



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

Hebrews 9:27-28

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Popular views on what happens after death

- 1) Universalism: Everyone will be saved in the end.
- 2) Reincarnation/Rebirth: The rebirth of a soul in a new body (human or animal).
#Karma

Karma and reincarnation:

1. There is no way to gauge it.
 2. There are no assurances.
 3. There are no specific prescriptions: just one mistake could cause hundreds of rebirths as a cockroach.
 4. Suffering is the only way to “work off” bad karma.
- 3) Islamic ‘scales of justice’: Qur’an 23:102-103 “And those whose scales are heavy [with good deeds] - it is they who are the successful. But those whose scales are light - those are the ones who have lost their souls, [being] in Hell, abiding eternally.”
- 4) Purgatory/Limbo: “purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven,” which is experienced by those “who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified” (CCC 1030). It notes that “this final purification of the elect . . . is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC 1031).”

The problem here is that Christ is not a complete Savior: He’s an Assister/Helper/Co-worker/Partner.

- 5) Annihilationism: the lost cease to exist when they die or at a certain point after death.

Philippians 3:19

*Their end is **destruction**, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.*

1 Thessalonians 5:3

*While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden **destruction** will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

2 Thessalonians 2:9

*They will suffer the punishment of eternal **destruction**, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*

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.*

This view arises from a misunderstanding of the Greek word *apollumi*, which means 'destruction/ruin' rather than 'cease to exist.'¹

What does Jesus teach about what happens after death?

- Heaven or hell: No second chances.

Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

Action Points:

- 1) Shift your perspective from temporal to eternal.
- 2) Have you repented of your sins and placed your faith in Jesus?

If you died today, where would you go? Why do you think that? Is there evidence in your life of a genuine heart change?

- 3) Have you followed Jesus in believer's baptism?
- 4) Make a list of people you know who need Christ.
- 5) Develop an action plan to share the Gospel with them and/or bring them to hear the Gospel.

¹Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press: Zondervan, 2004), 1151.