



MINISTÈRE DU PASTEUR CLÉMENT SALOMON · BIBLE STUDY #2

# What Really Happens When We Die?

*The Bible's surprising – and deeply comforting – answer*

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Standing at a graveside, almost everyone asks the same quiet question: *Where are they now?* People will tell you a hundred different things. But what if the One who made us already answered – and the answer is gentler than you ever feared?

This is one of the most misunderstood subjects in the world. Let's let the Bible speak for itself. What you find may lift a weight off your heart.

## God's own picture: sleep

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Over and over, the Bible compares death to **sleep**. When Jesus' friend Lazarus died, Jesus said:

*"Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep."*

**John 11:11 (KJV)**

His disciples were confused, so the Bible adds plainly: "Howbeit Jesus spake of his death" (John 11:13-14). Death, to Jesus, is like a deep, dreamless sleep. And sleep is not something to dread – because sleep has a waking.

## What does sleep mean? No pain, no fear

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King Solomon, the wisest man of his time, wrote something that surprises most people:

*"The dead know not any thing... their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished."*

### **Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 (KJV)**

And the Psalms say that when a person dies, "his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:4). Read that again slowly. The dead are **not** suffering. They are not afraid. They are not watching the troubles of this world. They are resting — quietly, peacefully — as if asleep, waiting for one glorious morning.

If you have lost someone you love, hear this: they are not in pain tonight. They are at rest. The Bible's word for death is "sleep" — and Jesus knows exactly how to wake them.

## **The morning that changes everything**

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Here is why the "sleep" is such good news — because Jesus promised a waking. He said:

*"All that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth."*

**John 5:28-29 (KJV)**

When Jesus returns, the trumpet sounds, and "the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). In a flash, the sleeping are raised — whole, healed, alive:

*"The dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*

**1 Corinthians 15:52 (KJV)**

Imagine it: the graves open, and the people you have wept for stand up in the light, young and strong and full of joy. That is the Christian hope — not a ghostly existence somewhere, but a real **resurrection**, a real reunion, a real forever.

## **Why this truth sets you free**

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When you know death is a peaceful sleep until Jesus calls, three fears lose their grip: the fear that your loved ones are suffering, the fear of ghosts or spirits of the dead, and the terror of death itself. Jesus took the keys:

*"I am he that liveth, and was dead... and have the keys of hell and of death."*

**Revelation 1:18 (KJV)**

Death is not the master anymore. Jesus is. And He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

## One honest question before you go

When your name is called on that morning, will you rise to meet Jesus? You can be sure today. We would love to pray with you or open the Bible with you — no pressure, just hope.

**Would you like to know more about Jesus, study the Bible, or go deeper on this topic?** Reach us:

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Leave a comment, send us a direct message, and **subscribe + follow** on YouTube and Facebook so the next study finds you.

**Don't miss what's next.** If death is rest, then there's a gift God built into time itself — a weekly rest most people have completely forgotten. Our next study: *"God's Gift of Rest: The Sabbath."* Subscribe now so it reaches you the day it drops. 🛎

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# Viewer Handout

*What Really Happens When We Die? — pocket version*

## 5 truths to remember

1. The Bible calls death a *sleep* — Jesus said it of Lazarus (John 11:11-14).
2. The dead are at rest: they "know not any thing" and feel no pain (Ecclesiastes 9:5; Psalm 146:4).
3. The hope is resurrection, not a ghostly afterlife (1 Corinthians 15:51-54).
4. At Jesus' return, the dead in Christ rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:28-29).
5. Jesus holds the keys of death — He is "the resurrection, and the life" (Revelation 1:18; John 11:25).

## Memory verse

*"I am the resurrection, and the life."*

**John 11:25 (KJV)**

## Think & pray about it

- Does it bring me peace to know my loved ones are resting, not suffering?
- What fear about death could Jesus take from me today?
- Am I ready to hear His voice on that morning?

## Presenter Bullet Sheet

- **Open with the graveside question** — "Where are they now?" Let people feel it.
- **Point 1 — Sleep:** John 11:11-14. Jesus' own word for death.
- **Point 2 — Rest, not torment:** Ecclesiastes 9:5-6; Psalm 146:4. The dead are unconscious, at peace.
- **Point 3 — Resurrection morning:** John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.
- **Point 4 — Freedom from fear:** Revelation 1:18; John 11:25. Jesus holds the keys.
- **Appeal:** Invite assurance in Christ; offer prayer and Bible study. Be gentle with the grieving.
- **Close:** Memory verse + tease next topic ("God's Gift of Rest: The Sabbath").

# 10 Myths vs. Facts

Myth	Fact (with Bible)
1. The dead are fully conscious right now.	"The dead know not any thing" (Ecclesiastes 9:5). Their thoughts perish (Psalm 146:4).
2. Death is the end — nothing comes after.	Jesus promised a resurrection: "all that are in the graves shall hear his voice" (John 5:28-29).
3. Good people fly straight to their reward at death.	The reward is given at the resurrection when Jesus returns, not at death (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Timothy 4:8).
4. The "soul" is naturally immortal and cannot die.	Only God has immortality now (1 Timothy 6:16); immortality is given to believers at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:53-54).
5. The dead watch over us or can contact us.	"Neither have they any more a portion... in any thing done under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:6).
6. Death is something Christians must dread.	For believers it is a sleep with a sure waking; Jesus removed its sting (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).
7. Jesus described death as ongoing torment.	Jesus called it "sleep" (John 11:11) — peaceful rest until He calls.
8. The resurrection is only symbolic.	It is literal and bodily: "the dead shall be raised incorruptible" (1 Corinthians 15:52).
9. Spirits of the dead can appear to the living.	The Bible warns against seeking the dead and assigns such appearances to deception, not departed loved ones (Isaiah 8:19-20).
10. There is no real hope after a funeral.	"I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25) — the grave is not the final word.

## Where this comes from (Sources)

This study is built on the Bible and reflects the published beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Verify everything for yourself:

- The Bible — death & resurrection passages: Ecclesiastes 9:5-6; John 11:11-14, 25; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Psalm 146:4; John 5:28-29; Revelation 1:18 (King James Version, public domain).
- Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, "Death and Resurrection": <https://adventist.org/death-and-resurrection/>
- What We Believe: <https://adventist.org/beliefs/> / General Conference: <https://gc.adventist.org/>
- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, chapter "Can Our Dead Speak to Us?" (public domain): <https://whiteestate.org/> / <https://m.egwwritings.org/>

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**Ministère du Pasteur Clément Salomon** — Proclaiming Jesus until He returns.

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