

Death is the one certainty that we all face. Whether this seems a distant worry, or a much closer reality, God does offer a way out.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

The Bible teaches that God created the first man, Adam, out of the dust of the ground, and breathed life into him (Genesis 2:7).

Adam chose to disobey God and as a consequence became mortal, or dying. His body gradually declined until he breathed his last breath, and his body returned to the dust from which he was made (Genesis 3:17-19, Ecclesiastes 3:19-21). This is the same nature that all mankind has inherited (Romans 5:12, Job 34:14-15).

The Bible teaches that death is like sleep, with no memory, thoughts or feelings. The breath of life, which returns to God, is simply his spirit power. Our mind and thoughts die with our body (Psalm 104:29-30, Job 33:4).

*"The living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing... Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished..."*  
Ecclesiastes 9:5-10



**"You are dust and to dust you shall return"**

**Genesis 3:19**



*"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive"*  
1 Corinthians 15:20-23

## GOD'S PLAN

The finality of death is confronting. However, God is calling for people who want to live his way to share eternal life in his coming kingdom of peace and righteousness (2 Peter 3:9, Isaiah 2:2-4, 35:10, Psalm 72).

Unfortunately, like Adam, all of mankind has given into our inherent selfishness (James 1:13-15, Mark 7:21-23) and the result is the world we see around us, full of corruption and violence (James 4:1).

Even if we think that we are living 'good' lives, the reality is that we all fall far short of God's goodness (Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 3:23).

## JESUS' VICTORY

God loves us so much that he sent his son, Jesus, knowing he would be rejected and crucified, to show us his way, and his desire to forgive those who turn their hearts to live with the same kindness and compassion that he extends to us (Acts 2:22-24, 3: 17-26, 1 John 4: 9-11, Micah 6:8, Isaiah 45:22).

People filled with pride, anger and envy killed Jesus, but Jesus overcame these same temptations and instead showed God's goodness and love, even to the point of death (Luke 22:42, 23:34, John 4:34, Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22).

## RESURRECTION - OUR HOPE

God raised Jesus from the dead to eternal life (Acts 2:23-24, Philippians 2:8-11). The great power that Jesus now displayed was not to condemn the world which inflicted such pain and humiliation, but to proclaim his love and desire to forgive those who repent (John 3:17, Luke 24:46-47).

God invites us to show our repentance and commitment to him by associating ourselves with Christ's perfect example through baptism into his name. This is an act of faith in God's promise that he will forgive those who do so (Acts 2:38, John 3:14-17).

Jesus has ascended to be with his father in heaven until the appointed time when he will return as king (Acts 1:9-11). He will raise the dead, and gather the faithful to be part of his kingdom, free from sin and death (Daniel 12:2, John 5:26-28, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 51-54).

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*  
John 3:16