What Happens after Death?

Every person dies. Rich or poor, high or low, wise or simple. So what happens next?

Many people have been taught that you are born again into another body. Another person. Perhaps an animal. The wheel of births turns on and on.

Others say the soul at last unites into nothingness, like a drop of water into the sea.

Still others say death is simply the end.

But what does the Bible say?

You die once. Not many times. Once. Once only.

It is appointed that men die once, but after this they face the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)

You will not come back as someone else. You will not start over without memory. You will stand before God as yourself.

Neither will you disappear and simply vanish into non-existence.

The poor are often told they deserve their place for sin in their previous life. This is to forget that after this life we have a meeting with a holy God who forgives in Jesus, or punishes the sinner.

The dead will be raised. The Bible speaks of resurrection, a real resurrection of you personally, not a vague spirit or someone you don't remember. Jesus said:

> "The hour is coming, in which all who are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth." (John 5:28-29)

Some will rise to life. Some will rise to judgment. God has given proof. He raised Jesus from the dead.

Paul said God "has appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has appointed; of this he has given proof to all men, in that he has raised him from the dead." (Acts 17:31)

This man is Jesus.

You will not dissolve. God did not make you to melt into nothing. He made you to know Him:

> "And this is life eternal, that they might know you—the only true God—and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3)

The opposite is not a quiet sleep. It is to be shut out from the presence of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

Death is not the end. When you bury a father, the house is quiet. But quiet is not the last word. Jesus stood at a tomb and said:

> "I am the resurrection, and the life: he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)

Then He called a dead man out of that tomb. Read of it in John 11:43-44.

Believe in Jesus—repent of your sins—be baptized into Jesus for their forgiveness. (Acts 2:37-38)

Conclusion:

The real question is, "Am I ready to meet the Judge?"

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