



ANSWERS TO LIFE'S 7 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

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HOW CAN I KNOW I'M GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN I DIE?

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Introduction: All of us are eventually confronted with the reality of death. After experiencing the loss of his children in a freak accident, Job asked, "If a man dies, will he live again?" (Job 14:14) Is there any evidence for life after death? If so, what will that existence be like for people of various religious faiths?

I. Evidence For Life After Life

A. Near Death Experiences

Hebrews 9:27 "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 ¹ Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a man was caught up to the third heaven. ³ And I know how such a man - whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows - ⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak."

B. The Transcendence of the Mind

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C. Dirty Jokes and Death

Ecclesiastes 3:11 “He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.”

D. The Empty Tomb

Historically Verifiable Facts About The Empty Tomb

1. Jesus is accepted almost universally as a historical figure.
2. Jesus' followers have claimed for more than two thousand years that He was miraculously raised from the dead. They asserted that His resurrection is the signal proof that He was the Son of God.
3. Jesus' detractors, beginning with the Roman and Jewish authorities who called for His execution, have denied this claim and have continuously sought to extinguish the Christian movement since its inception.

II. The Biblical Teaching About Life After Death

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A. The Inevitability of Death and Possibility of Heaven or Hell

Ecclesiastes 9:2-3a “² It is the same for all. There is one fate for the righteous and for the wicked; for the good, for the clean, and for the unclean; for the man who offers a sacrifice and for the one who does not sacrifice. As the good man is, so is the sinner; as the swearer is, so is the one who is afraid to swear. ³ This is an evil in all that is done under the sun that there is one fate for all men.”

Ecclesiastes 3:17 “...God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man, for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.”

Matthew 7:13-14 “¹³ Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Luke 16:22-23a “²² Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment...”

B. The Reality of Hell

1. Hell is an actual **location**

Matthew 25:46 “These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

2. Hell is a place of **indescribable** and eternal **torment**

Luke 16:24 “And he [the rich man] cried out and said, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.”

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Mark 9:48 “Where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

Matthew 22:13 “Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Matthew 25:46 “These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

3. Hell will contain the **majority** of humanity

Matthew 7:13-14 “¹³ Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Matthew 7:21-23 “²¹ Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

4. Hell is a **forever** destination

Luke 16:26 “And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.”

Next week: How Can I Know I'm Going To Heaven When I Die? Part 2