

What Happens After Death?

The Bible's Answers to Questions on Life After Death

- 1. Death & the Intermediate State.** The Bible teaches that death is not a part of God's original design, but is a consequence of sin that God has redeemed through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ—namely, the resurrection of Jesus.
 - a. Death is not a part of God's original design for the creation.**
 - Genesis 2:16–17
 - Romans 5:12
 - John 11:35
 - Acts 8:2
 - 2 Thessalonians 13:14
 - b. Death is not a punishment for Christians, but the final outcome of living in a fallen world.**
 - Romans 8:1–2
 - Philippians 1:20
 - c. Christians inherit eternal life through trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**
 - John 3:16
 - John 11:25–26
 - Matthew 19:29
 - John 3:36
 - d. Death is not to be feared by Christians.**
 - 2 Corinthians 5:8
 - Philippians 1:21–23
 - Revelation 14:13
 - Hebrews 2:14–15
 - e. When Christians die, they go immediately to the presence of God.**
 - Luke 23:43
 - Philippians 1:23
 - 2 Corinthians 5:8
 - Revelation 6:9–11
 - f. When non-believers die, they go immediately to judgment.**
 - Hebrews 9:27
 - Luke 16:19–31
- 2. Bodily Resurrection & Final Judgement (and Hell).** The Bible promises that everyone (believers and non-believers) will be resurrected from the dead to face Final Judgment. The righteous will receive glorified bodies and inhabit the New Heavens & New Earth. The wicked will be cast into the Lake of Fire.
 - a. Resurrection for all**
 - Daniel 12:2
 - John 5:28–29
 - Acts 24:14–15
 - b. Final Judgement (and Hell)**
 - Acts 17:31
 - Revelation 20:11–15
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - 1 Corinthians 6:3
 - c. Hell is the place of eternal, conscious punishment of the wicked**
 - Luke 19:19–31
 - Revelation 14:9–11
 - Matthew 25:41
 - Matthew 25:46
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:9
- 3. The New Heavens & the New Earth.** God reveals through the Scriptures that the eternal destiny of believers is to inhabit the New Heavens and the New Earth. The New Heavens

and New Earth means the physical and metaphysical place of unbroken fellowship with God.

a. New Heavens & New Earth

- Isaiah 65:17
- Revelation 21:1-4
- 2 Peter 3:13

b. Heaven is a real place, not just a state of mind

- Acts 1:11
- John 14:2-3
- Acts 7:55-56

c. Life forever with God will be a physical (not just metaphysical) place

- Romans 8:21
- Revelation 21:1-4
- 1 Corinthians 15:42-45

QUICK ANSWERS

Q: Is there a waiting period before final judgment?

A: Yes. While both believers and non-believers go immediately to either heaven or torment immediately upon death, both await final judgment.

Q: Does consciousness cease after death?

A: No. Even though the Bible talks about dead believers being “asleep”, this is a figure of speech referring to the hope for bodily resurrection in the future.

Q: Do we go directly to heaven or hell when we die, or is there an intermediate state?

A: Christians go directly to heaven and non-believers go immediately to judgment. Both stay in an intermediate state until final judgment.

Q: Will we be reunited with loved ones when we die?

A: Yes, Christians will be united with loved ones when they die.

Q: Is heaven a physical place or a spiritual state?

A: Both. There are both physical and spiritual dimensions to the New Heavens & New Earth.

Q: Do non-believers experience any kind of after life?

A: Yes, non-believers go directly to judgment and torment upon death.