

# Kingdom Foundations

## Part 12

### Resurrection and Judgment

#### **“You Bet Your Life”**

(What Happens When We Die?)

#### **I. Our Final Chapter in the Summer Series**

##### **A. What Happens When We Die?**

1. Death...the final appointment. Or is it?
2. The death rate on planet earth remains 100%.
3. What do we say to young children who ask us, “What happens when we die?”

##### **B. Three Views of Death: Annihilation, Reincarnation, Resurrection**

1. Annihilation-from the Latin “nihilum” which means “nothing”
  - a. In this view, death is the end, the cessation of existence
  - b. Man is flesh...period.
  - c. Life is physical, so when physical life ends, it's over.
2. Reincarnation-from the Latin “carne” + re + en, which means the belief that after death, the soul finds expression in another body.

This is the view of Hinduism and other mystical systems; also of Christian Science, which teaches that after death we continue to live, only on another “plane of existence”, higher or lower dependent upon our grasp of metaphysical truth.

3. Resurrection-the biblical view of death.

The Bible teaches that the soul departs the physical body at death to await a reunion with it at some future point in time, in order to receive an eternal sentence of judgment based on the deeds done in the body.

**“...And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment”**  
**Hebrews 9:27 New Living Translation**

**“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”**  
**2 Corinthians 5:10 KJV**

**C. Is This Important? You Bet Your Life!**

1. What we believe about the future impacts the present.
2. What we believe about death largely determines how we do life!
3. Notice that the three viewpoints are mutually exclusive.

**II. The Resurrection View of Death**

**A. The Apostle Paul’s Presentation**

**14 We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.**

**5:1 For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.**

**So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.**

**Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others.**

**2 Corinthians 4:14; 5:1-11 New Living Testament**

**B. The Biblical Worldview of the Cycle of Life for *Believers***

<u>Physical Life</u>	<u>Physical Death</u>	<u>Interval</u>	<u>Resurrection</u>
Conception Birth Life Regeneration Physical Death	Non-physical is separated from the physical- The “occupant” vacates the “tent”	A believer is immediately w/the Lord; conscious, comforted, “waiting” for Resurrection and two “Judgments”	The “2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming” of Christ, where believers receive a “glorious” body and are rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ

1. This picture is consistent with the whole of scripture.
2. Man, made in the “image and likeness of God”, has three dimensions: spirit, soul (non-physical) and body (physical).

**Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole *spirit* and *soul* and *body* be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NLT**

3. After Adam’s original transgression, all his descendants are born “dead”, which means “separated from God”. This is why Jesus said, “You must be born again.” (John 3:3, 7)
4. The spiritual dimension of man, (usually called the “heart” in scripture), undergoes a **re-generation**, a “new birth”, whereby the spirit is made alive to God and reunited in fellowship with God.

**But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,  
Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us (*made us alive*) together with Christ,  
(by grace ye are saved)  
Eph 2:4-5 KJV**

5. What happens at death is determined by what happens in life!

a. If the soul is “made alive” to God during life, it will immediately rise to be in the presence of the Lord when physical death occurs.\*

*\*There are literally hundreds of testimonies of Christians who underwent physical death and were medically “revived”; the stories are remarkably similar, describing a “rising” out of the body toward a great “light”; many reported “looking down” on their own bodies immediately after death.*

b. The fact that something “leaves” the physical body at death has been scientifically studied in tests that measured body weight at the moments before and immediately after physical death occurred...the “dead” body consistently weighs 21 grams less than the body alive! (Google search “21 grams” on the Internet for more on this)

c. So while physical body weights vary widely, the “weight” of the soul is consistently 21 grams, about the weight of a candy bar, a hummingbird, or a small box of paper clips.

### **C. The Biblical Worldview of the Cycle of Life for *Non-Believers* in Christ**

The differences from that of a believer in Christ are in red.

<u>Physical Life</u>	<u>Physical Death</u>	<u>Interval</u>	<u>Resurrection</u>
Conception Birth Life <b>No regeneration</b> Physical Death	Non-physical is separated from the physical- The “occupant” vacates the “tent”	A <b>non-believer</b> is immediately <b>aware</b> of <b>not</b> being with Lord; conscious, <b>suffering</b> , <b>aware of coming</b> <b>judgment</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ, <b>reunited</b> <b>with their body to</b> <b>undergo final</b> <b>judgment at the</b> <b>Great White Throne</b>

1. There is no “regeneration” during the non-believer’s physical life on earth. (Rev. 20:11-15)

2. At physical death, the “interval” for the non-believer is conscious and self-aware, but in a *negative* way:

- That death has not annihilated him—he is still alive, just separated from his body and from God
- That he is in the torment of loneliness—forever separated from God and man
- That he is not waiting for a judgment of rewards; only of being re-united with his body for consignment to an everlasting separation from God

3. Christ followers undergo “Believers Judgment” and “Final Judgment”

a. The “Believer’s Judgment” is a judgment of rewards (or withholding of rewards) based on what he did in his physical body while on earth.

**Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: *but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.***  
**1 Cor 3:13-15 KJV**

b. After the believers judgment, comes the Final (or Universal) Judgment:

**When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:  
And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:  
And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.  
Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**  
**Matt 25:31-34 KJV**

c. Final Judgment is also called the “Great White Throne” Judgment:

**And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.**  
**Revelation 20: 11-15 NLT**

d. The “interval” for the non-believer is not “in the presence of the Lord”, but in a place of spiritual “out-of-the body” torment. (Luke 16:20-26)

e. The non believer awaits resurrection unto one “judgment”, at the Great White Throne described in Revelation 20:

**And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

**Rev 20:11-15 New Living Translation**

### **III. Conclusion**

#### **A. Is This Important? You Bet Your Life!**

1. What will happen to you at the moment of death?
2. Remember the three options: Annihilation, Reincarnation, or Resurrection
3. The bible declares there is a great King Who will sit on a throne and measure out eternal rewards based on what we do now. What will we do?

**Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others.**

**2 Corinthians 5:11 NLT**