

Bible Study

What Happens When YOU Die!

v1.4

By Craig M White

*“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten ...
Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest.” (Eccl. 9:5, 10)*

Foreword

God promises you a resurrection. Indeed, we Christians hope for the first resurrection.

It is coming as assuredly the sun will rise tomorrow. It is promised and He can and will deliver – because He is faithful and cannot lie.

Because only He can restore you to life – your relationship with Him is essential – nothing else really matters.

Your relationship and development of holy, righteous character is ‘the bottom line’ – critical – essential – paramount to salvation.

So, we have all heard about and read the scriptures on the resurrection, but what will occur upon death? Are the scriptures explicit, providing many essential facts and details for us to understand?

In this article, dear reader, I attempt to do just that – assemble what information I am able on the subject then piece it all together.

In the first instance, let us read, enjoy and be inspired by our future resurrection of which God’s Word provides some clues to its magnificence

But before this is death and decay.

In this article, my intention is to explain what may happen to you when you die. It is not a pleasant thought, but we must be prepared for the inevitable.

What you will see is comment and description by the writer followed up by Biblical quotes – the listing of Scriptures with the highlighting of certain words within the verse for emphasis.

Death and Decay

It is sad to say, but we must all meet our death someday. This is not something any of us want, but it has been ordained that way by a Higher Power. There are articles out there about death such as <http://science.howstuffworks.com/life/human-biology/dying-process.htm>

Death can be sudden, premature or slow and painful. Most hope that it will happen at the end of an extended old age and be very quick or while they are asleep.

For most it will be due to a cancer or the body just being unable to heal itself and continue - so it slowly shuts down. Eventually one becomes so weak and sleeps a lot and one enters in and out of consciousness over a period of time until the body can no longer hang on.

As one dies the pupils of the eyes become larger (as it can do in various situations) and light pours in causing one to experience bright lights and even to hallucinate.

When the brain shuts down it can dump endorphins into the system which means that one experiences calm and pleasure as they breathe their last. Presumably this does not occur to everyone dependent upon one's circumstance – but for those that were almost clinically dead – that is what they report.

Also, when the brain is oxygen deprived it tends to hallucinate. I recall one documentary on those that survived against the odds. The documentary included interviews with the man affected plus re-enactments. He explained how close he was to death and that during that episode he was so oxygen deprived that he began to hallucinate. The hallucination was incredibly overpowering that he actually thought he could sense the presence of his wife and could actually smell her perfume! It was so real to him. What happened during the hallucination is that the brain recalled her and even the memory of the perfume to present it in such a strong fashion that he actually could smell the perfume. Of course this did not happen through the senses of the nostrils but through the brain's intense memory.

Occurrences at death

Below is one article that summarises the near death experience (NDE):

“In 1926, Sir William Barrett, a fellow of the Royal Society, published a slim volume on deathbed visions. The survivors described to him the basic elements of the NDE. But the NDE became really popular only in 1975, with the publication of

Raymond Moody's best-selling book, Life after Life.

This book recounts the anecdotes of some 50 survivors. At first, there was some resistance to the concept of the NDE, but with further research it was found to be surprisingly common.

Some 10 to 20 per cent of survivors of heart attacks report having an NDE. Similar figures come from survivors of electrocution, coma, attempted suicide, near-drowning and massive shock due to blood loss, infection or anaphylaxis.

However, NDEs are not always related to death (despite the 'D' in NDE).

For example, the training of combat fighter pilots can involve high G forces in a centrifuge, which sends the blood away from the brain to the feet, leading to unconsciousness. The typical pathway involves a greying of the vision, followed by total blackout and vivid dreams.

Some 20 per cent of pilots who blackout in this centrifuge training report classic NDEs, with the out-of-body experience. And to further separate the NDE from death, in hospital situations where patients report an NDE, some 50 per cent of them would have survived without any medical intervention.

We still don't know exactly what causes an NDE, simply because the brain is so fiendishly complicated (as is the concept of consciousness).

The brain receives information from our primary senses, such as vision, sound, taste, smell and touch. Skin sensors add information on temperature, pain and pressure, while sensors in the ear give information on your balance and orientation.

And sensors in the joints, tendons, muscles and bones tell the brain where our limbs are located. All of these bits of information, and many more as well, flow into our brain like many rivers into a sea, to give us that strange perception that we call 'consciousness'.

There are dozens of theories on what causes an NDE. They include bizarre

electrical activity in parts of the brain, endorphins in the brain stem, strange natural chemicals in the brain such as endopsychosin, intrusion of our normal REM dream sleep into our consciousness, and many other theories.

These theories all have some elements of fact to back them up, and probably, they all are involved in varying amounts, depending on the person.

But recently, Dr Olaf Blanke, a neurologist at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Switzerland, was able to consistently duplicate some of the elements of the NDE in the lab.

He stimulated, with electricity, a part of the brain called the left angular gyrus. Patients immediately reported the impression of a shadowy person lurking behind them. And when he stimulated the right angular gyrus, they reported that they left their physical body and could look down on it from above — the classic out-of-body experience.

At some stage in the future, we might know enough about the brain to fully understand the NDE. But right now, we know that you don't have to be dying to have one, and that it neither proves nor disproves the existence of an afterlife.”¹

Another work to read is *What happens when we die?* by Sam Parnia.² The book demonstrates that many people experience peace or see forms or even seem to be hovering over their body upon death. It is now known that the brain and other parts of the body do not start to decay for many hours or even days after ‘death.’ In fact, if the body is cooled, it can be revived after many hours.

¹ Kruszelnicki, K (8 March 2007) “Near-death myth alive and kicking”
<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2007/03/08/1866095.htm>

² *What happens when we die? A Groundbreaking Study into the Nature of Life and Death* by Sam Parnia, Hay House, Carlsbad, Ca (2006). See also
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sam-parnia-md->

Simulated ‘death’ show the brain dumping endorphins into the system; the acute lack of oxygen (this can make one feel on a high and hallucinate also known as sensual asphyxiation) and such like can and does induce hallucinations. Perhaps this is God’s way of providing pleasure and hope to the dying. We won’t know for sure until God reveals this and other mysteries in the resurrection.

Traumas often lead to hallucinations as if something were real (eg in a car accident); or spectrophilia after a loved one dies.

Unfortunately, some Church of God folk are edging toward accepting the immortal soul theory without calling it that.

For instance the “Book review: Every once in a while something comes along that’s a challenge” which leaves wide open the pagan concept of reincarnation to church members!³

Another is “Could soul-sleep and afterlife doctrines stand some tweaking?” which also is suggestive of the immortal soul doctrine.⁴

No consciousness after death

But the Bible is true, when you die ‘you are just like Rover, who when he dies, he dies all over’. It takes the awesome and merciful power of God Almighty through Jesus Christ to bring us back to life. We just don’t have any life after complete death without God restoring one. There are no immortal souls or reincarnations.

Notice the following Scriptures:

“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even

[phd/resuscitation-science_b_2767935.html](http://www.phd/resuscitation-science_b_2767935.html) and
<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/04/consciousness-after-death/all/> Another excellent work is “The Dying Experience” by Kenneth Westby, *ACD Newsletter*, Nov 1991 & Feb 1992

³ Published in *The Journal* 29 Sept 2009

⁴ Published in *The Journal* 13 March 2013

the Son of man which is in heaven.” (John 3:13)

“Which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality....” (1 Tim. 6:15-16a)

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten ...

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest.” (Eccl. 9:5, 10)

The Psalmist wrote

“The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.” (Ps. 115:17)

“For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks.” (Ps. 6:5)

“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” (Ps. 146:4)

The prophet Isaiah wrote similarly as did Luke:

“For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee ...” (Is. 38:18a)

“For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand” (Acts 2:34)

There are many other Bible verses on this matter, but the above shall suffice. E. W. Bullinger published *A Refreshing Study on the Resurrection* c1900:

“So effectually has Satan’s lie, “thou shalt not surely die,” succeeded and accomplished its purpose that, though the

Lord Jesus said “I will come again and receive you unto Myself,” Christendom says, with one voice, “No! Lord. Thou needest not come for me: I will die and come to Thee.” Thus the blessed hope of resurrection and the coming of the Lord have been well nigh blotted out from the belief of the Churches; and the promise of the Lord been made of none effect by the ravages of Tradition.”

Let us ask ‘why would there need to be a resurrection if we have an immortal soul?’ It just does not make sense. Instead, the Bible likens death to a sleep – because He has the power to raise you up – to awaken you to new life!

Now notice the following key Scriptures to prove the point:

*“And when thy days be fulfilled, and **thou shalt sleep** with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.” (11Sam 7:12)*

*“So David **slept** with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.” (1Kings 2:10)*

*“These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may **awake him out of sleep.***

Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.” (John 11:11-14)

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

*And many of them that **sleep in the dust of the earth** shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Daniel 12:1-2)*

*“Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” (1Cor 15:51-52)*

However, we have an essence that records our life, thoughts, actions, nature and character. It is called the ‘spirit in man.’

“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” (1Cor 2:11)

“Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.” (Eccl 2:11)

“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23:46)

This essence or power that provides man with a capacity to link to God and apparently records our character and memory, is not a consciousness or immortal soul – it is an essence, that is all.

The LIGHT of the resurrection

There is a time coming that YOU will close your eyes for the last time – when you fall asleep in the Lord. After that there is nothing to experience – no consciousness or mobility at all. Your entire body decays and disintegrates and after the passing of sometime only bones are left. Even these will turn to dust.

But with faith you believed that God would bring you back to life. That He would be faithful to you and fulfil His promise of restoration to life – this time to eternal life!

*“And they that be wise shall **shine as the brightness** of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars [which are actually suns] for ever and ever” (Dan 12:2-3. See Mark 12:25)*

*“Then shall the righteous **shine forth as the sun** in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt 13:43. See 1Cor 15:41)*

*“And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt **shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning**” (Job 11:17. See Job 14:14-15; 19:25-27; Rom 8:17; Col 3:4)*

*“... we know that, when He shall appear, **we shall be like Him**; for we shall see Him as he is” (1John 3:2; cp Col 3:3-4. See what Christ is like in Rev 1:13-18; Matt 17:2,5,9; 24:27; Rev 21:23; Ezek 43:2; Is 60:1-3).*

Such glory.

The resurrection glory is associated with light - a bright whiteness as we awake apparently and find our bodies glowing with holiness and glory just like Christ's!

*“Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs [Heb = **luminousness, bright or light**], and the earth shall cast out the dead.” (Is 26:19)*

*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the **Father of lights**, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (James 1:17. See also Eph 5:4)*

“Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away:

*And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; **thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.**" (Job 11:16-17)*

*"They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house;
And Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures.*

*For with Thee is the fountain of life:
In Thy light shall we see light" (Ps 36:8-9. Cp Rev 22:1; 21:6; John 7:37-39; 4:10; Is 12:2-3).*

*"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, **but shall have the light of life.**" (John 8:12)*

*"That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;*

*Who only hath immortality, **dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto;** whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen." (ITim 6:14-16)*

THAT is what drives us on – the trust in our spiritual Father to raise us up to inherit and enjoy splendid eternity with Him.

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