because from it
you were taken;

***For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.”***

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What is Death??

But as Christians, we must learn, and train our minds, to think about death differently!

Genesis 25:8 (NASB)

⁸ Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied *with life*; and he was gathered to his people.

Genesis 25:8 (KJV)

⁸ Then Abraham ***gave up the ghost***, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

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What is Death??

Genesis 35:18 (the death of Rachel)

18 It came about as her soul was departing (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

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What is Death??

Psalms 90:10 (David)

¹⁰ As for the days of our life, they contain
seventy years,
Or if due to strength, eighty years,
Yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow;
For soon it is gone and *we fly away.*

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What is Death??

Ecclesiastes 7:1 (Solomon)

A good name is better than a good ointment,
And the day of *one's* death is better than the
day of one's birth.

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What is Death??

Acts 7:59

⁵⁹ They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”

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What is Death??

Matthew 27:50 (NASB)

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Matthew 27:50 (KJV)

⁵⁰ Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

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What is Death??

James 2:26 (how the scriptures define death)

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

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What is Death??

John 11:25-26

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

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What is Death??

I Corinthians 15:42-44

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*;

⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.

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What is Death??

Philippians 1:23

²³ But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better;

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What is Death??

II Corinthians 5:1

¹ For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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What is Death??

II Corinthians 5:6-8

⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and 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 of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

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What is Death??

II Timothy 4:6

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

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What is Death??

Our Conclusions:

1. By the biblical definition (based on James 2:26) our mortal life is the state which exists when the body and the spirit are united. Death is simply the state resulting when the body and spirit are no longer in union.

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What is Death??

Our Conclusions (cont.):

2. It follows then, that “death” is **not** *non-existence*, it is **not** *cessation* of life, it is **not** *extinction*, it is very simply the separation of the fleshly body and the spirit or soul or ghost (the immortal entity.)

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What is Death??

Our Conclusions (cont.):

3. As a Christian, we must change the way we perceive our very existence. This body is not our existence. It is not who we are. It is merely a vessel we use to exist in this life. Our soul is our existence and it will be taken to a place where our "people" dwell eternally! (Genesis 25:8)

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What is Death??

Our Conclusions (cont.):

4. Once separated, the physical body returns to the dust from which it was made (God's own words from Genesis 3:19), and the spirit flies way (from King David's perspective in Psalms 90:10) to the unseen realm to await the resurrection and final judgement.

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What is Death??

Our Conclusions (cont.):

5. Death, to the Christian, must never be viewed as the end. It must never be viewed as “life cut short”. Rather, remember Ecclesiastes 7:1:

A good name is better than a good ointment,
And the day of *one's* death is better than the
day of one's birth.

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What is Death??

Our Conclusions (cont.):

6. The great writer, Sir Walter Scott (1711-1832), penned these memorable words:

Is death the last step?

No, it is the final awakening!

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What is Death??

Our Conclusions (cont):

7. In the final analysis, how we view death originates from our perspective of how we view life.

Does everything which brings us happiness, fulfillment, and joy in this life emanate from within the confines of the physical experience?

Or, do we find our purpose in life from the knowledge that an eternal existence with our God awaits and all we do and accomplish revolves around serving Him?

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