

THE FACTS ABOUT DEATH

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Sunday February 3 and Sunday February 10, 2019

- ◆ **DEATH SACRED COWS**
- ◆ **DO WE HAVE AN APPOINTED TIME OF DEATH?"**
- ◆ **JESUS THE SOURCE, GIVER AND SUSTAINER OF LIFE**
- ◆ **LIVE A LONG LIFE!**
 - Can a person's sin and disobedience to God shorten their life?
- ◆ **UNDERSTANDING DEATH**
 - Death was not in God's Plan for man in the beginning
 - The Last enemy to be destroyed is death
 - Is there an age limit to how long we can live?
- ◆ **YOU CAN LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN YOUR LIFE**
- ◆ **DIE THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS**
 - Similarities
 - Differences
- ◆ **WHO IS IN CONTROL OF DEATH?**
 - Bible Truths
 - The Devil "Has the power of death" (Heb. 2:14)

DEATH SACRED COWS

PEOPLE SAY

COMMENTS

SCRIPTURE SAYS

“God ‘took’ my father ten years ago.”	Did he? If we believe that God took our loved one—that it was part of some plan, that God decided he wanted that person in his presence rather than in ours— You are actually saying God “snatched” him away from me. it’s no wonder so many people are mad at God.	1- And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened , and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.... And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit - Acts 7:56,59 2- “Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. ’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.” Luke 23:46 3- And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. Luke 16:22
He’s in a ‘better place’	She’s in a better place” might be true, but it doesn’t address the feeling of loss. Which better place is being referred to?	
God don’t make no mistakes	Confirming that God did the right thing by killing that person.	
“It must have been God’s will”	the theological ones	
“Everything happens for a reason.”	Do you really believe that? Don’t you think that many things happen that are not God’s will? Why then do we pray “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” which carries Jesus’ assumption that God’s will is not being done on earth now.	
“God needed another angel.”	First, there is the assumption that God snatched this young person away because God cared more about his own personal needs than about the needs of us down here. Second, do you really think God has a shortage of angels?	
“God called him home”	Did he get the “call” on his cell?	devil has the “power of death” (Hebrews 2:14).
Someone’s untimely death. “His time was up”	Who gave you that information?	
Had a close call with death, but “It wasn’t my time to go.”	Do you have a ticket that says “next?”	
The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh	Mis quote from Job	‘the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away’
God was ready for him	For what reason?	

DO WE HAVE AN APPOINTED TIME OF DEATH?"

The Bible tells us that “all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:16). So, yes, God knows exactly when, where, and how we will die. God knows absolutely everything about us (Psalm 139:1-6). So does this mean our fate is sealed? Does this mean we have absolutely no control over when we will die?

* The answer is "yes" from God's perspective because God is omniscient—He knows everything and knows exactly when, where and how we will die. Nothing we can do will change what God already knows will happen.

* The answer is "no" from our perspective because we do have an impact on when, where, and how we die.

- o A person who commits suicide causes his own death.

* A person who commits suicide would have lived longer had he not committed suicide.

- o A person who dies because of a foolish decision (e.g., drug use) “expedites” his own death.
- o A person who dies of lung cancer from smoking would not have died in the same way or at the same time if he had not smoked.
- o A person who dies of a heart attack due to a lifetime of extremely unhealthy eating and little exercise would not have died in the same way or at the same time if he had eaten healthier foods and exercised more.

* Yes, our own decisions have an undeniable impact on the manner, timing, and place of our death.

Ecclesiastes 9

Everyone Dies

JESUS THE SOURCE, GIVER AND SUSTAINER OF LIFE

Genesis 2:7 “Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Psalm 36:9 “You are the giver of life. Your light lets us enjoy life

Psalm 91:1-7 “**He who dwells** in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. **I will say** to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” For he will **deliver you** from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the **terror** of the night, nor the **arrow** that flies by day, Nor for the **pestilence** that walketh in darkness; nor for the **destruction** that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; **but it shall not come nigh thee**

Psalm 91:16 “**With long life I will satisfy** him and show him my salvation.”

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.** “

Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. **Therefore, choose life**, that you and your offspring may live,”

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Matthew 10:8 “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay”

LIVE A LONG LIFE!

God desires to see us live a long good life. People believe that when a person dies, “it was God's timing” for them to die and that “the fullness of their days have been lived out” according to God's will.

God's Word, speaks of extending our lifespan:

The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.
Proverbs 10:27

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. Proverbs 9:10-11

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Proverbs 3:1-2

People say “we can die before our time”

When a person has an abortion, is that God's appointed time for that baby to die? When somebody commits suicide, is that God's appointed time for them to die? When somebody gets drunk, and kills an entire family, was that God's appointed time for them to die?

Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?
Ecclesiastes 7:17

But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee. Psalms 55:23

To say that we “cannot die before our time”, would justify murder and abortion. Somebody who has committed murder would not be guilty of sin, because they were merely cooperating with God's plan to take the person home. But murder is a serious sin, because it takes a person's life before it is their time to die.

Not everything that happens here on earth is the will of God. If everything that happened here on earth was God's will, then that would make God out to be a terrible father... desiring to see His children raped, murdered, molested, and tortured. Such things are in complete opposition to the nature of our loving Father.

Can a person's sin and disobedience to God shorten their life?

Yes! Untimely death is listed under the curses in Deuteronomy 28:

The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.... Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed. And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God. Deuteronomy 28:21, 61-62

God's Word never speaks of Him using sickness or disease to call a righteous person home, sickness unto death is a curse.

What is God's desire for those who fear Him and walk in His ways? A long and good life!

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise ;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:2-3

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation. Psalms 91:16

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Proverbs 3:13-16

Eating habits and exercise will also affect our body's ability to live a long and healthy life. Wisdom lengthening our days is one area of our lives that we are supposed to exercise' Wisdom is in taking proper care of our bodies.

God has good plans for us, and wants to give us an expected end. An expected end is nothing less than a long good life. Dying of cancer, or in a car accident, is not an expected end, it is rather an unexpected end. This is not God's will for us, according to Jeremiah:

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jeremiah 29:11

What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. Psalms 34:12-14

"If you want to live a long good life?"

Then keep our tongues from speaking evil, and to depart from evil. Lot's wife is a good example of somebody who died due to disobedience; she never lived out the fullness of her days. It was not God's will for her to die at that time, but her death was the result of her disobedience towards God.

ANOTHER SOURCE OF PRE-MATURE DEATH IS

Are result of Satan's work of killing, stealing, and destroying (John 10:10). When somebody is killed, it refers to the taking of a life prematurely (otherwise, murder would be justified in God's eyes,). God does not use Satan to kill His children, as a means to keep them from living beyond their appointed time. Jesus made it very clear who was behind the killing, and who had come to give life. By stating that every murder came at God's appointed time for that person to die, is to equate Jesus with the killing side of the equation of John 10:10. It is saying that God uses Satan's work in our lives to bring about His will, timing, and plans for us. If this were true of murder, then the same could be said of rape, stealing, etc. Suddenly, we find ourselves in a mindset that everything which happens here on earth is the will of God, which couldn't be further from the truth.

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess. Deuteronomy 5:33

To say that we cannot die before our appointed time, is saying that God uses murder, abortion, suicide, sicknesses resulting in death, demonic killings, unhealthy care of our bodies, drunkenness (resulting in deadly car accidents), and so forth, to fulfill His purposes in a person's life.

We must play a vital part in seeing those plans fulfilled in our lives. Satan, of course, has plans to end our lives prematurely. Jesus told us in John 10:10 that the thief came to kill, steal, and destroy.

UNDERSTANDING DEATH

- * Why did God **Kill** My loved one?
- * Why did God **take** my child whom I loved? Why would God be so **heartless** and **cruel**? * * * How could a loving God do this?
- * Why did God **allow** my husband to die? I prayed for him. Why did God **not answer** my prayer? (revisit)
- * Someone gets sick and dies, and the surviving loved one goes on a **"Hate God"** rampage

Life on earth is not predestined where God chose before the earth was created when and how they would die. (Gen2.1-2; everything ...GOOD!)

Death was not in God's plan for man in the beginning

- * Genesis 2:7 “ and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life”
- * Tree of life: God put the tree of life in the Garden for man to eat from to live forever (vs 9; 21-24)
- * Rev. 22:1-3a; 14 The tree of life will be on the New Earth for the nations to eat from to live forever

Fate and predestination are both false doctrine.

God is the Source and Sustainer of Life.

According to Genesis 2:7, "the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

- * Life is contingent upon the continuing, sustaining "breath" of God.
- * Life can be destroyed by chance, circumstances, the conduct of unrighteous or negligent persons. In such circumstances, Worries, riches, and pleasures (Mark 4:19 ; Luke 12:15), as well as hunger, sickness, sorrow, and sin can destroy life.

Life is a Choice. (Deut 30:11), for God had set before them "life and prosperity, death and destruction blessings and curses. Now choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:15
Deuteronomy 30:19

God created mankind with genuine free will, and our choices play a major role in determining the quality, and length, of our life on earth

Adam made a choice * Gen 2:17, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." When Eve and Adam listened to the tempter and disobeyed the commandment, eating the fruit of the forbidden tree, they brought a curse upon themselves

(Gen 3:16-19), * their descendants (Rom 5:12-14 ; 1 Cor 15:21-22), * and upon all creation (Gen 3:17 ; Rom 8:19-22). * the disobedience abolished a continuing privileged access to the tree of life (Rev 2:7 ; Revelation 22:2 Revelation 22:14), and thus eternal life.

* Spiritual death, separation from the tree of life, and a broken relationship with God resulted.

* The human race was destined to die, as were all living creatures, but now without hope beyond the grave * . Spiritual death reigned from Adam to Christ (Romans 5:14 Romans 5:21 ; 1 Cor 15:20-26).

THE LAST ENEMY to be destroyed is death” (1 Cor. 15:26).

* Death is not something that God does to people.

* Death is an enemy that God will someday destroy, and death will be no more.

* Death, Paul says, quoting Isaiah, “has been swallowed up in victory” (15:54). Death is no longer victorious over God, and death has lost its sting.

Rev. 6:7-8 death on the pale horse, followed by his companion hell;

Rev.20:14: death and hell casted into the lake of fire.

\There was no death before sin entered the world.

* No active agent existed to cause death.

* When death occurs, there must be some active external force to cause death.

Our behavior can affect the length of our lives here on earth.

The fact is, some bad things happen by chance, others because of another's sin, or because of our own sin or carelessness.

* When a sky diver's parachute doesn't open, we realize that mechanical things don't always work the way they should and sometimes people die as a result.

* When a person talks on a cell phone while driving, drinking a cup of coffee and glancing at the paper in the passenger side of the front seat, and they run into the back of a parked truck, we realize that our own carelessness can kill us.

* When an innocent person is shot by a bank robber, we realize that another's sin can kill us.

* When we have certain allergies, and are stung by a bee or eat a peanut, we realize that our genetic code can kill us.

* When we by chance, come in contact with a contagious disease, we realize that such encounters can kill us.

* When we smoke 1 pack of cigarettes per day and die of lung cancer at 35, we have committed a form of suicide, where no one is to blame but ourselves.

- * When people ask, "Why would God allow my husband to die of a disease at age 40?"
- * Every one that eats a deadly poison dies.
- * But what about your prayers? You prayed for God to heal your loved one of Cancer and he died instead!
- * God does not make mistakes

Scripture gives principles that can allow us to live a long life. However God does not guarantee that someone will live long if they follow these principles. Other factors can come in to play. The Bible does say.

Premature Death Sinful conduct can actually shorten the lives of believers. The Bible speaks of certain people dying prematurely because of some sin in their life. Scripture speaks of a sin unto death.

Believers can sin to the place where it leads to physical death. (1 Corinthians 11:29-32). some of the believers in Corinth died prematurely because of abuses at the Lord's Supper. Ananias And Sapphira Acts 5:1-11).

IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT TO HOW LONG WE CAN LIVE

Several hundred years after the flood, Moses declared, "The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10). Neither Genesis 6:3 (120 years) nor Psalm 90:10 are God-ordained age limits for humanity. Genesis 6:3 is a prediction of the timetable for the flood, 120 years. Psalm 90:10 a prayer by Moses regarding the Israelites who were sentenced to die in the wilderness, only lived about 70 or 80 years. This was their sentence.

YOU CAN LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN YOUR LIFE

Ecclesiastes 7:17: Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?

Proverbs 9:11: For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

Proverbs 10:27: The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.

Psalms 21:4: He asked life of you; you gave it to him, length of days forever and ever.

Psalms 55:23: But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

Psalms 91:16: With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Ephesians 6:1-3: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Proverbs 20:20: If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.

1 Peter 3:10: For “Whoever desires to love life and see good, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

DIE THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS

SIMILARITIES

In a number of ways, death is identical for both the good and the bad.

- * Scripture declares that as a consequence of Adam's transgression, death comes to all (Romans 5:12).
- * "It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).
- * The uncertainty as to the time of death is common to all classes of humanity. Death can take us at any stage of life—infancy, adolescence, in the prime of life, or in the advanced years.
- * . Physical death is that inanimated state of the body that results when the spirit (that part of man that is in the image of God [Genesis 1:26]) has departed from its earthly tabernacle.
- * James gives a clear definition of death, "The body apart from the spirit is dead" (2:26).
- * Paul speaks of death as a departure when he writes of having the "desire to depart and be with Christ" (Philippians 1:23).
- * the possibility of human existence "apart from the body" (2 Corinthians 12:2, 3), which would necessitate the body's death.

Both the godly and the ungodly are conscious after death.

- Lazarus and the rich man, both, after death, were quite aware of their condition and environment. The one was comforted and the other was in anguish (cf. Luke 16:25).

DIFFERENCES

God's attitude toward the two groups is in great contrast.

- * "Precious in the sight of God is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15).
- * "Blessed [literally, 'happy'] are the dead who die in the Lord.
- * they do rest from their labors" (Revelation 14:13).

For the righteous, death brings fellowship with Christ.

- * Jesus informed the penitent thief, "Today you shall be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).
- * Paul knew that his departure would enable him to be "with Christ" (Philippians 1:23), which was "very far better" than this earthly domain.
- * to be "absent from the body" is to be "at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).
- * So real is the promise of the believer's resurrection that the physical death of a Christian is called "sleep" (1 Corinthians 15:51; 1 Thessalonians 5:10).

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For the faithful, death is a thrilling, blissful experience.

The wicked have no such hope. They have rejected his fellowship in life; they will not enjoy it in death!

* As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked” (Ezekiel 33:11)

But the wicked know nothing except “trouble and sorrow” (Psalm 116:3), “affliction” (Jonah 2:2), “anguish” (Luke 16:25), and “punishment” (2 Peter 2:9, ASV).

* For the unsaved, death brings to an end the chance to accept God’s gracious offer of salvation. “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

On the cross, Jesus also experienced physical death (Matthew 27:50). The difference is that Adam died because he was a sinner, and Jesus, who had never sinned, chose to die as a substitute for sinners (Hebrews 2:9).

Jesus then showed His power over death and sin by rising from the dead on the third day (Matthew 28; Revelation 1:18).

Because of Christ, death is a defeated foe. “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55; Hosea 13:14).

That's what Paul means when he says in 1 Corinthians 15:56, “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.” ... Through faith in him, death is no longer a stinging punishment but the victorious entry into eternal life

Each of us has the option now of determining whether our death will be like the righteous or the wicked. There is one thing for certain: after death has taken us, there will be no changes in our destiny (Matthew 25:1-13).

1- And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.... And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit - Acts 7:56,59

2-“Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.” Luke 23:46

3- And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. Luke 16:22

* Therefore, we are able to say, “I desire to depart and be with the Lord, for it is very far better” (Philippians 1:23).

* We “are willing rather to be absent from the body,” so that we may be “at home with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Our sweet refrain can be, therefore: “Happy are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth, yes, says the Spirit, they may rest from their labors, for their works follow with them” (Revelation 14:13).

Let us, therefore, put these matters of this “life” and “death” into a sharper focus, and prepare for our own demise. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand

2 Timothy 4:6-8

----For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand

----I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

WHO IS IN CONTROL OF DEATH?

"When a Christian loved one dies, folks often say, "God called him home." Yet scripture says that the devil has the "power of death" (Hebrews 2:14).

BIBLE TRUTHS

* God is both the author and sustainer of life (Acts 17:25,28; 1 Timothy 6:13)

* He restores life, as he did by raising Jesus from the dead (Romans 1:4).

When people die, it is not because the Lord intervenes and takes the spirit from the body (James 2:26)

* It simply is a natural process, resulting from man's rejection of divine law at the beginning of human history (Genesis 2:17; 3:22; Romans 5:12).

Therefore, we are not empowered to say, in any specific case, God "took" him or her

THE DEVIL "HAS THE POWER OF DEATH" (Hebrews 2:14)?

* Satan does not possess the power to directly take human life. If that were the case, all Christians would be dead, for he is our "enemy" (Matthew 13:28).

The reference to Satan's "power of death" is an allusion to the Tempter's role in the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden.

Death reigns as a result of sin (Romans 5:12). Since the devil introduced sin, he is characterized as the "murderer" of the human family (John 8:44).

* Death, is an appointment for us all (Hebrews 9:27 — with the exception of those who are alive at the time of Christ's return — 1 Corinthians 15:51).

* Satan ultimately shares a heavy responsible for the sin-death equation, he has "the power of death." not in a direct sense, but only in an historical, associate sense.