

## Chapter 12

### *Death Valley*



AND SO WITH RELIEF WE LEAVE BEHIND Satan's swirling fog of false worship and follow This Man on God's true path of light. We climb a gentle rise and reaching the brow we behold a wide valley of green stretching before us. Now off to the side of our path we notice a wooden plaque with the name "Death Valley" written in bold letters. This Man opens his book for true direction and says, "Ah yes. All must pass through the Valley of Death sooner or later."

Descending from the brow we enter the Valley of Death, walking a path lined on both sides with grave markings of the deceased. This Man stops beside a recent grave where a profusion of colourful flowers welcomes us with a fragrance of living hope.

Resting in the fragrance we find a swathe of leafy grass to sit upon. And here This Man continues the greatest true story ever told.

He turns our thoughts to poor Abel and onwards, travelling behind the mask of death itself.

"Since Abel's death, Planet Earth has become a vast burial ground receiving billions and billions of bodies into her death bed of dust ...*for dust you are and to dust you shall return.*  
*Genesis 3:19*

Death comes to us all, but how we humans think and feel about death can be very different indeed. Some people avoid thinking about death; others look to death as a relief and a release from suffering. For others death means fear, grief, sorrow and emptiness.

Yet, when we face death with God we are not alone; His loving hand gives us life and his loving hand lays us down to rest.

*...Who have been upheld by Me from birth,  
Who have been carried from the womb:  
Even to your old age, I am He,  
And even to gray hairs I will carry you!  
Isaiah 46:3, 4  
For this is God,  
Our God forever and ever;  
He will be our guide  
Even to death. Psalm 48:14*

*Precious in the sight of the LORD  
Is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15*

For Adam and Eve, death seems to have cheated them long before their time. As Abel lies slain in the field, Adam and Eve kneel beside their lifeless son and for the first time they peer into the void of human death. The life they so lovingly nurtured no longer responds to their gentle touch. Grief floods the parents' hearts and a part of them dies with their son forever.

Thus the inevitability of death and its finality demands true answers to haunting questions.  
- What is the meaning of death? What really happens when a person dies?

To find answers to these questions let us ask another question? What makes you the person you are - in mind, body and spirit?

We know that through God's Spirit ...*we live and move and have our being.* Acts 17:28

This gift of life began when ...*the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* Genesis 2:7

The original human body was made from dust and the spark of life came from God's breath. In that same instant, God's breath formed the human spirit.

*...the breath of the spirit of life... Genesis 7:22*

*'The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.'* Job 33:4

The Lord ...*forms the spirit of man within him.* Zechariah 12:1

*'There is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.'* Job 32:8

And the human spirit gives birth to the human soul.

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* Genesis 2:7 KJV

My friends, your souls are the very essence of who you are – your intellects, personalities and characters. And as long as the breath of life continues to circulate through your bodies, then each one of you is a living soul, and each of you belongs to God.

*'As long as my breath is in me,*

*And the breath of God in my nostrils...'* Job 27:3

*"Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine."* Ezekiel 18:4

*Oh, bless our God, you peoples!*

*And make the voice of His praise to be heard,*

*Who keeps our soul among the living,*

*And does not allow our feet to be moved.* Psalm 66:8-9

Yes, all life is attached to God's respirator of life. His supernatural breathe energizes the mind, body and spirit of every human soul and all other life forms on Planet Earth.'

*'...in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.'* Job 12:10

*'If He should set His heart on it,*

*If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath,*

*All flesh would perish together,*

*And man would return to dust.'* Job 34:14-15

*'He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.'* Acts 17:25-26

*If I say, 'My foot slips,'  
Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up.  
In the multitude of my anxieties within me,  
Your comforts delight My soul.* Psalm 94:18-19

Each precious human life is a gift of God, conceived in His will and delivered through His divine foresight.

*'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.'* Jeremiah 1:5

*My frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my substance,  
being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they all were written,  
The days fashioned for me,  
When as yet there were none of them.* Psalm 139:15-16

*The LORD will record,  
When He registers the peoples:  
'This one was born there.'* Psalm 87:6

And so from conception, God fills each human being with abundant life - but sooner or later death comes along and empties all.

*'Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.'* Job 14:1-2

A hint of loneliness seeps through our inner beings, as the shadow of our own fleeting lives urges us to search for God's comforting presence. This Man peels away the shadow and yes, we see the appearance of God's abiding grace!

Now This Man assures us that just as God knows our date of birth, He also knows our time of death.

"Everything is foreseen by Him who knows best for every person's life.

*'Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You;  
You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.'* Job 14:5

*'Since times are not hidden from the Almighty,  
Why do those who know Him see not His days?'* Job 24:1

*So teach us to number our days,  
That we may gain a heart of wisdom.* Psalm 90:12

From the moment of conception all humans face the prospect of death.

*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

*Yet He (God) is not partial to princes,  
Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor;  
For they are all the work of His hands.*

*In a moment they die; in the middle of the night;  
The people are shaken and pass away;*

*The mighty are taken away without a hand. Job 34:19-20*

And so we have arrived at the crossroads of life and death and it is time to answer the age old question - What happens to a person when he or she dies?

Thankfully the Bible speaks openly about death and explains death as it truly is.

*Will You work wonders for the dead?*

*Shall the dead arise and praise You? Selah  
Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave?  
Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?  
Shall Your wonders be known in the dark?*

*And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? Psalm 88:10-12*

*For the living know that they will die; **but the dead know nothing**, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun. Ecclesiastes 9:5-6”*

From around the grave side a voice enquires, “Does this mean when a person dies, upon their last breath of life, their consciousness and knowledge of life comes to an end?”

This Man gently answers, “Yes when a person dies, in every way he or she is completely lifeless, there are no bodily functions, no brain power, no thoughts or feelings. You see, the great King wants us to know the true meaning of death. He does not hide behind dark shadows, leaving us comfortless and confused.

Indeed, we may be greatly comforted that both Father and Son have gone through the death experience more deeply and intensely than any human being has experienced.

Yes, God the Father sent His beloved Son into the depths of all death, to provide a hope beyond the reaches of death for all people. Hold this truth in your hearts, for very soon we shall see just what this means for us.”

Now turning a page in his Bible This Man continues to explore the empty void of death.

*“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. Ecclesiastes 9:10*

*For in death there is no remembrance of You;  
In the grave who will give You thanks? Psalm 6:5  
For Sheol cannot thank You,  
Death cannot praise You;*

*Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth. Isaiah 38:18  
'Man decays like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.' Job 13:28*

Yes, without question, when a person dies, their conscious being disappears to nothing. Their lifeless body decays, returning to the dust of the earth. In short a person's living entity completely ceases at death.

Just as human life has been created from particles of dust, when death occurs a person will return to dust - or ashes if cremated.

Thus a person's last remains can be blown to the four corners of the earth and not a trace is found:

*'In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return.'* Genesis 3:19

King Solomon asked for and received the gift of inspired wisdom from God, and wrote this about death:

*For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them; as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all return to the dust. Ecclesiastes 3:19-20*

Now Solomon asks the searching question:

*Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth? Ecclesiastes 3:21*

And just what happens to the human spirit upon death? Here is the answer Solomon gives:

*Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and **the spirit will return to God who gave it.** Ecclesiastes 12:7*

Remember the *...breath of the spirit of life...* Genesis 7:22 was given by God. *'The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.'* Job 33:4,

And so upon death a person's spirit of life returns to *...God who gave it...* and with their last breath of life a person's living entity comes to an end.

*His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;  
In that very day his plans perish. Psalm 146:4"*

Sitting beside the grave in Death Valley, we are becoming aware of the true Biblical meaning of death. But some in our circle look stunned and shocked – and no wonder! For in the world today there are many ideas and teachings about death.

One by one, This Man confronts the myths and theories about death – exposing them for our scrutiny.

“One human theory is that the dead become disembodied spirits living in a spirit world. Truth or error?

Others believe that upon death they take on another life form through reincarnation. Is

this true or false?

Still others teach that those destined for heaven must die and then enter a place called purgatory to be made pure by suffering before they can reach heaven. Can this be truth? Or could it be error?

And very many people happily believe that when they die they go straight to heaven to be with God. True or false?

Well, we have just seen Bible truth about the true meaning of death and clearly the false theories and myths mentioned above dissolve away without substance.

Very soon we shall discover that the real hope beyond death is much sweeter than all the invented lies of darkness.

Clearly, the dead possess no life, no spirit, no knowledge.

*'The dead do not praise the LORD,  
Nor any who go down into silence.'* Job 33:4

Yet some people will still say, their deceased relatives have appeared to them and have spoken with them.

Without doubt these people have seen and heard something, but what? Believe it or not these supernatural appearances originate from Satan who deceived Eve with the lie, *'You will not surely die.'* Genesis 3:4

Like an actor playing an ancient character before a live audience, Satan and demon spirits impersonate the dead giving a false impression that there is life after death.

Yet we have clearly seen that the Bible unequivocally states that the dead know nothing, they see nothing, and they do nothing.

In His word God gives this warning, *'Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.'* Leviticus 19:31

Mediums and familiar spirits belong to the sphere of spiritualism - the manifestation of evil spirits.

People practicing spiritualism claim to have contact with the spirits of the dead. They deceive the unwary with false hope and pollute the truth.

A classic example of this evil, for evil it is, occurred in the closing life of King Saul. Now for some years, Samuel, a prophet of God was King Saul's spiritual adviser. But alas Saul turned away from God and His commandments and so God rejected him as king over Israel. Thus Samuel was no longer God's prophet to Saul, leaving Saul destitute of divine help.

Eventually reaching old age Samuel died. Sometime after his death the Philistine army marched on Israel to make war. And so in a panic-stricken state king Saul searched for a medium to contact Samuel's spirit.

*Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the*

land.

*Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa.*

*When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.*

*Then Saul said to his servants, 'Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.' And his servants said to him, 'In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor.'*

*So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, 'Please conduct a séance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you.'*

*Then the woman said to him, 'Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?'*

*And Saul swore to her by the LORD, saying, 'As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.'*

*Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, 'Bring up Samuel for me.'*

*When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, 'Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!'*

*And the king said to her, 'Do not be afraid. What did you see?' And the woman said to Saul, 'I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth.' So he said to her, 'What is his form?' And she said, 'An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle.' **And Saul perceived** that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.*

*Now Samuel said to Saul, 'Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?' And Saul answered, 'I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me any longer, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do.'*

*Then Samuel said: 'So why do you ask me, seeing the LORD has departed from you and has become your enemy?'*

*'And the LORD has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbour, David.*

*'Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.*

*'Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army*

*of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.'*

*Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night. 1 Samuel 28:3-20*

What did the participants of the séance see? Certainly not Samuel. They only **perceived** it was Samuel.

*'As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, so he who goes down to the grave does not come up. He shall never return to his house, nor shall his place know him anymore.'* Job 7:9-10

*'For now I will lie down (sleep) in the dust,  
And You will seek me diligently,  
But I will no longer be.'* Job 7:21

Thus the spirit ascending out of the ground was an evil spirit, clothed in Samuel's likeness! Deceived by Satan's illusion, Saul worshipped at the shrine of spiritualism.

Satan simply obliged Saul's request to speak to Samuel and with certainty predicted Saul's death and Israel's defeat.

Void of God's intervening power, King Saul and the Israelite army were indeed doomed.

Yes, Satan can and does impersonate the dead. He heaps deception upon deception to trap the unwary in his lie that the dead are in a conscious state of life.

*'But man dies and is laid away; indeed he breathes his last and where is he? As water disappears from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dries up, so man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep.'* Job 14:10-12

Did you catch those last few words? Here they are again:

*'Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep.'* Yes till the heavens are no more, echoes hope that at some future time when this world comes to an end, some people will be roused from death.

Job, who lived in Old Testament times, spoke those inspired words. For he believed in the promise that one day God will raise the righteous dead to eternal life.

Job lived in this hope for he went on to say, *'Oh that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me!'* Job 14:13

*The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. Psalm 112:6*

At this time in his life Job is going through a severe test of faith – he is covered from head to toes with putrefying boils. He longs for release from suffering and pain. Death seems a pleasant escape.

And so Job asks the eternal question:





IMAGINE LIVING to 365 years old! If you read Genesis chapter 5 in the Bible, you will see how people just like you and I lived to well beyond 100 years. But by the time Psalms were written the human lifespan had shortened dramatically, *“The days of our lives are seventy years...” Psalm 90:10*

As you can imagine, scientists and researchers are involved in many different studies exploring ways to slow aging. In 2009 the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine was jointly awarded to four scientists who worked for many years on human aging. Their work centred on “telomeres”, the protective tip that caps the ends of every strand of DNA. These telomeres are a little like the tips on the ends of shoelaces. The “shoelace”, the DNA is like a miniature slinky in structure, and contains the building blocks of life as well as being the catalyst for cell repair and division. Also, DNA contains the information which defines each of us as a unique individual - such as the colour of eyes and hair. You might have heard that DNA is found in almost every cell in the human body. Now each time cells divide, the DNA “tips”, the telomeres, shorten. And the shortening is one of several factors which cause aging and death.<sup>1</sup> You might say that telomeres are like a “biological clock.”

But what if diet and lifestyle could reduce this shortening of telomeres? Turns out, God had the answer all along! Dr Dean Ornish, famous in the USA for his diet and lifestyle programmes reversing heart disease, and Dr Elizabeth Blackburn (one of the Nobel prize winners for her work on telomeres) worked together on a small pilot study to see what happened to the telomeres of people who changed their diet and lifestyle. While his study was small (35

participants) and male only, findings suggest most people could decrease the shortening of their telomeres, by eating mostly plant foods, reducing stress by meditating every day (60 minutes) and engaging in physical exercise (30 minutes brisk walking six days a week).



Another study, this time in Korea, looked at the dietary patterns over 10 years of 1958 adult men and women who were interviewed and then monitored. The dietary patterns fell naturally into two distinct groups. One group had a high intake of whole grains, seafood, legumes, vegetables and seaweed. The other group had a high intake of refined grain, red meat or processed meat and sweetened carbonated beverages (fizzy drinks).

The researchers found that those who ate a diet high in plant foods had longer leucocyte telomere length (LTL), which is generally considered the same as measuring the actual telomere.

As well as looking at the two dietary patterns, the researchers looked at the effect of specific foods. Would you like to know the foods linked to longer telomeres?

“...higher consumption of legumes, nuts, seaweed, fruits and dairy products and lower consumption of red meat or processed meat and sweetened carbonated beverages were associated with longer LTL.”

Another study in January 2010, showed how 608 people with coronary heart disease were able to prevent their telomeres shortening by eating more food high in Omega 3 fatty acids over five years.<sup>2</sup>

These people ate more high fat and cold water fish - high in Omega 3 fatty acids. Many people believe they need to eat fish or take fish oil supplements for Omega 3 fatty acids. But the good news is there is an effective, cheaper and vegetarian way to increase your Omega 3 intake, if these foods suit you:

Flax seeds, green leafy vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds can meet the human body's need for good quality Omega 3 fatty acids. Why? Because whole foods like these contain a marvellous range of nutrients, including vitamin E which helps preserve the Omega 3 hidden in the seeds and other whole foods. This means the Omega 3 fatty acid will not go rancid in the human body.<sup>3</sup>

Helping our bodies to have high levels of glutathione is yet another way to slow the shortening of the DNA telomeres. Glutathione is manufactured inside our cells from three amino acids - glycine, glutamate and cystine. Yes, glutathione supplements can be taken, but are not very well absorbed.<sup>7</sup> As you might expect, God has provided a simple way to increase our glutathione levels. Special compounds in sulphur containing vegetables can help your body make glutathione.

How do you know which vegetables are sulphur containing? If you overcook sulphur containing vegetables, your house will smell like a sulphurous bubbling mud pool!

Broccoli, kale, cabbage, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, onions, garlic, leeks are all sulphur containing. Eating these vegetables sliced and raw makes excellent use of the special compounds. BUT, slicing and leaving the vegetable sit for about 10 minutes, then lightly steaming until vibrant in colour produces the same effect as eating raw! Remember: Slice-Sit-Steam!<sup>6</sup>

One final word on physical activity. As we age, many of us might naturally limit physical activity, perhaps we have some stiffness or aches and pains. However, the research is clear: Regular strenuous exercise slows the shortening of the DNA “tips” - so to be healthier longer - don't sit down! Jump up and find the most enjoyable way to keep physically active and remember to include daily strength activity. Personally, I am not a strong person, and have days when I cannot lift a saucepan from the stove. However, God has blessed me greatly in this way: We tend to buy our organic whole foods in bulk (to get best value). This means that every day I am lifting 5 to 20kg bags of nuts, seeds, lentils or coconut and carrying them to the kitchen for preparing food for the family!

Can you see God's way is being proved by science yet again? To slow aging follow God's way: choose and enjoy eating mostly or ALL plant foods, especially those foods which suit your individual constitution, spend time praying and meditating every day and be sure to walk and do some sort of strength exercise most days of the week!

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This question brings us to the edge of the grave , and we wait with baited breath. This Man unveils Job's answer of truth.

*"With certainty Job answers, 'All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You, You shall desire the work of Your hands.' Job 14:14-15*

Job said he will wait in the grave until the time comes when God shall call him back to life and receive him.

*But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave,  
For He shall receive me. Selah Psalm 49:15*

Job like many millions, maybe even billions of people throughout human history, believed

in the 'resurrection' a biblical word for the time when God raises the dead back to life.

Daniel was given this assurance: *'But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.'* Daniel 12:13

*The wicked is banished in his wickedness,  
But the righteous has a refuge in his death. Proverbs 14:32*

What a hope to live with! For those who accept God's salvation from sin and live life according to His commandments, death is not permanent!

They shall be raised up in life when the Son returns to Planet Earth to take his beloved people home to heaven! Amazing! Some people call this the Second Coming.

*Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye shall see him... Revelation 1:7*

Indeed those people who accept the Son as Saviour and Lord over their lives have their names registered in God's *Book of Life. Revelation 22:19.*

*...those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Revelation 21:27*

And for the faithful believers the Lamb's Book of Life spans the void of death and connects each person to the second coming.

Yes, the dead whose names are written in the Book of Life and who are found worthy of eternal life shall be raised in life at, *'...the resurrection of the just.'* Luke 14:14

For Jesus Christ the Son of God said, *'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'* John 11:25

*Your dead shall live;  
Together with my dead body they shall arise.  
Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust;  
For your dew is like the dew of herbs,  
And the earth shall cast out the dead.  
Isaiah 26:19*

*'I will ransom them from the power of the grave;  
I will redeem them from death.  
O Death, I will be your plagues!  
O Grave, I will be your destruction!'  
Hosea 13:14*

*But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.1  
Corinthians 15:20-23*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does*

*not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5*

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

Jesus says to each of us, *'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

*In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.'* John 14:1-3

*For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14:9"*

How our hearts long to be among those whom are beloved by God, to be raised from death and taken to heaven!

Yet This Man tells us there is more.

"At this time we have only glimpsed God's people being resurrected to life. A complete picture will come later. For you see in biblical sequence both the resurrection to life and the second coming go hand in hand. But right now before we continue you need to know one more important truth.

Do you know there are two deaths mentioned in the Bible and two resurrections? Sounds amazing? Perhaps alarming?

The first death is the common death everyone faces. But the second death is something else. You see the second death ties in with a second resurrection, far down the stream of time.

After the saved have *...lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years*, the dead who turned away from God during their lifetime on Planet Earth *„did not live again until the thousand years were finished*. Then they are raised back to life. *Revelation 20:4, 5*

*The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his work. Revelation 20:13*

Yes, the unsaved are raised up in life to receive God's judgement according to how they lived their past life on earth.

*'Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.'* John 5:28-29 KJV

Standing before a *...great white throne*, the wicked see how they have rejected God's gift

of salvation and sadly they receive their just punishment of everlasting death, ...*the second death. Revelation 20:11, Revelation 20:14*

*'The harvest is past,  
The summer is ended,  
And we are not saved!'* Jeremiah 8:20

Thus the unsaved of Planet Earth undergo two deaths. Two deaths? Yes. The first death which is common to all and a second death which brings a complete end to their lives forever.

*'For behold, the day is coming,  
Burning like an oven,  
And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble.  
And the day which is coming shall burn them up,' says the Lord of hosts,  
'That will leave them neither root nor branch  
But to you who fear My name  
The Sun of Righteousness shall arise  
With healing in His wings;  
And you shall go out  
And grow fat like stall-fed calves.  
You shall trample the wicked,  
For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet  
On the day that I do this,'  
Says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 4:1-3*

There is no other course for God to take.

*'Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?' says the Lord GOD, 'and not that he should turn from his ways and live?' Ezekiel 18:23*

Yet there is a bright side to the darkness of the second death. For you see the second death is the everlasting death which ends all death forever.

*The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15: 26*

Yes dear friends, there is choice and hope for us today. Thanks to the great King and His Son, the second death is the death you can avoid and must avoid at all cost. And remember the cost has already been borne by God's only begotten Son.

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15: 57*

*...Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, (the grave) where is your victory. 1 Corinthians 15: 54-5 5*

Consider this stark conclusion: There would be no need for a resurrection and no dead to raise if somehow upon death, people remain in a conscious state, or somehow have gone straight to heaven, or purgatory, or hell, or taken on a different life form.

But as we have clearly seen, Bible truth states that the dead from all Planet Earth's history will be raised in the first or the second resurrection. False beliefs about death cloud Bible truth

and lead people away from God and into false hope, but that is exactly what the devil wants. Remember his sinister lie:

*And the serpent said unto the woman, 'Ye shall not surely die...' Genesis 3:4 KJV"*