

Death and Consequence

Hebrews 9:27-10:18

Reality Carp 1o.26.o8

Death: A certainty and an enemy

- Death is certainty
 - it is appointed for men to die once
- Death is a enemy
 - 1 Corinthians 15:26
The last **enemy** that will be abolished is death.
- Death is not natural
 - We were made to live!
- Death came because of sin
 - Romans 5:12
Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned
- Jesus conquers the enemy of death
 - 1 Corinthians 15:57 (NLT)
But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)
14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.
15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.
 - John 10:10
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (NASB)

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (NLT)

Judgment: A certainty and a necessity

Judgment is **a certainty** because the Bible says so

- There are other ideas about what happens after death
- But Jesus has been there and knows
 - His integrity and reputation
 - Who else in history, that claims to know and have power over what happens after the grave, has:
 - Caused the blind to see?
 - Made the lame to walk?
 - Cleansed the leper?
 - Raised the dead?
 - Fed the multitude?
 - Walked on the water?
 - Calmed the storm?
 - Offered to die for you?
 - Rose from the dead?

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Judgment is **a certainty** because the Bible says so

- The Bible is a trustworthy source
- It is the anvil which has worn out the hammers of criticism for almost 2,000 years
 - "The noted French infidel Voltaire, who died in 1778, declared that in one hundred years from his time Christianity would be swept from existence and passed into history. Only fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used Voltaire's press and house to produce stacks of Bible." - **Norman Geisler**

The validity of Scripture

THE CONTINUITY OF THE BIBLE (Unity despite its diversity)

1. Written over a period of around 1500 years (approx. 1400 B.C. – approx. A.D. 100)
2. On 3 different continents (Asia, Africa, Europe)
3. Composed of 66 different books
4. By some 40 different authors from every walk of life
 - Kings, military leaders, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, tax collectors, poets, musicians, statesmen, scholars, and shepherds.

For example:

- o Moses, a political leader and judge, trained in universities of Egypt
- o David, a king, poet, musician, shepherd, and warrior
- o Amos, a herdsman
- o Joshua, a military general
- o Nehemiah, a cupbearer to a pagan king
- o Daniel, a prime minister
- o Solomon, a king and philosopher
- o Luke, a physician and historian
- o Peter, a fisherman
- o Matthew, a tax collector
- o Paul, a rabbi
- o Mark, Peter's secretary

5. In 3 languages (Hebrew, Greek, and some Aramaic)

6. Hundreds of different topics

7. In a variety of different literary styles (history, poetry, didactic, parable, allegory, apocalyptic, epic, romance, personal correspondence, memoirs, satire, biography, autobiography, law, and prophesy)

8. ...and different perspectives

- A Shepherd's (David in Psalm 23)
- Prophetic perspective (book of Kings)
- Priestly perspective (book of Chronicles)
- Historical perspective (Luke-Acts)
- Pastoral perspective (Pauline epistles)

9. ...Different emotions (By Paul, for example...)

- Great sorrow over Israel (Romans 9:2)
- Great anger over error of Galatians (Galatians 3:1)
- Loneliness (2 Timothy 4:9-16)
- Depression (2 Corinthians 1:8)
- Joy (Philippians 1:4)

10. Some authors in isolation from one another

- Ezekiel and John wrote in exile
- Esther wrote from foreign lands
- Hebrews was written in the East
- 2 Timothy was written in Rome
- Moses wrote in the wilderness
- Jeremiah wrote in a dungeon
- Daniel wrote on a hillside and in a palace
- Paul wrote in prison
- Luke wrote while traveling

There is continuity in a central theme: the person of Jesus Christ with a single unfolding drama: the story of redemption.

= Judgment is **a certainty** because the Bible says so, and the Bible can be trusted!

Judgment is **a necessity** because God is just and holy

- He is **holy**, so sin offends Him
 - All sin is against God
- He is **just** so He must deal with the offense
 - He cannot turn a blind eye to sin
 - What if the child killer gets off?
 - We don't want that!
 - But we do want God to let you off

- We have a double standard
 - We grade on a curve, God does not
- All sin will be dealt with by God
- Think **logically**:
 - We count on the fact that there will be some sort of **judgment** and **justice** in the end
 - This helps us to cope with the great evil and injustices we see in this life
 - We all expect, count on, need there to be **judgment** and **justice** for the wicked
 - The **disconnect** is: We do not all see ourselves as wicked
 - We grade on a curve—God doesn't
 - God has a standard
 - We have sinned

After **death** comes **judgment**, and since men are not able to do away with their own sins, God's **judgment** demands:

- that they pay
- or have a **substitute** pay for them

Verse 28

having been offered once to bear the sins of many

This speaks of the first coming of Jesus Christ

- Just as **it is appointed for man to die once**
- Christ has **been offered** (died) **once**
- He became a man that He may pay the price for man
- **Hebrews 10:1-18**
 - Jesus has dealt with the consequences of sin—Have you dealt with Jesus?

to bear the sins of many

- He bore the weight of our sins
- Isaiah 53 (written 700 years before) (v. 5) (NLT)
But he was pierced for our rebellion,

crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

This is why Jesus came the first time

- To deal with the sins of humanity
 - to bear the sins of many
 - many as opposed to few; not as opposed to all
 - John 3:16 = world

What does it mean that He bore our sins?

- He took responsibility for them

Remember:

After death comes judgment, and since we are not able to do away with our own sins, God's judgment demands:

- that we pay
- or we a substitute pay for them

Jesus was that **substitute!**

- He died in your place—in my place
- Either you must take **responsibility** for your own sins
 - Or allow Jesus to (through the cross)

shall appear a second time

- The fact that Jesus came the first time is a historical fact
- The OT predicted it over numerous times before it ever took place

PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE

There are over 1817 predictive prophecies in the Bible (1239 in the OT, 578 in the NT).

- **Messianic Predictions** (91 of these, all literally fulfilled in His lifetime)

Below are only 19 of the 91 Messianic prophecies.

1. Birth (Gen 3:15 - Matt 1, Luke 2, Gal 4:4)
2. Virgin Birth -700 years in advance- (Is 7:14)
3. Place of Birth (Micah 5:2 - Matt 2:1-6)
4. Ancestry through Abraham (Gen 12:1-3 - Matt 1:1)
5. Of the House of David (2 Sam 7:14 - Matt 1:1)
6. Of the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10 - Luke 3:23, 34)
7. Cleanser of the Temple (Mal 3:1-3 - Matt 21:12)
8. Heralding His Coming (Is 40:3 - Matt 3:1-3)

“We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 1017.”¹

(1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000) 17 zeros

HOW BIG IS THAT NUMBER?

Take that many silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas.

They will cover all of the state *two feet deep*.

Now mark one of those silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one?

...Just the same chance as the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man.

For every 1 prophecy concerning Christ's first coming there are at least 8 concerning His second coming

Hebrews 9:28 says that Christ **shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin**

The NLT helps clarify what is meant here:

He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

Our sins were dealt with by Jesus at the Cross

- The only question is: **Have you dealt with Jesus?**

When He appears a second time it is **for salvation** (NASB) or **to bring salvation** (NLT)

- Cf. The completion of our salvation
- Salvation is in 3 tenses or phases
 - We **have been** saved from the **penalty** of sin
 - Past tense—at the cross
 - We **are being** saved from the **power** of sin
 - Present tense—in daily life

¹ Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*.

- We **will be** saved from the **presence** of sin
 - Future tense—at His coming

At His coming the full effects of salvation (and the first coming) are fully realized

- His **Kingdom** is established
- We are **glorified** and with the Lord
 - 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"
- **Judgment** takes place
 - For believers to be rewarded according to faithfulness
 - Those who have refused to be forgiven and demand to take responsibility for the penalty of their own sins, according to their sins

Those that have refused **eternal life** offered by Jesus will experience what is called **the second death**

Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

That is where you don't want to be!

Where you want to be is among **those who eagerly await Him** (v. 28)

Titus 2:13-14

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

And notice: If you are saved, you are to be zealous for good deeds.

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

If the Lord is coming again, we want to be about His business

Zeal = great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective

You are zealous about something... but what will it count for?

God is on a mission and it is the coolest thing the world has ever seen

- You are invited into that mission!
- To be **involved** with and **partnered** with the God of the universe and what He is doing in the world

We see a lot of messed up thing sin the world

- But God is working right now
 - Are you with Him?
 - Jesus said (Luke 11:23)
He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters. (NASB)

Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't **working with me** is actually working against me. (NLT)

- Are you working **with** Jesus, or **against** Jesus?
- Why?
- And a **judgment** is coming in the future
 - Every wrong will be made right—through justice
 - God is just—He will not make any unfair decisions on that day

God is actually more than fair!

- Jesus dies on the cross in our place when He did not have to
- A God of mercy, grace and love