



STEP FOUR

VICTORY OVER DEATH



The reign of death is over. Long life is God's will for you. Untimely death is not God's plan for you. The greatest fear on earth is the fear of death. The Bible calls death an enemy; it is the enemy of all mankind. Death came as a result of sin. But Christ came and he paid the price for sin, and took away all the consequences that came with sin. In the old covenant, all the covenant fathers – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Joshua and Moses – all lived long. Most of them lived well over a hundred years. If it is God's will for them to live long, then it is still God's will for us now. Moreover the Bible says in Hebrews 8:6 that we have a better covenant which is based on better promises.

Friends, since the old covenant has as one of its promises, long-life, how much more should we expect of the new, and better covenant.

In **Exodus 23:25-26**, the Bible says: "Worship the Lord your God, and his blessings will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from amongst you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span. Your life will not be cut short in the name of Jesus.

Psalms 91:16 says: "With long life will I satisfy you..." God's will is that you will live



long and be satisfied before you go. You're not supposed to go until you are satisfied.

Friends, in heaven we will spend eternity and we do not need to leave the world in a hurry. Friends, whatsoever you believe, you become; what you don't believe, you don't experience. Long life is God's gift, God's promise to you and also God's will for you. Believe it, claim it, receive it, and you will experience it in Jesus' name. Millions have died prematurely because they do not know what rightly belong to them in the covenant. The Bible says: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

Millions today are afraid of death. So we would be looking at:

- a) **What Jesus did about death**
- b) **What happened at death;**
- c) **What will eventually happen to death**

What did Jesus do about fear of death? *Heb. 2:14-15.*

Since the children have flesh and blood, they too shared in: _____ Friends, Christ came to deliver us from the bondage of the fear of death.

That scripture says that by the death of Christ, He destroyed him (the devil) that had the power of death. The devil used to have the power of death, but he no longer has it. Christ has taken it away from him. He was defeated on the cross. Christ conquered him and took away the power and the key of death. Rev. 1:18:

Friends, I am glad that the key is no longer with the devil. Christ has it and He will not use it against you. Christ died at 33 years of age, at the brim of his youth. He died young so you won't have to die young. The price for your long life has been paid. Don't allow the devil to cheat you. Long life is your covenant heritage; so believe for it, demand for it, and it shall be yours. The Bible says that death came because of the disobedience of one man (Adam), but by the obedience of another man (Jesus Christ), the reign of death is over. Rom. 5:17 You're destined to reign in life if you're in Christ Jesus. If you're born-again, you're no longer under the



dominion of Satan, no longer in his kingdom so he has no right over you, he cannot kill you anyhow, unless you permit him. Friends, the reign of death is over in Christ Jesus.

The Bible calls death an enemy. It says: The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. (I Cor. 15:2-26). It says further: Behold I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19). Here, God has promised that no power of the enemy will hurt us and this includes death. The reign of death is over brothers and sisters. Just because you know many good Christians who have died prematurely does not mean it is God's will for them or it is God's purpose for them. God's will for every believer is long life, for God shows no partiality.

Christians don't die, they sleep and they will resurrect on the last day. In Genesis 6:3, a hundred and twenty years (120 years) is God's promise to a believer and the minimum in the covenant is 70 years. God does not expect any believer to sleep before 70 years. It is the will of God for us to live for 120 years and even more by the reason of strength. So do not settle for less. You do not need to rush to sleep now. The Bible says, that they that sleep, do so at night. Night does not come until 7:00 p.m. (i.e. 70 years). So stand your ground.

VICTORY OVER DEATH

When a person dies, is he really dead? There is an old saying: "dead men tell no tales". Do they? Today, millions believe they are in touch with the dead. Government officials the world over seek counsel from those who supposedly communicate with the dead.

Is this some gigantic hoax? Or is it one of the grandest blessings to ever come to man? Even more sobering, your own life and future could be in jeopardy. There is no defense for guesswork when results can be so far reaching and final. We must obtain the facts.

Thank God, Jesus the Star of the Drama of Revelation has the answers. He was dead but is now alive forevermore.



Prepare for some surprises as we review His Word on this most important topic.

1. What does Jesus have in His hand? Rev. 1:18

NOTE: Thank God! Jesus has the keys, or answers, to the mysterious questions and problems regarding death. And since Jesus alone has the answers, we must go to His Word for information.

2. What is Jesus called in Rev. 1:5?

NOTE: He was not the first-raised numerically. Others had been raised and foremost of all, raised prior to His resurrection. He was first from the standpoint of importance. His resurrection is first and foremost of all.

3. Why is Jesus' resurrection so important to me? I Cor. 15:20-22

NOTE: His resurrection is important to you and me because it has made all other resurrections possible.



GOD CREATED MAN

**4. How did God create man in the beginning?
Gen 2:7**



5. What happens at death? Eccl. 12:7

NOTE: Two things happen at death: the body returns to dust and the spirit returns to God

6. What returns to God at death? Jas. 2:26

NOTE: The margin says “breath.” “Spirit” and “breath” are alternate translations from the same Greek word. Job also points out that “spirit” and “breath” are the same (Job 27:3). So the “spirit” that returns to God at death is simply the breath of life (Gen. 2:7).

7. Did God place the breath of life in man at Creation? Gen. 2:7

Yes!

NOTE: God formed man’s body of the dust. He then combined breath with this body and became a living soul. So biologically speaking, body plus breath equals soul (a living being). The Bible makes it clear that a living, breathing person is a soul. Therefore, we all are living souls.

8. Do souls die? Ez. 18:4, 20

Yes!



NOTE: The Bible does not support “the undying soul” concept. Rather, scripture teaches that the human soul is subject to death.

WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH

9. What happens to the soul at death? Ps. 104:29, 30



NOTE: At creation, two things combine to form the soul – body and breath. At death, these two (body and breath) separate. It is only the “breath of life” or “God’s divine power which produces life” that returns to God not the soul. Act 17:28

10. Where are the dead? John 5:28, 29; Job 21:32

NOTE: They are not in heaven or hell, but rather in their graves. At Pentecost, Peter said: David was in his grave and not in heaven (Act 2:29,34). True, David will be saved in heaven, but not yet. It is God’s plan for all the dead to wait in their graves until Jesus returns and resurrects them (Heb. 11:32,39,40).

11. Can dead people think? Ps. 146:4

12. Do dead people know what loved ones are doing? Job 14:12, 21



NOTE: The following verses of the scripture are specific:

- **Job 7:9,10** – *The dead can't go back to their house.*
- **Ps. 6:5** – *The dead do not remember or give thanks.*
- **Is. 38:18,19** – *The dead can't learn the truth.*
- **Ps. 115:17** – *The dead do not praise the Lord.*

13. Does any part of man know anything in death? Eccl 9:5, 6, 10

NOTE: Words could not be plainer. The dead are in no way involved with anything. They cannot contact the living. Death is not life in heaven, hell or purgatory. It is the opposite of life. The words "souls" and "spirit" are used over 1000 times in the Bible, but never, not even once is either word given any recognition of life or personality or wisdom or knowledge when separated from the body.

RESURRECTION FROM DEATH

14. When are the righteous dead raised? 1 Cor. 15:20, 23
1 Thess. 4:15-17.

15. How did Jesus refer to death? John 11:11

NOTE: Death is called "sleep" at least 50 times in the Bible. We are to regard it as a sound, dreamless sleep until the resurrection morning when Jesus comes.



16. Do people have immortality now? I Tim. 6:15, 16

No!

NOTE: Man is not immortal, he is subject to physical death (Job 14:10). Yet God's people do have the gift of eternal life now through Jesus. It begins with the new birth and will be continued in heaven (I John 5:12, John 6:54)

17. When will God's people receive immortality? I Cor. 15:51-55

NOTE: Immortality means not subject to death. Jesus will give immortality to His people as a free gift at His second coming. Until then, no one but God has immortality.

SATAN'S HOAX ABOUT DEATH

18. What lie about death did Satan tell Eve? Gen. 3:4

NOTE: Satan said, "You won't really die if you disobey..." This is what Satan is still telling people today.

19. Why does Satan want people to believe that the dead are alive? Matt 24:24, Rev. 16:14

NOTE: Satan wants his angels to pose as spirit of the dead and deceive people!



20. What causes the fall of Babylon? Rev 18:2, 4, 5

NOTE: Satan has gained access to the churches through his falsehood that the dead are alive. This gives Satan full power to deceive (1Tim. 4:1).

21. What happens when evil angels deceive world leaders? _
(a) Rev. 18:23:

(b) Rev. 16:13-14:

NOTE: Satan's angels claiming to be the spirit of the dead will influence the rulers of the nation of the world and lead them into that final battle of Armageddon, which will end in their total destruction.

22. Where should I seek information about death? Is. 8:19-20

- (a) People should "seek unto their God."
(b) "If they speak not according to this word there is no light in them."

NOTE: This passage plainly states that we must refuse to listen to those who claim to speak for the dead. We are to receive our information from God's Word only.

23. Those who obey God will enter heaven. Who will not? Rev. 22:15

24. Does witchcraft claim to contact the dead? Eph 5:11

Yes!



God says, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness"

NOTE: I should stay as far away as possible from anything that in anyway resembles witchcraft. Presumed contact with the dead is contact with satanic forces.

WHAT WILL EVENTUALLY HAPPEN TO DEATH?

25. Why are the godly called blessed? Rev. 14:13

NOTE: It does not say they transfer their labours to heaven (No, their work is done!). Man simply sleeps in the grave till resurrection (Eccl. 9:10).

26. What finally happens to the curse of death? Rev. 20:14

NOTE: Death ends in the lake of fire. Then God says, "there shall be no more death." Oh, happy day! Rev. 21:4

27. When loved ones die, what is our comfort? I Thess. 4:15-18

NOTE: The Bible does not picture an immortal soul winging its way to heaven at death, neither does it present death as an open door to heaven. God's word always calls attention to the second coming of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead as the time of heavenly reward.



GOD'S GREAT PROMISE

28. What great power is promised to us today? Phil. 3:10

NOTE: What a power! What a joy to see friends and loved ones resurrected, who died believing in Jesus. Truly, the second coming of Jesus will be grand and glorious event for those who love and serve Him.

29. Do you see that your only hope of eternal life is in Jesus?

30. Are you determined to be among the obedient ones who are raised in the first resurrection?

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