

DEATH

I – ORIGIN OF DEATH - II- THE MEANING OF DEATH

THE FALL OF MAN

THE LORD GOD COMMANDED THE MAN

Genesis 2:16-17 (KJV)

¹⁶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

¹⁷ *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: **for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.***

THE SERPENT SAID UNTO THE WOMAN

Genesis 3:3-7 (KJV)

⁴ *And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:*** ⁵ *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

⁶ *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.* ⁷ ***And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked;*** (their spiritual eyes are closed)

MAN'S DEATH

Genesis 3:17-19 (KJV)

¹⁷ *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;* ¹⁸ *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;* ¹⁹ ***In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.***

I – ORIGIN OF DEATH

There are three different types of death and all three take their origins from “The Fall of Man.”

- 1- Physical death
- 2- Spiritual death
- 3- Eternal death

Examples:

Romans 5:12 (KJV)

¹² *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

1 Corinthians 15:22 (KJV)

²² *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Regardless of whether death is physical, spiritual or eternal, in all three of its forms, death is a direct result of the Fall.

Romans 6:23 (KJV)

²³ *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Death is considered as a penal evil – It is the just punishment of sin but we thank God for His **gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

II- THE MEANING OF DEATH

Death is not cessation of existence neither cessation of consciousness – It is a separation. The best example is the story of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31).

I. The Meaning of Physical Death

What is the meaning of physical death?

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (KJV)

⁷ *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

James 2:26 (KJV)

²⁶ *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

Physical death is **separation** of the immaterial part of man from the material part of man. It is not a cessation of existence or consciousness but a separation of the immaterial part of man from the material part of man.

At the exception of Enoch and Elijah (Genesis 5:21-24) who did not die, physical death is a penalty for sin: (Gen 3:19; Num. 27:3; Ps. 90:7-10; Rom. 5. 12-21; 6:23; 1Cor. 15:21-22)

THE WORD “SLEEP” IN REFERENCE TO DEATH, IT IS NOT TEACHING SOUL-SLEEPING

Mark 5:39 (KJV) – Jesus raised up Jairus’ daughter from death

³⁹ *And when he was come in, he saith unto them, **Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.***

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (KJV)

¹³ *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

When the bible uses the term “sleep” in reference to death, it is not teaching soul-sleeping because the word sleep does not refer to the soul, but to the body.

For example, in physical sleep, there is a temporary cessation of physical activity, but not spirit-soul activity.

The mind keeps on operating and other facets of the material part of man, such as the vital organs continue to operate.

We can say that, physical sleep is a temporary suspension of physical activity until the body wakes up.

DEATH IS NOT A CESSATION OF CONSCIOUSNESS OR OF EXISTENCE

“Sleep” in the sense of death, is also a temporary suspension of physical activity, but not spirit soul or mind heart activity, because death is not a cessation of consciousness or of existence.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (KJV)

²² *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Romans 8:23 (KJV)

²³ *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

So for the believer, death is not a punishment but the means of entering to Heaven.

That is why the bible describes death for the believer in terms of “sleeping”

Death is viewed as “sleep,” a temporary suspension of physical activity until the body awakens in the resurrection.

The remedy for physical death will be a physical resurrection; physical resurrection will remedy the effects of physical death.

2. The Meaning of Spiritual Death

The meaning of spiritual death is separation from God in time.

Genesis 2:16-17 (KJV)

¹⁶ *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

¹⁷ *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Spiritual death, like physical death, is also a penalty for sin.

God warned Adam that the day that he disobeyed the commandment, he would surely die.

Obviously, Adam and Eve did not die physically the day they sinned, but they die spiritually toward God.

THEIR NATURE HAD BECOME CONTRARY TO GOD’S NATURE, BECAUSE IT WAS FALLEN.

It could no longer share the same level of fellowship that it had before the Fall.

As a result, all the descendants of Adam are born spiritually dead.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (KJV)

²² *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

John 5:24 (KJV)

²⁴ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

Ephesians 2:5-6 (KJV)

⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

⁶ *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

The remedy for spiritual death is to be “made alive” or “to be quickened” by faith in Jesus Christ

3. The Meaning of Eternal or Second Death

Eternal death or second death, means separation from God in eternity.

Revelation 21:8 (KJV)

⁸ *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Revelation 20:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

ETERNAL DEATH OR SECOND DEATH IS SPIRITUAL DEATH MADE PERMANENT, AND FOR THIS REASON, IT IS KNOWN AS THE PLACE OF PERISHING.

John 8:24 (KJV)

²⁴ *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

ETERNAL DEATH OR THE SECOND DEATH, IS A RESULT OF NOT BELIEVING ON JESUS CHRIST AS ONE'S SAVIOR.

Revelation 20:11-15 (KJV)

¹¹ *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

¹² *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

¹³ *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

¹⁴ *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

¹⁵ *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Lake of Fire is the place of eternal death or the second death. It is the place where the separated ones will be for eternity.