

Is there life after death?

Week 2...

III: What happens at death, according to the bible? Read "What happens the moment you die?" handout.

1...the body dies and is put into the ground or cremated but the person's spirit goes to be with God (Eccl 12:6-7 & 2nd Corinthians 5:1,2 8) or the lower part of Hades.

2...our spirit goes to the intermediate heaven or hell (Luke 23:43 & 16:22-23, 1st Peter 3:18-22 & 4:4-6 plus the Apostle's Creed)
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3...at the end of days, there will be 2 bodily resurrections...

A...for believers (Revelation 20:5-6 & 1st Corinthians 15:50-55 & Daniel 12:2).

This resurrection takes place in stages, but we won't go into that now.

B...for unbelievers (Revelation 20:11-15 & Daniel 12:2)

IV: What are NDE's (Near Death Experiences)?

It is the real experience that a person has when they are medically near death or have clinically died and come back to life. They almost always report an out-of-body experience. There is a large body of reported NDE's. There's been over 4,500 verified cases of NDE's in 33 countries around the world. Studies in the USA and Germany have estimated that over 4% of the population have had an NDE. In the USA alone, that's about 13 million people. Since the mid-1970's, there have been over 9,000 articles published in scholarly journals prior to 2011. "The Handbook of Near Death Experiences" has over 3,500 NDE accounts. **All of these studies have much in common, although the people's interpretation of these NDE's does vary.** Yet people across all of these cultures report similar experiences in both Western and non-Western nations.

There have been out-of-body experiences that people have had who have not been near death. Many of these people have had an interest in paranormal or occult experiences. Their experiences disagree with what the bible says. For example, many of these people report having spirit guides who deny that Jesus died for their sins. As Christians, since we know what the bible teaches is true, we should compare what the bible clearly teaches to what these spirit guides are saying. If it is different, then we are to believe the bible and not their experiences. Remember, that Satan can come as an angel of light (2nd Corinthians 11:14-15) to deceive people.

V: Now let's look at some of these NDE's...

Vicki has been blind from birth. She has never seen anything. In her NDE, Vicki was in a car accident. As a doctor and nurse worked on her body, Vicki died in the hospital. Then she floated out of her body. She looked down from above and "saw" herself for the first time

ever. She heard the doctor and nurse talking (after she revived, she correctly repeated what they had said to each other). Then she went to heaven and “saw” her two childhood friends that she had lived and grown up with. While on earth, these friends were blind too but also retarded. Even though they had died years earlier, Vicki had described them perfectly according to their housemother. In heaven, all three of them appeared bright, beautiful, healthy and vitally alive. There are much more specific details to her story (page 31-36, 182-183, 188 of “Imagine Heaven” by John Burke). Dr. Pim van Lommel, a Dutch cardiologist and recognized NDE researcher, says that Vicki’s reported observations could not have been the result of sensory perception or of her cerebral cortex.