

The Bridge between the Now and Then: The Relationship between This Life and the Final Life

1. General biblical understanding about death.

1.1. Christian-death is a continuation of life.

1.1.1. John 5:24: “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.” (This occurs at the moment of salvation).

1.1.2. 1 John 5:12: He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1.1.3. 1 John 5:13: These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

1.2. Christians need not fear death.

1.2.1. John 3:17-18: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1.2.2. Romans 8:1: *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

1.2.3. Hebrews 2:14-15: Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

1.2.4. Satan never had full power over death.

1.2.4.1. The final authority of death is in the hands of our God (Deut. 32:39; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 1:18).

1.2.4.2. Satan can do only that which is permitted by God (Job 1:12; 2:6). But because Satan is the author of sin (John 8:44), and sin brings death (Rom. 6:23), in this sense Satan exercises power in the realm of death. Jesus called him a murderer (John 8:44).

1.2.4.3. Satan uses the fear of death as a terrible weapon to gain control over the lives of people. His kingdom is one of darkness and death (Col. 1:13). We who trust in Jesus Christ have once and for all been delivered from Satan’s authority and from the terrible fear of

death. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ have given us victory! (1 Cor. 15:55–58) ¹

1.3. Death provides **immediate entrance into the presence of Jesus**. The Bible does not say much about this intermediate state other than that Christians are in the presence of Jesus.

1.3.1. Luke 16:23

1.3.2. John 12:26

1.3.3. Acts 7:59

1.3.4. Romans 8:38-39

1.3.5. 2 Corinthians 5:8

1.3.6. Philippians 1:19-23

1.3.7. Revelation 7:9-17

2. **παράδεισος** (paradise is only used three times in the New Testament: Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 12:4; Revelation 2:7)

2.1. History of the word: In Greek it occurs first . . . for the parks of the Persian king and nobility. Already by the 3rd cent. B.C. it can then be used generally for a “park.” In Jewish Greek it is used especially for the garden of God in the creation story.

2.2. The Bible’s **description of paradise**.

2.2.1. Paradise as it describes the Garden of Eden, Genesis 2. (The English word translated “garden” in 2:8 is actually the Greek word paradise).

2.2.2. Paradise as it describes the place of those now dead awaiting the final resurrection: Luke 23:43;

2.2.3. Paradise describes the place where God is: 2 Corinthians 12:4

3. **All people will encounter the judgment of Jesus**.

3.1. Christian judgment: 2 Corinthians 5:9-19. (See 1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

3.2. A judgment of all people, including Christians Revelation 20:11-15.

¹Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (Heb 2:5). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.