

QUESTION: Is there life after death?

ANSWER: Yes, there is life after death - eternal life, in one of two places. Either you will be resurrected to live eternally with God in His heavenly kingdom, or you will be resurrected to suffer eternal punishment in the lake of fire. As Believers in Jesus Christ, our "end" or FINAL DESTINATION is EVERLASTING LIFE in God's presence.

- **Romans 6:22** "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, **EVERLASTING LIFE**."
- **John 5:24-25 & 28-29** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has **EVERLASTING LIFE**, and shall NOT come into judgment, but has PASSED from DEATH into LIFE. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the DEAD will HEAR the VOICE of the Son of God; and those who hear will LIVE. "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **ALL who are in the GRAVES** will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to **the RESURRECTION of LIFE**, and those who have done evil, to **the resurrection of CONDEMNATION**."

In John 5:25 it says "the DEAD will hear His voice" and this is speaking of those who are ALIVE PHYSICALLY, but are SPIRITUALLY dead. But in verse 28 He is talking about **those who are PHYSICALLY DEAD** and their bodies are in the grave. The Bible sometimes refers to death as being "asleep," but **it is NEVER a SOUL SLEEP**. Only **the physical BODY is "asleep"** and waiting to be AWAKENED at the resurrection. The SOULS of the people have already LEFT their BODIES to either be with God, if they were saved, or for the UNSAVED, to await the JUDGMENT and be thrown into hell. For the believer in Jesus Christ "**to be ABSENT from the BODY**" is "**to be PRESENT with the Lord**".

- **II Corinthians 5:6 & 8** "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home **in the BODY**, we are absent from the Lord." "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **ABSENT from the BODY** and to **be PRESENT with the Lord**."

There are TWO RESURRECTIONS, the **RESURRECTION of LIFE for BELIEVERS** in Jesus Christ and the **RESURRECTION of CONDEMNATION for NON-BELIEVERS**. The Resurrection for Believers takes place at several different times. The Old Testament saints such as Moses, Abraham, Elijah, and of course many whose names we do not know, were raised immediately following Jesus's own resurrection (see Matthew 27:51-53). The next phase will be for the Body of Christ. Those who have **died believing in Christ** will be resurrected, and the living Believers will be changed into their resurrection bodies, at the "Rapture" (See I Thessalonians 4:13-18, I Corinthians 15:50-54). This will happen immediately BEFORE the seven years of Great Tribulation. The next phase will be the Tribulation Believers (see Rev. 20:4-5), immediately AFTER the seven years of Great Tribulation and BEFORE the thousand year reign of Christ. Believers must appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ after this resurrection, in order to be judged on their works. The judgment for Believers, however, is one of whether they will receive rewards or not. **The Believer's judgment for SIN has already fallen on Jesus Christ**, and Jesus has already taken our punishment.

- **II Corinthians 5:10** "For we must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive [*rewards or judgment for*] the things DONE in the BODY, according to what he has DONE, whether GOOD or BAD."
- **Matthew 6:19-21** "Do not lay up for yourselves TREASURES on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures in HEAVEN**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do

not break in and steal. For where your TREASURE (REWARD) is, there your HEART will be also."

- **Read I Corinthians 3:11 & 14-15** "For no other **foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, **which is JESUS CHRIST.**" "If anyone's WORK which he has built on it (*on the foundation of Christ*) endures, he will receive a REWARD. If anyone's WORK is burned, he will suffer loss; but **he HIMSELF will be SAVED**, yet so as through fire."

The RESURRECTION of CONDEMNATION will take place immediately after the thousand years are over (Rev. 20:5) and is **for unbelievers only**. They will then be **judged on the basis of their WORKS** and their **WORKS will NOT be enough to save them**. Because they have REJECTED CHRIST and His atonement, they must bear their own punishment for their sins, and will be thrown into the lake of fire (also called "The Second Death" - see Rev. 20:12-14, Rev. 21:8). The Anti-Christ and his false prophet are the first ones to be thrown in the Lake of Fire, and they are the only ones thrown into it BEFORE the Millennium (see Rev. 19:20). Interesting note: **they are still there AFTER the 1,000 years** are finished. They are NOT consumed in the fire, but are still conscious!

- **Revelation 20:6 & 10** "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first **RESURRECTION**. Over such the second DEATH has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a THOUSAND years." "And the DEVIL, who deceived them, was **cast into the LAKE of FIRE** and brimstone where the beast (Anti-Christ) and the false prophet ARE, and **they will be TORMENTED** day and night **FOREVER and ever.**"