

What happens after death?

Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

James 4:14, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

- For the believer, when we pass away, our bodies, of course, will be prepared for burial or we will be cremated. At the moment of death, the spirit and soul leave the body and are immediately in the very presence of the Lord.
 - Read 2 Corinthians 5:8. What does that verse mean to you?
 - Read Luke 23:42-43. What does this tell you about this man's location after he died?
 - What is Paradise? Read 2 Cor. 12:1-4
 - Read Psalm 116:15. What is the Lord's attitude towards the death of a believer?
 - Read Luke 16:22. Compare the difference in what happened to Lazarus and the rich man the moment they died?

"The Lord watches over their dying beds, smooths their pillows, sustains their hearts, and receives their souls." - CHS

"It is not darkness you are going to, for God is Light. It is not lonely, for Christ is with you. It is not unknown country, for Christ is there." – Charles Kingsley

- Does the soul of a departed person go to sleep?
 - Read Ecclesiastes 9:5-6. Does this teach that when a person dies, his soul goes to sleep?
 - Jesus referred to death as sleep in John 11:11-14.
 - The Apostle Paul referred to death as sleep in 1 Thess. 4:13.
- Consider Stephen's stoning death.
 - Read Acts 7:51-60
- When the sun sets for us on earth, the sun will rise for us in heaven.
 - Read Romans 8:38-39
- In the presence of the Lord, the departed one is happier than they could have ever been on the earth.
 - Read Psalm 16:11
- To depart to be with the Lord is much better than anything the world has to offer.
 - Read Philippians 1:23
- The 'temporary' state of the believer after his death
 - 2 Cor. 5:1-7
- The Lord's desire to have us with Him
 - John 14:1-3

"Someday you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now." – Dwight L. Moody

Job 19:25-26, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

For the unbeliever who dies, there is nothing but torment for eternity. Death is called the 'king of terrors.'
Read Job 18:14; Luke 16:19-31

- The believer will be raised at the Rapture of the church to enjoy the presence of the Lord for eternity.
 - 1 Thess. 4:13-18, 1 Cor. 15:51-58
- The unbeliever will be raised at the Great White Throne judgment to be judged and cast into the lake of fire.
 - Rev. 20:11-15

Daniel 12:2, "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."

WHEN LIFE IS OVER, LIFE IS NOT OVER