

LIFE AFTER DEATH

(1) Serious Reflection of Life

Is there a Creator God? Does a person have a soul? If so, what happens to the soul when the body dies? Is death the end of all things? Where can I find the true answers?

There are thousands of religions founded by people and millions of gods worshipped in the world. Presumably, some religious founders claim to have received divine revelation. But each religion teaches its own doctrines. All religions are different from each other. So which one has true divine knowledge?

(2) The Bible Has The Answers

The true answers to the questions above have been revealed in the Bible which is the divine word of the Creator God. Every teaching in the Bible is absolutely true. God said that His Word would remain forever (1 Peter 1:25).

The truth of the Bible is proven by overwhelming evidence such as divine perfection in the Bible, the fulfilment of numerous prophecies, scientific discoveries, astronomy, eyewitnesses' testimonies, and historical records. The truth has withstood the challenges of many serious skeptics. None of them has been able to disprove anything in the Bible.

(3) Some Key Facts in the Bible

(a) Christianity is founded on one supernatural occurrence. It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was raised from the dead. (Matthew 28:6). Jesus Christ is the only true and living God. He fulfilled all prophecies about his birth, life and death on earth, performed many miracles, prophesied and was sinless. Before He sacrificed his life on the cross He said that He would rise from the dead on the third day and He did that. (John 2:18-22. John 10:17-18).

Jesus Christ is THE WAY (to Heaven), THE TRUTH (about things of God) and THE LIFE (giver of eternal life with God) (John 14:6).

(b) The Creator God is the First (before all things) and the Last (end of all things) (Revelation 22:13). Some Attributes of God:- Infinite (self-existing without origin) (Colossians 1:17), Omnipotent - all-powerful (Luke 1:37), Omniscient - knows everything (Isaiah 46:9-10), Omnipresent - always everywhere (Jeremiah 23:23-24), Perfect and just (Deuteronomy 32:4), Merciful, gracious (Psalm 145:8) and Loving (1 John 4:7-8).

(c) God's Creation:- the universe, the earth, visible and invisible things of nature, Heaven, angels, Hades and Hell. Most importantly he created human beings (living souls) as His family to populate the earth and manage it (Genesis 1).

(d) Sin is a spiritual offence against God's spiritual laws. Examples:- not believing in God, disobeying His commandments; worshipping any spirit, idol or person other than God Himself; not believing that Jesus Christ is God, that He sacrificed His sinless life and died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world, and that He rose back to life again on the third day after death; immorality, immoral thoughts, evil acts or thoughts, lies, dishonesty, cheating, and anything else morally wrong in what we do or fail to do. (Galatians 5:19-21. Mark 7:20-23.)

(e) Heaven is the kingdom of God, a holy kingdom where sin cannot enter. It is for the souls of those persons who believe in Him.

(f) Hades is the place of torment for the souls of persons who do not believe in God. Their sins remain in them, that's why they cannot enter Heaven.

(g) Hell is the final place of torment for (1) sinners after their resurrection from Hades; (2) Satan and his demons who were angels created by God to serve Him. But they rebelled against God and were thrown out of Heaven. They are roaming the world and causing people to sin and pulling them away from God. Demons do possess human beings who are not protected by the Holy Spirit of God in them (Revelation 12:7-9, Ephesians 6:12); (3) the Antichrist who would proclaim himself to be God and receive worship in God's temple (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).; and (4) false prophets.

(h) Souls in Heaven, Hades and Hell have consciousness and feeling. (Luke 16:19-31).

(4) The 4 Stages Of Life For People Who Believe In God.

(a) Upon conception in the mother's womb, the foetus becomes a living soul on earth. Life is given by God.

(b) After the body dies, the soul would go to Heaven (refer point (3) (e)).

(c) First Resurrection of souls (Revelation 20:4-6). When Jesus Christ returns to earth in person, the souls who had gone to Heaven would return to live in bodies again. These people would reign with Jesus Christ on earth for a 1,000 years (the Millenium).

(d) These people would live with God in a New Earth and New Heaven which God would create in due course. The present earth would disappear. (Revelation 21:1-7)

(5) The 3 Stages Of Life For People Who Do Not Believe In God.

(a) Upon conception in the mother's womb, the foetus becomes a living soul on earth. Life is given by God.

(b) After the body dies, the soul would go to Hades in torment. (refer point (3) (f)).

(c) At the 2nd Resurrection of souls, all those in Hades would return to live in bodies again to face the Last Judgment by Jesus Christ. All their sins would be judged, and they would be thrown into Hell for eternal torture. (John 12:48. Revelation 20:12-14).

(6) God's Love, Mercy And Grace

God says that all people have sins in their life (Romans 3:23). Because God is just, all sins must be punished (Romans 6:23). But out of His infinite love, mercy and grace towards all people, He does not want any person to undergo punishment for sins.

(7) Jesus Christ Our Saviour

God provided a solution for all sinners to escape punishment. The solution is that God Himself came down to earth to save us. He came as a man. We call Him Jesus Christ (The Saviour The Anointed One) (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ sacrificed His own sinless life, died on the cross and paid fully the penalty for all the sins of the world. On the third day, He rose back to life from the dead. He overcame death. (Romans 5:8. John 19:30. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

There is nothing else which needs to be done by us and nothing else we do can pay for our sins. We are saved by the grace and mercy of God, through faith in Jesus Christ alone and not by anything we do. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5. Romans 3:24.)

(8) Your Personal Decision

Death can strike anytime and unexpectedly. So decide soonest and wisely.

You have the free will to choose to disbelieve in God and to bear punishment for your sins. But I urge you to believe in God and choose to be saved from punishment for your sins. Your faith must be truly from your heart.

You have to tell Jesus about it. This wording is a guide:- Dear Jesus, I fully believe that You sacrificed Your life on the cross and paid fully for my sins, You shed Your blood for the cleansing of my sins, You rose back to life on the third day. I confess all my sins. Please forgive me. I turn away from my sinful behaviour and promise to obey You. Please save me. Take control of my life and guide me. I will honour and worship only You as my Lord and Saviour. Thank you. Amen (Truly, so be it). (Romans 10:9-10).

(9) What Happens Upon Your Accepting Jesus Christ As Your Lord and Saviour.

(a) Your sins are forgiven (Ephesians 1:7),

(b) you escape punishment for your sins,

(c) God gives you a new spirit. You are spiritually reborn as a new child of God (John 1:12-13),

(d) you become a citizen of the kingdom of God (Ephesians 2:19),

(e) The Holy Spirit of God enters your heart and will be with you for the rest of your life. He will lead and guide you in your new life. (Galatians 4:6. Hebrews 13:5. John 14:17),

(f) God's blessings and peace fill your heart, and

(g) fear of death reduces when you feel the full assurance that eternal life in Heaven with God is exceedingly more wonderful than life on earth.

(10) What Should You Do Next

(a) Tell your Christian friends once you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. They will rejoice and guide you in your new Christian life.

(b) Attend a church where the words of God are faithfully preached. The church will disciple you.

TRUST AND OBEY GOD.

Richard Chng
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(Note:- Bible verses shown in brackets can be found on the internet. Please search for "Amplified Bible - followed by the Bible verse which you wish to read.)