

jenaministries – Part 5 My Questions

1. What Happens When We Die?

What happens when we die? The big question we all want to know.

Now with technology, people who died and are brought back to life with a defibrillator (or other means) can tell their story. I've heard (on television shows, social media, & in person) that some people went straight to hell, and some went to heaven. Some just left their body and watched the doctors work on them. Some saw a light they were drawn to. And some didn't experience anything.

But what does the Bible say happens. Very vague hints and puzzles in the Bible, so maybe that's one of those things that the Lord doesn't want us to know just yet.

God does though make it perfectly clear that the only way to get to heaven is through Jesus Christ. We must be born again (in spirit) and make Jesus our Lord and allow Jesus to change us and lead us. We must have that personal connection with Jesus (**Scriptures 1 – Born Again Through Jesus**).

The Bible also talks a lot about judgement day (**Scriptures 2 – Judgement Day**). There will come a day when every person will stand before God and be judged.

Scriptures seem to suggest that maybe the ones who didn't have Jesus in their hearts will be judged on their sins and will not get to heaven. The ones who had Jesus in their heart will be judged on their good deeds and will go to heaven (**Scriptures 3 – Judge Dead & Reward Servants of Christ**). This suggests to me that there are levels in hell and heaven and that the judgement will be what level of heaven or hell you will go to for eternity. But it's not perfectly clear so that may be wrong.

The Bible also states that on the last day, the dead in Christ will rise from the grave (**Scriptures 4 – Dead in Christ Will Rise on Last Day**). That would suggest that we don't immediately go be with Jesus, but will rise to be with Jesus later on the last day.

That leads me to question what happens to us between the time we die and judgement day. There are several verses in the Bible (Old & New Testament) that describe the dead as fallen asleep (**Scriptures 5 – Dormant State of Sleep**). So, are we in a dormant state of sleep during that in-between time? It says in *Daniel 12:2* *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt*. The verse says "many of those who sleep", so does that suggest some people would just stay asleep?

Then it gets really confusing because there are verses that indicate going straight to be with Jesus (**Scriptures 6 – Straight to Hell or Heaven**). In Luke 16:19-28 Jesus tells the parable of the rich man and the beggar. The rich man seems to go straight to hell and sees the beggar in heaven. In Philippians 1:22-23 & 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, Paul seems to suggest we go straight to be with Jesus. I've heard a pastor explain that our spirit goes to heaven, and our bodies rise up on the last day. But that makes no sense to me either.

Like I said in the beginning of this article, the Bible gives hints & puzzles, so maybe that's one of those things that the Lord doesn't want us to know just yet. Or maybe our limited minds are just not capable of understanding.

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Scriptures 1. Born Again Through Jesus:

John 3:3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you?

John 10:9 (Jesus said) "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and out, and find pasture."

Luke 13:24-28 (Jesus said) "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out."

Matthew 7:22-23 (Jesus said) "Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons, and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

1 Peter 1:22-23 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Scriptures 2. Judgement Day:

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Daniel 7:9-10 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

Matthew 10:15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

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Scriptures 2. Judgement Day: continued

Matthew 12:36-37 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

John 5:27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

John 12:47-48 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Acts 17:30-31 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Romans 2:5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Romans 2:16 On that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Romans 14:12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

1 Peter 4:5 But they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

2 Peter 3:7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

1 John 4:17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

Revelation 11:18 The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

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Scriptures 3. Judge the Dead and Reward Servants of Christ:

Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

John 5:28-29 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Revelation 11:18 The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small— and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

Scriptures 4. Dead in Christ will Rise on Last Day:

Mark 12:24-27 Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?”

John 6:40 For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Scriptures 5. Dormant State of Sleep:

Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

1 Corinthians 15:19-21 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

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Scriptures 5. Dormant State of Sleep: continued

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Scriptures 6. Straight to Hell or Heaven:

Luke 16:19-28 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

2 Corinthians 5:6-9 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

Philippians 1:22-23 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

Revelation 7:9-14 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

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Scriptures 6. Straight to Hell or Heaven: continued

Revelation 20:4-6 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.