

The Afterlife Reality

**40 Human Characteristics
We Will Experience in Eternity**



J. Michael Hargrave

Validated by Isaiah, Jesus and John

*For I know the One in whom I have placed my
confidence, and I am perfectly certain that the work He
has committed to me is safe in His hands until that day.*

2 Timothy 1:12 J.B. Phillips Translation

To Deborah, my wife and heartbeat

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Printed in the United States of America.

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Introduction

Who is on the other side?

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You are a Christian, and don't know what's on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped onto the doctor with excitement.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "My dog has never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he came in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."¹

The doctor diagnosed the main thing...who is on the other side. Our Master is there! However, the doctor did not research what is on the other side. The world speculates what happens after we die. God's Word reveals it. We can determine the reality of the afterlife by analyzing the testimony of those who have been to the other side!

¹ <http://www.spiritualgrowthevents.com>

Introduction

Preface

Everyone dies, but no one really dies! Death is the process through which our human inner being becomes our eternal being. Death is the conclusion of the temporary and the beginning of forever.

The 2024 Olympics remind us the human spirit cannot be measured. It also cannot become extinct. God is spirit and humans are created in His image. Like our Creator, our spirit is eternal.

Something definitively happens to all who die. Our spirit (one's personality, beliefs, and identity) survives our demise. We continue to live and function after death with many of the same characteristics as the physical body. The Bible provides evidence of forty physical attributes our afterlife spiritual body will possess and confirms the eternal existence of the spirit and its characteristics.

It is the hope and purpose of this treatise to alleviate the reader's concerns regarding the "mysteries of death". Once you understand what is on the other side of this life, your fear will dissipate and be replaced with anticipation.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me. Psalm 23:4

Our present life on planet Earth might have greater meaning and happiness if we knew that our afterlife has many of the same qualities such as the five senses, memory, recognition of others and critical thinking skills. These characteristics are invaluable to our daily existence here, and beyond.

Why we must be preoccupied with the Afterlife...



An 8x12" hourglass holds approximately one cup of sand. There are 2,808 cups of sand in one ton of sand. Scientists estimate there are approximately 30 billion tons of sand on this planet. - The Knowledge Hub

The projected length of time to siphon all Earth's sand through an hourglass is equivalent to one second in eternity.

If there is a remote chance that you will die someday, packing your suitcase for your existence through infinity should become your #1 priority. If you live to be 100 years old on this planet, it is a mere blip on eternity's radar.

The Bible is the most important book in human literature because it reveals the creation, purpose and destination of all humanity. The Afterlife Reality investigates the scriptural clues as to who, what, when, where, why and how we will be as we travel through infinity.

This is Groundbreaking Research as you will discover minimal information is found on the internet, media or in literature. It is only detailed in the Bible. The reader's quest is to determine the validity of the Bible's clues. If the evidence is valid, our existence in the afterlife will be our reality. We can see the butterfly while it is still a caterpillar.

Introduction

Hypothesis: a proposed explanation made based on limited evidence as a starting point for further investigation.²

Our hypothesis: Our form, substance and appearance comprising who we are on Earth transfers to a similar form, substance and appearance in our afterlife experience.

Evidence is provided by three biblical witnesses as to who, what, when, where, why and how we will exist in eternity.

- Who will we be on the other side of this life?

Our inner person will be the same.

- What functions will we be able to do?

Many of our same human characteristics transfer with us from here to there.

- When will this transformation take place?

At our physical death (separation of our spirit from our body) or if Jesus returns during our lifetime.

- Where will we exist during infinity?

God determines our destination based on our beliefs, deeds and behaviors.

- Why will we exist in eternity?

Being made in God's image on Earth, humans are eternal by nature and design. We can't avoid eternity.

- How will we exist?

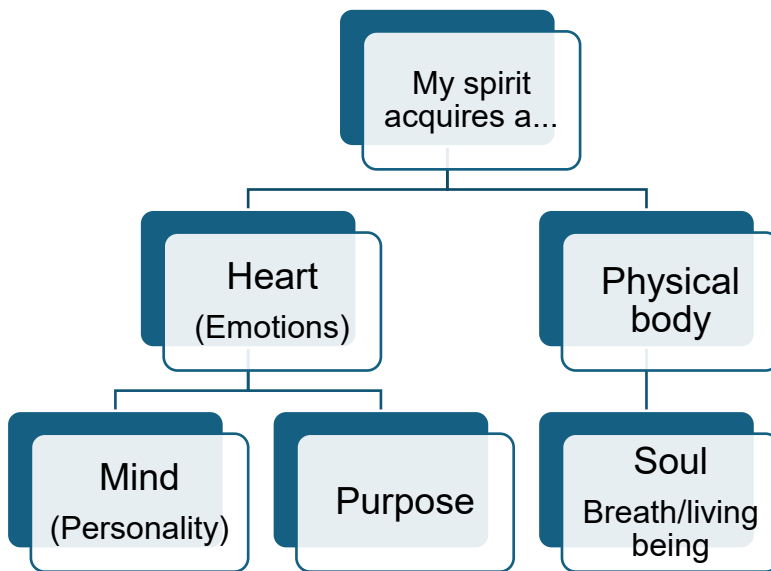
Many of Earth's components exist in the afterlife, i.e., plants, water, rivers, trees, food and animals.

² Data from Oxford Languages: Hypothesis: Noun

The Afterlife Reality

Who am I?

I am a human being created by the Family of God.
I am a spiritual being having a human experience. When my eternal spirit is deployed and delivered into my human body my personality, mind, heart (emotions), soul (breath), strength and purpose develop.



It is human nature to focus on the external body rather than the unseen, eternal components. Our inner being is eternal. Our physical body is temporary. We focus on what other people say about the way we look instead of prioritizing how God sees our heart, mind and spirit. We are not the skin we wear. Our spirit exists before and after we enter or depart from our Earthly body.

Introduction

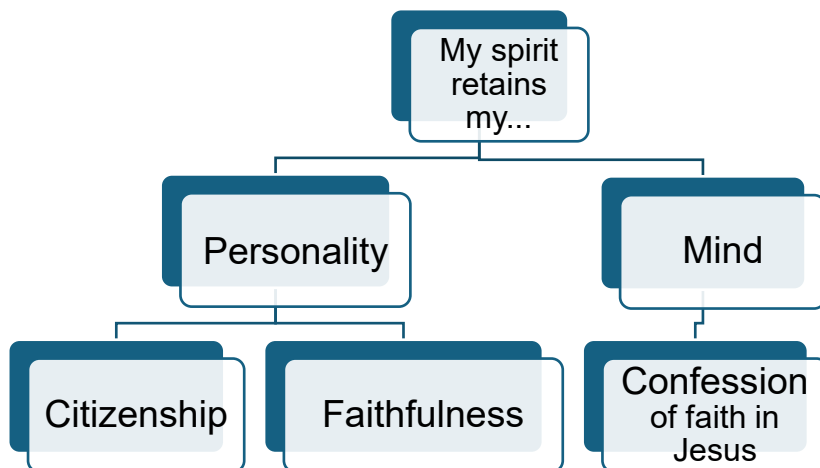
Who will I be in the afterlife?

My inner being is my eternal being!

When I die my physical body and breath (soul) cease to function. My body is buried, cremated, vaporized, or lost at sea. My spirit, heart and mind continue to thrive.

Seventeen of my spiritual/mental and emotional attributes sequence with my spiritual inner being into the afterlife. Jesus and John confirmed there are three acts the faithful do on Earth that surface in Heaven: our faithfulness, our confession of faith in Jesus and our citizenship.

When I die...



The Extended Warrantee

Twenty-three physical human components also transfer with my spirit.

The Target: set your sights on Realities

There will be predictable pushback from family, friends and skeptics who conclude: “No one knows what happens to us when we die!” “We don’t even know if there is an afterlife.” Wrong is wrong even though everyone believes it. Right is right even though no one believes it.

Only the Creator of the Universe, who chose to come to Earth and sacrifice His human life, knows for certain what happens after death and beyond as He resurrected from the dead, shared what is on the other side, and did not die a second time. Jesus is the one who informs us what life is like when our body dies, and our spirit leaves Earth.

The prophet Isaiah and Apostle John were briefly permitted by the Lord to witness life around God’s throne and document their experience. Combined with Jesus’ testimony, we are invited to peek into the afterlife.

The Apostle Paul encouraged us...

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ,
set your sights on the realities of heaven, where
Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand.*

Colossians 3:1 NLT

Who I was and who I am here, is who I will be there. Many of my physical, mental, emotional capabilities as a human transfer to a spiritual, immortal body.

Revealed in the Bible, discover for yourself...

The 40 human characteristics
that transfer with you after you die!

Introduction

“We delight in the beauty of the butterfly but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.”

Maya Angelou

The Afterlife Reality

Chapter One



Transformation

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good, acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

The Afterlife Reality

Do not be conformed to this world...

Dear Chance:

I cannot adequately thank you for leaving your job in Las Vegas to attend mom's affairs in Florida after her stroke. In two months, you successfully sold her home, navigated legalities and situated her in a comfortable facility.

If the timing had been different perhaps your wife would have noticed the quickly growing mole on your back. After you returned home a dermatologist's biopsy revealed stage four melanoma. Your oncologist removed the mole and shared with you the stats. The five-year survival rate for stage four is 15%-52% depending on the treatment and extent of the spread.

How quickly the course of life changes! You are now focused on getting your own affairs in order. Most folks in a similar life-threatening situation deny the threat, become angry, depressed, consult various medical, religious, homeopathic remedies or fall off the grid. You are struggling with accepting the hand you have been dealt with. You are not alone.

With all the discord in our country and around the world, anyone anywhere could die at any moment. "May the odds always be in your favor"³ is not an actuality as life is unpredictable and often unfair. So many live with the deck stacked against them while others blissfully ignore reality.

³ Wikipedia: The Hunger Games is a series of young adult dystopian novels written by American author Suzanne Collins.

Transformation

Life is built on our predisposition for betting on the outcome of events. However, the deck is stacked, and realities are often outside our sphere of influence with genetics, wars, famine, drought and accidents, determining whether we die suddenly, or live a long or short life.

There are no guarantees in life...only the inevitability that we all will die. Death is a passage to a destination of one's choice. The fulfillment of our purpose in this life is a precursor to one's port of call in the afterlife.

Life is more than a roll of the dice. It is composed of beliefs, behaviors and choices. Chances are a limited component. Most people never consider the possibilities. If there is an afterlife, isn't it rational to expect everyone would want to bet on the safest and best odds?

The biggest gamble of our life is usually discarded as the least important...knowing what happens to us after we die. Everyone gambles with their destiny because death is no discriminator of persons. The stakes cannot be higher to get the bet right.

So, Chance: You've had time to contemplate what will take place upon your death. I've done the research and compiled my conclusions in this book. Now is your opportunity to do the homework, scan the players and your cards. It is the moment to place your bet. Choose wisely!

Your loving sister,

Zoe

Two theories of what happens to me after I die

Is our life here all there is? This is the beguiling question that has intrigued generations since the beginning of time. The world's greatest philosophers, scientists, theorists, medical doctors, religions and royalty of all generations have concluded that "no one knows for certain". However, speculation abounds. Everyone has a hypothesis as to what happens after death.

Various religions offer theories of what transpires after death. Verify their claims and after examining their evidence determine which is more sustainable. After all, eternity is too long to be wrong!

In general terms, there are two concepts of what happens to an individual who dies:

1. Nothing happens. When I die, I cease to exist.

If death equates with extinction, one's life on Earth has no meaning, significance, purpose, accountability or continuance. Our imbedded sense of justice and conscience cannot accept those who do evil, escape retribution, and experience no consequences. Adolph Hitler was responsible for 60 million deaths and committed suicide without penalty. Our moral equilibrium demands justice!

"Even many die-hard rationalists are reluctant to imagine death is a final ending. All that time, complexity and experience—for nothing? It would seem such a cosmic waste."⁴

⁴ Jennings, Ken, 100 Places to See After You Die: A Travel Guide to the Afterlife, Scribner, 2023, p. 10.

Transformation

2. Something happens. The dead may...

- Become ghosts without bodies wandering the Earth as formless, lifeless shadows disconnected from humans; or zombie corpses without spirits who feed on humans.
- Be Reincarnated...also known as transmigration or rebirth. This is the philosophical or religious concept that the non-physical essence of a living being begins a new lifespan in a different physical form or body after biological death.⁵ This may be a lower or higher life form.
- Reside in a temporary or intermediate state for purifying or purging. Purgatory originated in 1160-1180 A.D. as a doctrine in the Roman Catholic Church. Those in Club Dead wait in Purgatory, Sheol, Gehenna and other locations of the netherworld for judgment or intervention. The dead housed within may or may not be conscious.
- Transition to Heaven, Paradise, Nirvana, Elysian Fields, Valhalla, or a comparable facsimile.
- Be confined to Hell or some similar place of torment.
- Go to sleep. The spirits of believers are unconscious and inactive. They “rest in peace.”
- Be conscious and active. The dead experience forty human characteristics.

Since your afterlife depends upon which theory, concept, philosophy, or religion is true; then it is logical where you spend eternity hinges on your roll of the dice.

⁵ Wikipedia, Reincarnation

The Biblical Perspective of “Death”

At our final breath when brain waves cease to exist, only the physical body perishes. Humans attempt to decipher afterlife outcomes ignoring their Creator's blueprints. That error cheats people from realizing that their SPIRIT NEVER DIES. The spirit and personality of the individual separates from the body at death and only the body decays.

The Old Testament Concept

Genesis 2:17

“For in the day that you eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall surely (Heb: mowet) die (tamut).”

The two Hebrew words, mowet and tamut, describe the two-fold process of what happens upon death. “Mowet” means “die”. It is incorrectly translated “surely”. “Tamut” also means “die”. The correct translation of “mowet tamut” is you shall “die, die” ... “a double death” ... separation from God and the human body.

In the Garden of Eden, the Creator offered mankind the choice to obey or disobey. The penalty of choosing to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was a double separation of one's spirit. Death is...

1. The separation of one's spirit from the human body.
2. The separation of one's spirit from God and Tree of Life.

When a person died in the Old Testament, the spirit detached from the human body and migrated to an afterlife location prepared for departed spirits: Sheol. It was the realm of the dead, sometimes mistranslated as “the grave”. Sheol was the hotel for departed spirits.

Transformation

The New Testament concept of death

The Greek word for “death” is “thanatos”. It means “separation”, not “destruction” or “annihilation”. The New and Old Testament concepts are the same. Thanatos is:

1. The separation of the spirit from the physical body.⁶

When the body ceases to function, it decays and turns to dust.

“Death”, the one who separates us from our body and from God is a named person as well as a process. He cannot extinguish an individual’s spirit.

I looked and an ashen horse and he who sat on it had the name Death (Thanatos)... Revelation 6:8

“Death (Thanatos) where is your victory? Death where is your sting? For the sting of death is sin...” I Cor. 15:55

Another Greek word for “dead” is “nekros”. “It denotes a body that is ‘lifeless’ and conveys the meaning of a dead body, a corpse.⁷ It is used at the “death of the body”⁸, not the spirit.

2. The separation of humans from God spiritually.

We experience separation of our spirit from God when we choose to sin. Death is the consequence of our sin which disconnects our spirit from God.⁹ The spirit continues to exist in two locations: (1) Hades, or (2) Heaven.

⁶ W.E. Vine, Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament words. Thomas Nelson Inc., 1996. P. 149.

⁷ Strong’s Concordance, 3498.

⁸ Vine, Dictionary, 148.

⁹ W.E. Vine, p. 149.

When my spirit separates from my dying body I will be...

Transformed: The Greek word for “transformed” or “transfigured” is “metamorphosis”, a change in form, appearance or character. Matthew 17:2; Romans 12:2

We shall be changed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

I Corinthians 15:53 NLT

Transformation is a “changing out of our old clothes and putting on and dressing in new ones.” Our old clothing is removed and replaced with new eternal garments. Our inner person changes clothes but remains the same.

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.

We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.

For we will put on heavenly bodies, we will not be spirits without bodies.

While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.

2 Corinthians 5:1-4 NLT

Our physical body is exchanged for a new spiritual body. The perishable must change into the imperishable. The mortal body must put on immortality. Death in this life is the changing room to the next life. This is a natural process.

Transformation

The change of appearance was demonstrated by Jesus.

At Jesus' transfiguration Peter, James and John witnessed Jesus' metamorphosis: a complete change of form or appearance into a different state.

And Jesus was transfigured (Gk: metemorphothe) before them; and His face shone like the sun and His garments became as white as light. And Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Matthew 17:2-3

Jesus' metamorphosis was instantaneous. His transformation maintained human qualities that morphed into a different, but recognizable form.

"His face became different" (Gk: heteron). Luke 9:29

Moses and Elijah were not transfigured but appeared in "glory" or splendor. Luke 9:31

Mark noted Jesus' form as he joined the two disciples travelling to Emmaus after His resurrection. He appeared in a "different form" (Greek: hetera morphe). Specifically, Jesus' transfiguration countenance (Gk: metamorphe) was the same as his resurrection form. Mark 9:2; 16:12

Metamorphosis is a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means. A caterpillar morphs into a butterfly in a slow process requiring weeks of change.

Children play with Transformers¹⁰, toys that can change appearance from a vehicle to a robot, retaining their original components. Metamorphosis from the physical body into the spiritual body is a natural and immediate change.

¹⁰ Transformer toys are made by Hasbro and Takara Tomy.

The Incomplete Metamorphosis of the Dragonfly

“Before it becomes a dragonfly, a little bug called a nymph, spends most of its life underwater. Its world is a lake. It feeds on mosquito larvae, tadpoles, and small fish. It has no knowledge of birds, sunshine, trees, or flowers.”

“At some point something internally motivates the nymph to make its way upward on a reed or weed and ascend toward the water’s surface. This usually happens at night. The transformation begins. It remains stationary with its head out of the water, while its respiration system adapts to breathing air. Anchoring itself firmly in a vertical position with its claws, its skin begins to split at a weak spot behind the head. The adult dragonfly crawls out of its larval skin.”¹¹

A beautiful flying creature emerges that is completely different from the nymph’s profile. It freely flies above the waters of its previous existence. The dragonfly has beautiful colors. It is a stunning contrast to its previous reality. It thrives in a completely new dimension and becomes one of the extraordinary mysteries of God’s creation.

Most humans perceive death as the closing curtain on the stage. The Bible reveals that death is the curtain opening on the main stage for the main act. Death is not the end but is the open door to return home again. It is not an end to life, but a transformation into continued life.

Our spirit, identity and personality remain the same. Only our bodies change from mortality to immortality. God is the one who changes us. The characteristics, qualities, and attributes of our being we utilize here, are also functional in the hereafter. We pack our suitcases here and unpack there.

¹¹ Wikipedia “Dragonfly”

Transformation

Our spirit Transitions after we die.

Our spirit segues out of our physical, mortal house into our everlasting, immortal home.

“That point of life you feared most—the death of your earthly body—will suddenly free you in a way you never anticipated. You’ll feel alive! In fact, so alive that you will have to adjust. You will still have a body—arms, legs, fingers, and toes—but something will be different. An upgrade!”¹²

Forty human experience characteristics transition into our immortal body and are validated by the Prophet Isaiah, Jesus, and the Apostle John. The fusion of 40 of our human abilities into our spiritual, incorruptible body should inspire joy, rather than dread, regarding our transition.

The Common Denominators...

Heaven is the common venue for all three witnesses. Isaiah and John were present in the Lord’s throne room!

Jesus is the common denominator as He was present during Isaiah’s experience and commission and personally communicated the Apocalypse to John. He revealed the afterlife reality of the rich man and Lazarus. He is the only one who has physically conquered death, resurrected, ascended into Heaven and promised to return. If the resurrection of Jesus is a historical fact, death is no longer a finality! Three witnesses provide evidence in Scripture.

¹² John Burke, What’s After Life? Evidence from the New York Times bestselling book: Imagine Heaven. Baker Books, 2019 p. 30.

The Afterlife Reality

Chapter Two



Three Sources of Direct Evidence

The Prophet Isaiah

Jesus

The Apostle John

1. Isaiah's DNA in Heaven.

This prophet of God recorded his vision of the Lord (Adonai) and heavenly beings in Heaven's temple. Note the physical abilities revealed in the spiritual realm.

¹In the year of King Uzziah's death, (740 B.C.) I saw the Lord (Adonai) sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ²Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. ⁵Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:1-8

There was no throne in Jerusalem's temple. Isaiah's experience happened in Heaven's temple, not Jerusalem's temple. Revelation 11:19; 15:5

Isaiah indicated human qualities in the presence of Adonai ("Lord"). This is probably Jesus, however, "Us" is plural and includes the Father and Holy Spirit: The Family of God. Genesis 1:26; 11:7

Three Sources of Evidence

Isaiah was transported into the presence of God. He described thirteen human abilities during His heavenly experience. Isaiah was able to:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| • Identify spiritual beings. | 2 |
| • See. | 5 |
| • Remember life on Earth. | 5 |
| • Identify physical traits. | 7 |
| • Touch. | 7 |
| • Experience forgiveness. | 7 |
| • Experience pain. | 7 |
| • Smell. | 7 |
| • Maneuver. | 8 |
| • Speak. | 8 |
| • Hear. | 8 |
| • Communicate. | 8 |
| • Reason. | 8 |

Isaiah's vision was not a hallucination. His physical abilities during his vision of the throne of God cannot be excluded or ignored. He noted spiritual beings possess a face, feet, can fly and call out to one another. Isaiah's human characteristics in the presence of the Lord were relevant to his interaction in Heaven with its inhabitants. They provide insight as to the viability of God's acceptance and validation of our physical attributes in His presence...the spiritual realm. The physical morphed with the eternal.

Isaiah's valid experience and commitment in Heaven qualified him to expose in phenomenal detail the life, sufferings, servanthood and death of the Messiah 740 years before Jesus' birth. Extraordinary encounters lead to exceptional and prolific insights.

2. Jesus' narrative of an afterlife reality.

Doctor Luke recorded an account provided by Jesus of the actual circumstances of the deceased. Only the Creator of the Universe would know their condition. Most scholars describe this as a parable... what if it isn't?

¹⁹ "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, enjoying himself in splendor every day. ²⁰ And a poor man named **Lazarus** was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹ and longing to be fed from the scraps which fell from the rich man's table; not only that, the dogs also were coming and licking his sores. ²² Now it happened that the poor man died and **was carried away by the angels to Abraham's arms**; and the rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And in Hades he raised his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his arms. ²⁴ And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you **a great chasm** has been set, so that those who want to go over from here to you will not be able, nor will any people cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ And he said, 'Then I request of you, father, that you send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not come to this place of torment as well.' ²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' ³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'" Luke 16:19-31 NASB, 2020

Three Sources of Evidence

Jesus' Narrative is NOT a "parable"!

Luke did not call it a parable. Granted, Jesus' story is embedded among other parables in Luke's account. If a baseball is placed in a basket of apples, the baseball doesn't become edible or qualify as a fruit. Luke introduced many of Jesus stories with: "He told them a parable," but not in this account. The lack of the term "parable" and the specifics of the names and locations are evidence Jesus was referring to viable individuals and locations.

Jesus did not identify His account as a parable. His narrative is unique in Biblical and secular literature.

- This is the only story in which Jesus referred to an individual by name: Lazarus (Hebrew: God has helped). He is not to be confused with Jesus' wealthy friend Lazarus who was resurrected. John 11:1-45
- This is the only Biblical reference to "Abraham's Bosom".
- This is the only reference to "a great chasm" separating two afterlife realms.
- Jesus clarified; the poor man was "carried away by the angels" to an afterlife destination. No other writer makes this assertion! Jesus is the only source.

Theologians assume Jesus' narrative was a parable... an Earthly story with a Heavenly meaning.

If these were not actual people and places, then Jesus was a liar or delusional.

Afterlife human qualities identified in Jesus' account

Before Jesus' resurrection, there were two afterlife destinations for all human beings of all eras and nations: the unfaithful were consigned to Hades and the faithful to Abraham's Bosom. Jesus' stunning narrative reveals the realities of our physical abilities within spiritual dimensions. Club Dead residents profiled seventeen physical and mental capabilities.

Hades (Hebrew: Sheol), the Underworld

Upon death those who rejected God during their lifetime on Earth arrived in Hades. They could **Physically**:

- See. 23
- Hear. 24
- Communicate. 24
- Touch. 24
- Taste. 24
- Smell. 24
- Speak. 24
- Identify physical traits. 24
- Experience pain. 25
- Maneuver with dexterity. 26

Residents in Hades could **Cognitively**:

- Recognize individuals. 23
- Identify spiritual beings. 23
- Understand limitations. 26
- Reason. 27
- Remember family. 27
- Remember their previous Earthly life. 28
- Think analytically. 30

Three Sources of Evidence

Abraham's Arms (side, chest, lap, Paradise).

Jesus called this place "Paradise" during His crucifixion. Lazarus was carried to Abraham's arms by angels. Seventeen human qualities, identical to those experienced in Hades, existed in this place. The residents protected by Abraham's Chest could **Physically**:

- Maneuver with dexterity. 22
- See. 24
- Touch. 24
- Taste. 24
- Access Water. 24
- Identify physical traits. 24
- Communicate. 25
- Speak. 25
- Experience comfort. 25
- Hear. 27

Residents could **Cognitively**:

- Recognize individuals. 25
- Remember their previous Earthly life. 25
- Understand limitations. 26
- Reason. 28
- Remember family lifestyles. 30
- Think analytically. 31
- Identify spiritual beings. 31

In comparison, those in Hades possessed a sense of smell, but not in Abraham's side. Residents there had access to water, but Hades was waterless. The rich man assumed Lazarus would remember his family and volunteer to return to Earth. The text does not confirm this.

Abraham was aware of progressive Earthly events

Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." Luke 16:29

Abraham likely predated all inhabitants in the afterlife who rested in his arms (bosom). Moses lived approximately 500 years after Abraham's death and Isaiah 1300 years. As residents by Abraham's side, they had ample opportunities to discuss the events of their lives. As more prophets and the faithful took up residency, Abraham undoubtedly learned of the exploits of Samuel, David, Ruth, Deborah, Esther, Isaiah and many others. Abraham was aware of these heroes of faith and their Earthly track records.

Abraham possessed the case files of the rich man, who lived in Hades, as well as Lazarus. It is possible Abraham was aware of everyone's former life on Earth. Though separated by a great chasm, Abraham possessed the resumes of all in Club Dead.

Abraham was aware the dead could be resurrected.

Abraham knew about the feasibility of resurrecting the dead. The raising of the widow's son in Zarephath would be common knowledge among the celestial population upon Elijah's death and arrival in Abram's Side. I Kings 17:17-24

Abram would have been familiar with the resurrection of the Shunamite woman's son by Elisha. 2 Kings 4:18-37

If we believe Jesus is the Lord of the living and the dead, then logically we must believe He provided a current window into the afterlife realities during His ministry.

Three Sources of Evidence

How will we be recognized?

The question is often asked, “How old will my spiritual body be in the afterlife?” Scripture does not specifically answer this query.

Baptist Pastor Don Piper was pronounced dead by paramedics after a car accident. In his book, he relates what he experienced in Heaven. Regarding people he met: “They looked exactly as I once knew them--although they were more radiant and joyful than they’d been on Earth.”

“As I stared at my great grandmother’s beaming face, I sensed that age has no meaning in Heaven. All the people I encountered were the same age they had been the last time I had seen them, except that all the ravages of living on earth had vanished. In Heaven every feature was perfect, beautiful and wonderful to gaze at.”¹³

Others inquire: “Will aborted, miscarried, still-born, deceased infants and children age in the afterlife?”

Isaiah, Jesus and John do not exclude these souls from the benefits of the immortal spiritual body. Psalm 139:13-18 provides comfort and insight. Anecdotally, eight-year-old Colton Burpo was hugged and spoke with his unknown, unnamed, miscarried, older sister in Heaven. He also described to his parents his great-grandfather who had died 30 years before his birth.¹⁴

¹³ 90 Minutes in Heaven, A True Story of Death and Life by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey, Revell, 2014, p. 39.

¹⁴ Heaven is for Real, Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent, 2010.

3. John's DNA and Fingerprints in Heaven.

The Apostle John was the Vigilant servant of the Lord! In the Book of Revelation, he described 36 human functions that transfer to our Heavenly spiritual body. John's GPS was the Island of Patmos. However, he was "in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" when he was commissioned to write a book. He was in the presence of "a son of man" and angels, proof he was present in Heaven. Revelation 1:9-19

Jesus commissioned John to record Heavenly events, characters, and human attributes in the spiritual context. John depicted **Twenty-three Physical** abilities in Heaven:

- Write. 1:11
- Identify physical traits. 1:14
- Touch. 1:17
- See. 4:1
- Maneuver. 4:10
- Identify objects. 5:8
- Communicate. 6:9
- Speak. 6:10
- Elevate voice level. 6:10
- Wear white linen. 6:11
- Hands holding palm branches. 7:9
- Eat. 10:10
- Taste. 10:10
- Wear a mark on the forehead. 14:1
- Enjoy music. 14:2
- Sing. 14:3
- Rest. 14:13
- Smell. 15:8
- Attend a marriage supper. 19:9

Three Sources of Evidence

Physical Aspects in Revelation continued...

- Sit, stand and fall. 20:12
- Experience comfort 21:4
- Access water. 21:6
- Hear. 22:17

John unveiled **Thirteen Cognitive** abilities in Heaven.

- Identify spirit beings. 4:3
- Make comparisons. 4:6-7
- Worship. 4:10
- Remember those on Earth. 6:10
- Request justice. 6:10
- Distinguish silence from noise. 8:1
- Measure the concept of space and time. 8:1
- Understand limitations. 10:4
- Think analytically. 13:18
- Receive justice. 18:20
- Reign with Christ. 20:4
- Measure dimensions and use numbers. 21:17
- Reason. 22:11

In Heaven, John perceived human qualities evident in the spiritual realm. The Apocalypse confirms that who we are on Earth is basically who we are in the afterlife minus our physical body.

For now, we look in a mirror dimly but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. I Corinthians 13:12

The Afterlife Reality

The Combined Afterlife Human Qualities

The testimonies of Isaiah, Jesus and John indicate a person's spiritual body is conscious in the afterlife and possesses many of the same physical and mental attributes as the human body.

What is the afterlife reality? The transition from mortality to immortality will include 40 human qualities.

23 Physical Human abilities extended in the Afterlife

	Isaiah	Hades	Abe's Side	John
See	X	X	X	X
Touch	X	X	X	X
Smell	X	X		X
Taste		X	X	X
Hear	X	X	X	X
Enjoy Music				X
Sing				X
Elevate voice				X
Communicate	X	X	X	X
Speak	X	X	X	X
Maneuver/mobility	X	X	X	X
Sit, stand and fall				X
Human traits	X	X	X	X
Pain or comfort	X	X	X	X
Eat				X
Attend a marriage supper				X
Access water			X	X
Hold objects in hands			X	X
Write				X
Wear clothes				X
Wear a forehead mark				X
Rest				X
Temperature variety	X	X	X	X

Three Sources of Evidence

17 Cognitive Human abilities transfer in the Afterlife

(Brain-based skills and mental processes)

	Isaiah	Hades	Abe's Side	John
Recognize people		X	X	
Identify spiritual beings	X	X	X	X
Remember Earthly life	X	X	X	X
Remember family		X	X	
Think analytically	X	X		X
Reason	X	X	X	X
Make comparisons			X	X
Measure dimensions				X
Measure time				X
Distinguish silence				X
Identify objects	X	X	X	X
Understand limitations		X	X	X
Request justice				X
Receive justice		X	X	X
Forgiveness	X			
Reign with Christ				X
Worship				X

Not all abilities fit into one category (physical or mental) exclusively. Some transcend depending on the situation. Recognizing family members is both a physical and mental/emotional component.

“We won’t lose our Earthly identity; it will finally be known to us fully. We won’t lose our humor, our personality, our looks, our emotions, our history, or our memories. We will finally be fully ourselves—without all the confusion and wounds and lies that cloud our true identity in this life.”¹⁵

¹⁵ Ibid. John Burke, What's After Life? P. 32.

The Afterlife Reality

Chapter Three



Scriptural evidence my Physical characteristics transfer to the afterlife

Authenticated by Isaiah, Jesus and John

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ,
set your sights on the realities of Heaven,
where Christ sits in the place of honor
at God's right hand.*

Colossians 3:1 NLT

1. The ability to See is an afterlife reality.

The sense of sight is present in Heaven. Isaiah saw the Lord, Heavenly residents, and spectacular views.

For my eyes have seen the Lord of hosts. Isaiah 6:5

The ability to see is also present in Hades. Those in this spiritual habitat have eyes. The rich man could identify Abraham and Lazarus from a distance.

“In Hades the rich man lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.”

Luke 16:23

John testified to everything he saw. He was a witness of past, present and future events in Heaven and Earth. He observed myriads of personalities. He saw with his physical eyes Jesus, God, multitudes of angels, and martyrs in Heaven. John saw four living creatures in the center and around the throne of God, full of eyes in front, behind, around and within. The ability to see with the eyes allows the deceased to visualize eternal beings and events.

“I looked and saw a door standing open in heaven...” 4:1

The ability to see is an afterlife endowment. For John, vision was also a front-row seat to view the ravages of evil. He saw Satan and his henchmen, judgment and the Lake of Fire. In all the eras of history in all the nations of the world, nothing will be more disheartening than to witness the destiny of those who follow the Devil's deception. Many of the realities of this life are the same as the actualities in the afterlife.

Scriptural Evidence

Set your sights on the realities of Heaven.

Using our “Sanctified Imaginators”, our life here would be enhanced abundantly by peering into our future beyond the constraints of this world: seeing Jesus sitting on His throne surrounded by heavenly beings, observing the magnificence of God’s dwelling place... it will take eternity to absorb it all!

The first person blind Bartimaeus saw after his miraculous healing was Jesus. When the blind faithful on Earth die, they will see Jesus, Heaven’s features and the saints around them. This is the definition of exhilaration!

Fanny Crosby, an American poet, was born blind but throughout her life of 94 years, dictated more than 5,500 hymns. Among them, “Praise Him, Praise Him”; “Rescue the Perishing”; “To God be the Glory”; and “Blessed assurance”. In her words:

“I could not have written thousands of hymns if I had been hindered by the distractions of seeing all of the beautiful objects that would have been presented to my notice. If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind... for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Savior.”

Set your frights on the realities of Hades.

There are no blind residents in Hades. Seeing is a fixture of the afterlife on both sides of the aisle. The ability to see in the Halls of Hades is an eternal handicap. There is no darkness in Hades and no sunglasses in the Lake of Fire.

2. The sense of Touch is an afterlife reality.

The ability to touch and feel with one's hands is an endearing theme in the afterlife. One of the seraphim "touched" Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal from the altar with the reassuring words, "your sin is forgiven."

He touched my mouth and said, "This has touched your lips..." Isaiah 6:6-7

In Hades, the rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus across the great chasm to touch and relieve his agonized tongue with water. This is the paramount picture of the importance and impact of the sense of touch.

"So that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue." Luke 16:22,24

Hands play a significant role in the future extension of life in the hereafter. The son of man placed his right hand on John. Through the extension of a compassionate touch, fear, suffering, anger, and a myriad of tribulations can be alleviated here and on the other side. Jesus' touch paired with his soothing words, "Do not be afraid", are the combination which gave John strength to endure the challenges before him.

He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid: I am the first and the last." Revelation 1:17

When our hearts are touched and stirred to action through a song, an unexpected gift, a challenge that spurs us on to be a better person beyond our past performances, then we are motivated to do something significant, impossible or meaningful. How powerful is the touch of the Master's hand in our present and eternal lives!

Seek to Touch the realities of Heaven

“Michaelangelo’s ‘The Creation of Adam’ is one of his most famous paintings appearing on the Sistine Chapel’s ceiling.”¹⁶ God’s hand with outstretched finger reaches toward Adam. “God’s finger is the conduit through which His intelligence, ideas and morality seep into man.”¹⁷ The famous artist vividly connected God and man with the singular sense of touch.

Ben Hur¹⁸ is a fictional novel. It is the story of Jesus’ life-changing impact on a vengeance-seeking Jew. The 1959 movie is a three hour and fifty-minute film which provides a fifteen-minute intermission displaying on screen Michelangelo’s painting of, “The Creation of Adam”. Such is the importance of the sense of touch between God and man.

A sense of touch is equally important to a dying person. God does not point his finger toward the deceased but rather deploys angels to carry the faithful into Heaven.

As family, friends or medical personnel touch and tend to the dying, God’s angels embrace those being transported to Heaven. Not one angel...a plurality of angels.

The sense of touch is unavailable in Hades.

Unbelievers travel alone to their destination, out of touch with everything and everyone in both dimensions. The first impression of the afterlife is not torment, but loneliness.

¹⁶ Singulart, “The Creation of Adam”, 1508-1512, “Michelangelo’s Astounding Piece”, April 15, 2020.

¹⁷ Smithsonian Magazine. “The measure of genius.” Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel at 500. April 9, 2009.

¹⁸ Lew Wallace, Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ, Harper and Brothers, 1880.

3. The sense of Smell is an afterlife reality.

Burning coals can be smelled especially when applied to skin. Isaiah experienced this:

He touched my mouth with a burning coal. Isaiah 6:7

In Hades: The flames from fire produce smoke which can be smelled. The Lake of Fire is composed of brimstone (sulfur), which expels a noxious odor.

“For I am in agony in this flame.” Luke 16:24

In Heaven: Incense is a gum or spice that is burned for the sweet smell it produces. Smoke also has an odor, and the temple was filled with it. In the afterlife, the gift of smell is evident.

It may seem ludicrous that the sense of smell conveys beyond this life. No more so than to understand that our prayers here are constantly before God long after our life has run its course. It is the prayers of the saints and the incense on the altar that precedes the seven trumpets and the devastation on Earth.

Another angel stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. Revelation 15:8

The sense of smell triggers memories and emotions. Prayers and memories go hand in hand. The prayers of the faithful extend before God on behalf of those who need them. Prayers are based on relationships and knowledge. When we say “Amen” here, God echoes “Amen” (So be it) throughout eternity.

Scriptural Evidence

4. The sense of Taste is an afterlife reality.

The rich man in Hades pleaded with Abraham to command Lazarus serve him again by alleviating his thirst and cooling off his tongue.

“Dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue.”
Luke 16:24

The source of the water determines its taste. It is the minerals in water that lend themselves to taste.

John was commanded to take the little book from the angel and eat it with the prediction that it would make his stomach bitter but taste sweet as honey in his mouth. Obedient to the angel's instructions, John ate the little book, and the outcome fulfilled the forecast. The imagery encapsulates the sense of taste; “sweet as honey”.

I took the book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was sweet as honey.
Revelation 10:10

The average human tongue has 2000-8000 taste buds. Our sense of taste allows us to distinguish about 100,000 different flavors.

On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.
Revelation 22:2

The purpose of fruit on Earth is nourishment and taste. The reason for fruit being in Heaven is to feed and heal the nations. One kind of fruit each month. The ones who eat it will taste the flavor of the crop and be enriched. Unfortunately, in Hades there is no fruit, water or honey.

5. The sense of Hearing is an afterlife reality.

In God's throne room, Isaiah heard the voices of Seraphim as well as the Lord's voice. His intonation, resonance, articulation and compassion exceed human imagination and comprehension. Yet, Isaiah knew exactly Who was speaking to him.

"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send?'" Isaiah 6:8

In Hades, the rich man conversed with Abraham, and both heard each other's response. Jesus did not indicate Lazarus was aware of the rich man's requests.

"Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house." Luke 16:27

Twenty-seven times, John "heard" voices, words, singing and instruments. The spiritual body has ears. Sounds can be heard in the spirit world as well as the human body. No one is deaf in Heaven or Hades.

One of the Book of Revelation's final invitations:

"Let the one who hears say, 'Come'". Revelation 22:17

The last voices and sounds we hear on Earth will minimize as the voices of those in the hereafter maximize. Hearing, voices, noises and music compose the distinctive aura of eternity.

The five senses transfer as the Earthly body morphs into the spiritual body!

My vision will be enhanced, my hearing amplified, my taste tantalized, my touch sensitized, and my ability to smell invigorated!

6. The ability to Enjoy Music is an afterlife reality.

In Heaven, harps and trumpets introduce events, inspire action, and accompany songs.

I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Revelation 8:2

I heard a voice from heaven. The voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. 14:2

Those who had come off victorious from the beast and his image and the number of his name, were standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. Revelation 15:2

Don Piper described the heavenly music he heard in his Near-Death Experience: “It was like a song that goes on forever. I didn’t just hear music. It seemed as if I were part of the music—and it played in and through my body. I felt as if the heavenly concert permeated every part of my being. It differed from anything I had ever heard or ever expected to hear on the earth. The praise was unending, but the most remarkable thing to me was that hundreds of songs were being sung at the same time—all of them worshipping God.”¹⁹

The combination of the Celestial Orchestra with the greatest musicians, faithful to the Lord for all time, will assemble and play majestic anthems for the glory of the Lord! All eyes will focus on the Conductor, Jesus. There is no mention regarding our spirit having a heart in Heaven. If hearts do exist, they will swell with joy and praise for our Creator and Savior – an ethereal concert anticipated.

¹⁹ 90 Minutes in Heaven, A True Story of Death & Life; Don Piper with Cecil Murphey, Revell Books, 2014, p. 42-43.

7. The ability to Sing is an afterlife reality.

The 144,000 on Mount Zion sing a new song before the throne. It is spontaneous music, and lyrics created in the moment... a crescendo of voices that will reverberate through Heaven's expanses.

They sang a new song before the throne, the four living creatures and the elders. Revelation 14:3

The martyrs who are victorious over the beast, his image and the number of his name (666= man), sang the song of Moses and the Lamb. The saints conquered the worst antagonists Satan could muster with music.

They sang the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. Revelation 15:3-4

The Anthems of Praise will be sung by myriads of angels, joined by Earth's choirs of martyrs.

Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn before they went to the Mount of Olives to pray. The hymn's name and lyrics are unknown. We will hear it sung again by Jesus someday! Matthew 26:30

One of the most difficult things I had to do as an adult was to place my father in a Memory Care Unit because of his dementia. During his lifetime he memorized most of the Bible but forgot much of its content as his memory faded. A precious quality of life he did not lose was remembering verses of hymns and singing them with joy. The lyrics of life proceed beyond this realm. I will recognize his tenor voice on the other side. No doubt Jennie Lee Riddle's "the Revelation Song,"²⁰ will vibrate through Heaven's Halls.

²⁰ Jennie Lee Riddle, The Revelation Song, 2004.

Scriptural Evidence

8. The ability to Elevate voice level is an afterlife reality.

Our spiritual bodies in Heaven will have vocal cords able to attain levels of volume! The vastness of Heaven cannot limit the decibels of one's ability to question or sing!

The slain souls underneath the altar cried out with a loud voice, "How long, Lord, will you refrain..." Revelation 6:10

The Greek word for "cried out" is "krazo" which means to "scream". "Loud voice" is "megale phóné". The power with which the souls underneath the altar scream has the same effect as a Megaphone.

The ensuing response in Heaven was not conveyed in a loud voice. The souls were distributed white robes and instructed to rest patiently.

During Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem the multitudes cried out: "Hosana, *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*" Matthew 21:9

The world will not see Jesus again until the people in Jerusalem cry out the same phrase. Matthew 23:39

There are no volume controls in the afterlife. As speech and strength are decreased in the mortal body's dying process, the immortal body seems to have no volume limitations. Those who die by a sudden accident or tragedy often loudly scream: "Oh, my God!" Entering the afterlife and encountering Jesus, they will most likely enunciate the same words.

When the last trumpet sounds and the faithful meet Jesus in the clouds, there will be no whispering, only shouts of praise and excitement. The folks who chose to serve Satan will also be screaming but for a vastly different reason.

9. The ability to Communicate is an afterlife reality.

In the Lord's throne room, Isaiah was able to respond to a question posed to him. This conversation between the Creator and a servant/prophet confirms communication exists. Those in Heaven can pose questions and hear human responses.

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send?" "Here am I, send me." Isaiah 6:8

Communication between Abraham's Bosom and Hades composes a large portion of Jesus' narrative. The rich man bantered back and forth with Abraham discussing the condition of his torment and concern for his five brothers.

In Hades: *He cried out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus." But Abraham said...* Luke 16:24

Questions and instructions are essentials of communication. The martyrs underneath the altar queried:

They cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, will you refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Revelation 6:10

They were told (instructed) that they should rest for a little while longer. Later in the Book of Revelation, an invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb is transmitted to Heaven's inhabitants:

"Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." Revelation 19:9

Wedding invitations are written transmissions from the bride and groom to family and friends. Communication is a necessity and reality in the afterlife.

10. The physical ability to Speak is an afterlife reality.

Isaiah was able to reply verbally to the Lord's inquiry:

Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

In Hades, the rich man and Abraham were able to converse regarding events and family on Earth.

He said, "I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers that he may warn them..." Luke 16:27-28

John spoke with angels numerous times during his visions. Celestial conversations in Revelation are pervasive between angels, the saints and John.

I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. He said to me, "Take it and eat it." Revelation 10:9

The gift of speech is a prominent feature of the spiritual body. Verbal communication is a staple in afterlife designations. Our spiritual being will be capable of transmitting words and voicing our commitments on the other side of this life.

What are the initial thoughts translated into words which will erupt from our mouths when we arrive at our final destination? Strangely, it will be the same whether we choose to reside in Heaven or Hades:

"Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father." Philippians 2:10

11. Maneuverability is an afterlife reality.

"Here am I, send me".

Isaiah 6:8

Isaiah's reaction to the Lord's call required the means to travel. In essence he said, "I am deployable."

In Hades: None may cross over from there. Luke 16:26

In Abraham's Side: The poor man died and was carried away by the angels.

Luke 16:22

The "crossing over" and "carrying" are physical pictures of navigation and mobility inside the spiritual realm.

The twenty-four elders will cast their crowns before the throne.

Revelation 4:10

They were capable of "casting their crowns." Casting like an angler requires a throwing motion or maneuver.

The nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.

Revelation 21:26

John described Jesus as having feet. Rev. 1:13, 15
Our spirit will walk on streets of gold in new Jerusalem.

No one was able to enter the temple until... Rev. 15:8

The ability to enter the temple requires mobility. In the spiritual arena, maneuvering is natural, not supernatural. The actions of the participants in Heaven and Hades are etched in normal human terms. The specified human activities unleashed in the spiritual spectrum paint a portrait of energy and motion. The Law of Conservation of Energy states energy cannot be created or destroyed but may be changed from one form to another. Our individual human energy is transformed into our afterlife spiritual body.

Scriptural Evidence

12. The ability to Sit, Stand and Fall are afterlife realities.

The spiritual body emulates physical posture. Those in Heaven can sit. The Lord sits on His throne. The twenty-four elders sit on their thrones. All the angels and multitudes in Heaven stand around the throne. During judgment all the dead stand before God's throne. The spiritual body can sit, stand, fall and bow.

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne. Isaiah 6:1

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads. 4:4

A great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands. 7:9

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God. 7:11

The 24 elders fall before the Lord. John also "fell" at an angel's feet (19:10). There is no gravity described in Heaven, but certainly the inhabitants of that realm can willfully stand or fall. Residents of Hades can also stand.

I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne... Revelation 20:12

13. The ability to identify Physical Traits are realities.

The hand, mouth, lips, tip of the finger, head, hair, and eyes are all components of the physical human body identified as being transferred into the spiritual body in Heaven.

A seraphim angel touched Isaiah's mouth and lips with a burning coal. He identified the foundations of the thresholds of the temple filling with smoke. It is fascinating to note that in a spiritual dimension, physical body parts and earthly components such as burning coal and smoke are connected to God's temple in Heaven.

The angel's hand touched my mouth and lips. Isaiah 6:7

The "tip of the finger", lack of water, relief from thirst, flame and tongue described by Jesus were aspects of Hades...the abode of the dead and Abraham's Side.

"That he may dip the tip of his finger..." Luke 16:24

The Son of Man's magnificent appearance connected Jesus' head, hair, and eyes with similes: "like white wool, like snow, like a flame of fire". These are comparisons spanning the physical world within the spiritual panorama.

His head and hair were white like white wool, like snow, and His eyes were like a flame of fire. Revelation 1:14

Hands, feet, eyes, ears, fingers, lips, and tongues are mentioned in the afterlife. No Botox is needed, no plastic surgery required, and no need for prosthetics.

We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. 1 John 3:2

Scriptural Evidence

14. Experiencing Comfort or Pain are afterlife realities.

A seraphim angel extracted a burning coal from the altar with tongs and touched Isaiah's lips and mouth with it. He did not describe the pain resulting from his sin being removed, but we know burning coal sears the skin.

He touched my mouth with a burning coal. Isaiah 6:6

The rich man did not mince words. He was in torment and agony "in this flame." In contrast, Lazarus, the poor man, experienced comfort. This is not just a comparison of the conditions between the rich and poor man, but an explicit depiction of the conditions of life after death. This is cognitive pain with physical and spiritual implications.

In Hades: *"Being in torment...I am in agony in this flame."*

In Abe's Side: *"And now Lazarus is being comforted here, and you are in agony."* Luke 16:23-25

Lake of Fire: *If anyone worships the beast he will be tormented with fire and brimstone forever and ever.*
Revelation 14:9-11; 19:20

One's spiritual body can feel pain in Hades and in the Lake of Fire. The flame in the spirit dimension is equivalent to fire in the physical realm. It is a horrible, intense and ceaseless torment.

Is pain a reality in Heaven? Yes!

A woman in Heaven clothed with the sun was with child and cried out being in labor and in pain. Revelation 12:1

Tears, mourning, pain, and death do not dissipate until the new heaven and new earth. Revelation 21:4.

15. The ability to attend a marriage supper.

Marriage is a key event in Revelation's final chapters. The preparation of the Lamb's bride, new Jerusalem and her procession are the Premier event of eternity!

The venue is Heaven. The Wedding Progression:

1. *For the marriage of the Lamb has come and...*
2. *His bride has made herself ready.* Revelation 19:7
3. *Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."* Revelation 19:9
Interlude: Revelation 19:10- 21:1
4. *The Holy city new Jerusalem comes down out of heaven from God made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.* Revelation 21:2
5. *I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.* 21:9

The faithful are offered an invitation to feast at the marriage supper celebration by angels (messengers). The proper wedding attire is fine, white linen.

Matthew 22:12; Revelation 19:8,14

"The Marriage Supper" implies food! Participants can sense a special connection with the bride. Her clothing is woven of fine linen composed of the righteous acts of the saints. Revelation 19:8

The marriage of Jesus to a city is obviously non-sexual. Our human sexuality does not transfer to our immortal, spiritual body. Matthew 22:30

Marriage is a concept that is important to God. Chances are good we will recognize our marriage partners on the other side of this life. The only Heavenly marriage celebration is with Jesus and Jerusalem.

16. The ability to Eat is an afterlife reality.

What is on the heavenly menu?

- John consumed the little book.

The angel said to me, "Take it, and eat it, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth, it will be sweet as honey." Revelation 10:9-10; Ezekiel 3:1-3

- The angel from Heaven was aware of honey. Bees pollinate plants/trees. Bees are in heaven?)
- The Tree of Life bears twelve crops or kinds of fruit.

On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month... 22:2

There is no eating of food in Hades.

A man dreamed he died and was accompanied by an angel to Hades. The people in Club Dead were sitting on both sides of a long table filled with meats, vegetables, and desserts. The man observed all the inhabitants had full casts on both arms. They desperately attempted to eat with their spoons and hands but could not bend their elbows. They were served the finest foods but could not feed themselves.

Then the angel transported the man to Heaven. Individuals there were seated on both sides of a long table and it, too, was adorned with exotic meats, vegetables, and luscious desserts. Strangely, the residents' arms were encapsulated by casts the same as the frustrated guests in Hades' dining room. There was a noticeable difference. The people in Heaven used their utensils and hands to obtain food and feed the person opposite them on the other side of the table. Those of Hades were selfish. Those in Heaven were selfless.

17. Afterlife Reality: The ability to access Water.

The rich man begged Abraham for a drink of water to provide momentary comfort to his tongue suggesting those in Abraham's domain had access to water. There is not one drop of water in Hades to cool the inhabitants. The absence of water for the unfaithful in the Hereafter contributes to the drought of the spirit, not the drowning of one's soul.

Abraham's Arms: Have mercy on me and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue. Luke 16:24

Water is a premier concept in both the spiritual and physical domains of life. Its relevance is evident from the beginning to the end.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost." Revelation 21:6

The Alpha: Water was a reality in Heaven BEFORE human life.

And God made the expanse and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. And God called the expanse heaven...a second day. Genesis 1:7-8

The Omega: Water is a reality in Heaven AFTER human life ceases. Jesus is the source of our living water now and forever. John 4:14

He showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and the Lamb. Rev. 22:1

18. Hands hold palm branches.

A great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands. Rev. 7:9

Heaven's inhabitants have hands. The great multitude held palm branches in their hands. Spiritual beings in Heaven have hands. A son of man is described as having hands (1:16). Angels have hands (10:2, 8). The words of John describe spiritual beings, events and human appendages. They have the capacity to hold objects.

There are plants in Heaven. John was specific in defining the presence of a specific plant: palm trees.

Much incense was given to an angel (8:3). Incense is composed of aromatic plant materials. Incense rises from an altar made from other plants in the environment. The property of incense confirms there are plants in Heaven.

The Tree of Life bearing twelve crops of fruit grows in new Jerusalem (22:2). Leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. The Garden of Eden is present in the first chapter of Genesis and the last chapter of Revelation.

Hands, trees and plants are matter of fact items. The existence of plants and trees confirms the presence of bees. This also explains how the book John was instructed to eat tasted as "sweet as honey". The clothing, hands and palm branches are discernable, commonplace fixtures in the afterlife dimension.

19. The ability to Write is an afterlife reality.

Writing involves hands, heart, mind and materials. Jesus commissioned John to record (1) the things he had seen, (2) the things which are, and (3) the things which shall take place after these things. Revelation 1:19

John was commanded to write on 14 separate occasions. He was to compose what he saw in a book.

Write in a book (scroll) what you see. Revelation 1:11

John was forbidden to expose the message of the seven peals of thunder.

“Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken, and do not write them.” Revelation 10:4

What is written and not erased is the content in the books that will be opened on Judgment Day.

The dead were judged from the things which were written in the books according to their deeds. Rev. 20:12-13

Our beliefs and behaviors are recorded in eternal books no doubt by angels. God will judge us “according to our deeds”. The phrase is repeated twice for emphasis. Knowing that all we say and do is being recorded should motivate us to reflect and repent!

John was allowed to write and record his impressions in Heaven. Those across the centuries who never learned to write may hold a pen in their hand for the first time. Some of the simplest objects in Heaven may be the most valued.

20. The ability to Wear White Robes is an afterlife reality.

Clothes for the spiritual, immortal body are a gift from Heaven's designers. The robes are white exemplifying purity.

There was given to each of them (the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God) a white robe.

Revelation 6:11

Those who persevere through the great tribulation made their robes white by washing them in the Lamb's blood. All sinful stains are removed from God's sight by the blood of the Lamb. Heaven's heroes are spotless.

These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 7:14

The uniforms of Heaven's armies are fabricated of fine linen, white and clean. There is no need for starch, laundromats, or Clorox in Heaven.

The armies which are in Heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

Revelation 19:14

The articles of clothing the faithful will wear are created by our Designer. Fashion is not key. Faithfulness is the open door to the celestial dressing room.

The ability to wear clothes suggests form and shape to our spirit. The human concept of a spirit is usually portrayed as a shapeless, invisible form. Clothing suggests otherwise. The martyrs can be seen, heard and clothed.

21. Wearing a Mark on our forehead is an afterlife reality.

Everyone in the afterlife will wear a mark on their forehead. The mark we wear will depend on the mark we select. There are two sources for the mark: God or Satan.

God's mark will be on those who have the Lamb's name (Yahweh Elohim) written on their foreheads.

His name and the name of His Father was written on their foreheads. Revelation 7:3; 14:1

They will see his face, and His name will be on their foreheads. Revelation 22:4

Those who worship the beast, his image or the number of his name (666=man), will also wear a mark.

The image of the beast causes all to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. Revelation 13:16

There is no opting out of the mark! There is no neutrality in the afterlife. All will choose to wear the mark of the beast or the name of Jesus on their forehead.

There are many who espouse the Doctrine of Election, or predestination. The term "election" in and of itself means that one has a vote. To ignore or deny self-will precludes a person is a robot. Everyone chooses who they will serve, receives an identifying brand which opens the narrow door to Heaven with God or the wide path to destruction with Satan. The mark of the beast is a free ticket for swimming lessons in the Lake of Fire.

22. The ability to Rest is an afterlife reality.

The plaintiffs, under the altar because of their testimony of the word of God, become impatient. They were instructed to rest for two reasons:

1. More martyrs would be persecuted, die for their Lord and join their number.

Rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed would be completed. Revelation 6:11

2. Those who die in the Lord can rest because their deeds have been recorded.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" That they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them." Revelation 14:13

Our last breath here ushers us into God's rest; no more works to accomplish, and no more projects to complete. Rest does not infer lack of action, or sleep, but rather relaxation after our labor is complete. The many legions of believers who preclude the dead sleep before the Lord returns cannot experience the previous 21 listed human characteristics we will experience in the afterlife.

We can presume that those who precede us in death will welcome those who follow. This hope marinates in the hearts of the redeemed as well as all who anticipate hearing,

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:21

23. The ability to discern Temperature Variations.

Isaiah could distinguish heat from cold in the presence of the Lord's throne. Oddly, one of the seraphim approached Isaiah with a burning coal in his hand that he had removed from the altar with tongs.

He touched my mouth with it. Isaiah 6:6-7

Assuming the coal had cooled down enough that the angel no longer needed the tongs, Isaiah's mouth could still have felt the heat and the burning sensation.

In Hades the rich man's tongue was also burning hot and dry. He begged Abraham to deploy Lazarus, not for a cup of water, but simply to...

dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue for I am in agony in this flame." Luke 16:24

This was more than requesting his thirst be assuaged. A drop of water would have provided temporary relief. Abraham did not correct him but reasoned with him.

Temperature variation was evident in the afterlife according to Jesus. Water was cool in Abraham's Bosom and the temperature in Hades was hot. The distinction between hot and cold are realities in the afterworld.

Jesus verified afterlife temperature differentiation.

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Revelation 3:15-16

Temperature variation impacts and represents commitment as well as condition.

Scriptural Evidence

The afterlife continuity of an individual's mind

Twenty-three features of our human, physical body transpose into our immortal, spiritual body.

In the afterlife, a person's spiritual mind possesses the same mental attributes as demonstrated in the human mind based on direct information from Isaiah, Jesus and John.

Our spirit is the Engine of our human vehicle. Our mind is the Transmission. They are separate, but not "inseparable". The spirit cannot function without the mind and vice versa. The spirit is the life giving/driving inner-self source and personality. The mind is the cognitive, critical thinking aspect of the individual. Our thoughts, imagination, memory, emotions, perceptions, motivation, heart and consciousness constitute how we think here, and all components convert to the other side. One's mind will adapt to heavenly sensations as an extension of experiences on Earth.

Our mental processes carry over to the afterlife. Our mind will be transformed and renewed.

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed
(Greek: metamorphosis) by the renewing of your mind...*
Romans 12:2

One's inner being is eternal. There are seventeen characteristics of our human mind that transfer with our spirit into our immortal body. Once we set our mind on the things above, life here becomes more meaningful and purposeful.

The Afterlife Reality

Chapter Four



Scriptural evidence my Cognitive characteristics convey to the afterlife

(Brain-based skills and mental processes)

Confirmed by Isaiah, Jesus and John

*Set your mind on the things above,
not on the things that are on earth.*

Colossians 3:2 NLT

24. The mental ability to Recognize People we knew on Earth is an afterlife reality.

Jesus answered an oft-spoken question: “Will I recognize people in Heaven that I knew on Earth?” Doctor Luke recorded the affirmative response. The rich man recognized Lazarus, the poor beggar who sat outside his gate on Earth, now in Abraham’s arms.

In Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham and Lazarus in his bosom. Luke 16:20, 23, 26

Abraham was aware the rich man possessed wealth during his lifetime. He placed finances above faith on Earth. In Hades the narcissist “lifted up” his “eyes” and peered into the realm of the secure in Abraham’s arms. The rich man focused first upon Abraham and then upon the beggar. Lazarus may have been the only acquaintance the rich man knew in Paradise. Abraham recognized Moses and Elijah, implying those under his protection will know one another. Jesus did not clarify if Lazarus remembered the wealthy man.

Those in the netherworld of Hades could distinguish contemporaries and authorities in Paradise. Jesus implied recognition in the afterlife pertains to those we know on Earth. Recognition is a mental process that continues from this life to the next. The faithful will recognize one another. It is unclear whether they will remember those who are not with them, but if they do, they will not be able to cross the great chasm.

Those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and none may cross over from there to us. 16:26

25. The mental ability to Identify Spiritual Beings.

Isaiah recognized the spiritual beings present before him. It was the Lord (Adonai) accompanied by His mighty angels. Isaiah was a VIP in God's throne room.

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne...Seraphim stood above Him. Isaiah 6:1-2

According to Jesus' narrative of the afterlife, the rich man visibly saw and identified Abraham and Lazarus.

In Hades he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in His Bosom. Luke 16:23

Abraham identified Moses and the Prophets. Although he predated them, Abram knew them because they inhabited his house, and he rubbed elbows with them.

They have Moses and the Prophets... Luke 16:29

Jesus' specificity of the spiritual beings thriving in the world to come, either proves He is the Lord, a lunatic or a liar.

The Apostle John saw more than 40 separate angels but did not identify any by name. He noted on several occasions the presence of 24 elders and 4 living creatures.

Around the throne there were 24 elders clothed in white garments, and in the center were four living creatures... Revelation 4:6

Isaiah, John and Jesus confirm the ability to recognize spiritual beings cognitively in the afterlife. Heaven and Hades' inhabitants are real NOW and have been since their death.

26. The cognitive ability to Remember Life on Earth is an afterlife reality.

Memory of one's life on Earth is a definitive mental function in the afterlife according to Isaiah, Jesus and John.

Isaiah remembered the deeds of his associates.

I live among people with unclean lips. Isaiah 6:5

In Hades: But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your life you received good things and likewise Lazarus bad things". Luke 16:25

Remembering is not an exclusive spectrum. The wealthy man could recall "the good things" he possessed as well as how he treated the beggar. Jesus indicated there is no selective memory on the other side of this life.

The souls living under the altar because of their testimony of the word of God, remembered those who had martyred them. Their last moments on Earth were etched in their memory banks. The martyrs urged the Lord to judge and avenge their deaths. Their patience was exhausted.

The souls under the altar who had been slain cried out "How long, O Lord, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"
Revelation 6:10

The memory of our situations in life and death are imbedded in our spirit. Our purpose, perspective and perseverance here convey there. The minimum and magnitude of our life resonates in eternity.

"The key to immortality is first living a life worth remembering."
Bruce Lee

Scriptural Evidence

Nature's snapshot memory exists after transformation

Is there a convincing benchmark from nature which confirms we will remember our earthly life when we metamorphose into our spiritual bodies?

Everyone knows the graceful and beautiful butterfly was once an earthbound caterpillar. The caterpillar endures a transformation so intense that its body dissolves, restructures and emerges totally re-created. Yet, aspects of its previous life are instilled in its memory.

"It's almost as if the caterpillar's most precious experiences are carefully packed away, surviving the chaos, and then unpacked in the mind of the butterfly."²¹

Upon our death, our memories endure despite the radical change from life on this Earth to life beyond. We do not forget who we once were. Our present being extends through change and transference.

Butterflies do retain memories of experiences from their life as gravity-restricted crawling insects.²²

Butterflies are symbols and blueprints that death is not the end of who we are, but the continuance of who we will be.

²¹ Butterflies Remember Being Caterpillars (Even After Metamorphosis!) Story by Trizzy Orozco – June 1, 2025

²² Martha Weiss, Georgetown University Research

27. The ability to Remember Family is an afterlife reality.

In Hades: *“Send him (Lazarus) to my father’s house and my five brothers in order that he may warn them”.*

Luke 16:27-28

The rich man’s concerns for his father and five brothers are evidence provided by Jesus that residents in Hades can remember those who remain on Earth and their lifestyles. The wealthy man assumed it was a possibility to (1) resurrect Lazarus’ body, and (2) Lazarus would be willing to return and warn the family of eternal ramifications. Abram was aware of predictable human behavior.

If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.

Luke 16:31

Jesus’ narrative is matter of fact. He, who ignored an indigent sitting at his gate, now begged Abraham for a favor. The wealthy man was aware the dead could be resurrected. This may have been a concept Hades’ inhabitants had observed. Prior to Jesus conveying this story, He had raised a widow of Nain’s dead son and Jairus’ daughter. Jesus called (Gk: phoneo) to the twelve-year-old girl: “Child arise! And her spirit returned” (Greek: turned back). Where did she turn back or return from? Her spirit was in the process of being carried by angels to Abraham’s Bosom when Jesus telephoned her. Jesus specified those in Hades could see what transpired in Abraham’s Side. Luke 7:11-17; 8:40-42; 49-56

Can the deceased faithful remember family who have died but are not in heaven? On Judgment Day all our deeds will be recounted, which includes all relationships.

Scriptural Evidence

The Faithful in Heaven are active witnesses

Memory of our Earthly family is a reality in Hades but not in Heaven.

There are no references to Heavenly residents remembering family who remain on Earth. The reason is profound: they are active witnesses in Heaven's grandstands to current Earthly events.

Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses (martyrs) surrounding us (present tense), let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

The deceased faithful are witnesses to our Earthly journey. They are in Heaven's grandstands cheering for us who are competing in this world's track meet. They encompass or encircle around us. They are unseen but present.

The prophet Elisha and his servant Gehazi lived in a city surrounded by King Aram's enemy armies. The servant said, "What shall we do?" Elisha encouraged Gehazi:

"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them". Then Elisha prayed, And the Lord opened his eyes, and he saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:16-17

A glimpse of Heaven's unseen fans encourages us to know we are never alone in our race to join them.

28. The mental ability to Think Analytically is a reality.

The human mind's capability to think analytically and critically transfers from this life to the next.

Isaiah made a calculated decision: He volunteered:
"Here am I, send me." 6:8

Even in Hades' torment, the rich man rationalized the cause and effect a ghost, or spirit would have upon his brothers:

"If someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." Luke 16:30

He projected a predictable response to an extraordinary circumstance. He miscalculated his brothers would repent if they saw the dead beggar who anguished at the rich man's gate. A general Earthly reality: the poor are invisible and non-memorable to the rich. After death and being in agony he is still capable of rational thinking, predictions and outcomes.

Abraham embodied critical thinking. He judged the accuracy of the rich man's brainstorming and examined the details. He refuted the basis of the rich man's argument.

But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them. If they do not listen to Moses, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead." Luke 16:31

Critical thinking crosses over from this reality into the next existence.

29. The mental ability to Reason is a reality.

Isaiah assessed the question from the Lord, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Predictably, 90% of the human population throughout time would most likely respond, “Not me” and then list a litany of excuses and reasons for not volunteering to fulfill the Lord’s challenge. Isaiah’s appropriate feedback was based on reasoning,

“Here I am. Send me.”

Isaiah 6:8

Isaiah was given a choice after the angel removed his sin. His internal evaluation resulted not only with an emotional response, but also a logical one. Who else is there to volunteer?

As Abraham reasoned with the unnamed wealthy individual regarding raising Lazarus from the dead to warn his family on Earth, the rich man “begged (Greek: “erotao”: implored, requested) Abraham to alert his five brothers.”

In Hades: *“Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house for I have five brothers, so they will not also come to this place of torment.”* Luke 16:27-29

Begging is an attempt by one person to persuade another person to respond to his plea. This is an act of reasoning. Abraham provided the rich man with an explanation:

“They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.”

Luke 16:29

The ability to volunteer for a mission, litigate, brainstorm, persuade and implore are indicators reasoning is a human capacity applicable in Heaven and Hades.

30. The mental ability to Make Comparisons is an afterlife reality.

The dynamics of Heavenly features and inhabitants John saw were beyond earthly descriptions. Similarities are often used throughout the Apocalypse basically because the vistas of the spiritual world are beyond human terms.

“Before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. The first creature was like a lion”. Rev. 4:6-7

John heard celestial voices and sounds exceeding his ability to clearly interpret. Translating one human language to another is a difficult challenge.

John rubbed elbows with Jesus for at least three years in Israel. When John visually saw Jesus in Heaven, he comparatively described Him as:

“One like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet. His head and hair were like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.” Revelation 1:14

John’s objective was to translate what he saw and heard in the spiritual, celestial realm into Earthly terms so the churches could comprehend the magnificent presence that awaits all of us on the other side. When we stand in God’s presence our ability to digest and describe will leave us speechless.

31. The cognitive ability to Measure Dimensions is an afterlife reality.

John was given a measuring rod like a staff. Someone said, "Rise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it." Revelation 11:1

The commission was accompanied by a gift. The measuring rod to measure the temple of God and the altar is similar to the staff Indiana Jones used in the Map room.²³ At dawn Indy used the staff and sunlight to locate the Ark of the Covenant.

John was also instructed to measure those who worship in it. This possibly means to measure their faith.²⁴

The dimensions of the holy city were measured with a gold rod by one of the seven angels who also distributed a bowl of wrath upon mankind.

He measured the wall (of the holy city Jerusalem) seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. Rev. 21:15, 17

Fascinatingly, human measurements are the same as angelic measurements. We cannot ascertain if angels use metric, standard or both measurements. This is another reminder that inhabitants in the spiritual world are connected to mankind even in minute ways. Both use the SAME measuring systems. This is an important clue confirming our human characteristics are normal in the spiritual kingdom!

²³ Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark. Movie: 1981

²⁴ Romans 12:3

32. The ability to Measure Time is an afterlife reality.

There was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 8:1

John's estimation of time lapse is an approximation: "about a half hour". John saw the martyrs, some whom he knew from his travels. The time we spend with others is woven into the fabric of our relationships. Emotional experiences always distort the element of time. Time is of our essence and embedded in who we are.

As part of the transmutation that happens after we die, our inner spirit and a large portion of who we are, and our experiences extend into eternity. Time is a human factor and is intertwined with our being. To believe that death extinguishes this important element in us is to misunderstand the process of our change in form, nature and substance.

"Time is a continued sequence of existence and event that occurs in an apparently irreversible succession from the past, through the present, and into the future." Time is considered a fourth dimension."²⁵

On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.

Revelation 22:2

"Month" is a time designation. Even plant life revolves around a heavenly time frame. As time is ingrained in humans, it is a component that evidently extends into and permeates our spiritual environment.

²⁵ Wikipedia: Time

33. Distinguishing Silence from Sounds is a reality.

There was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 8:1

“Stunned silence” is a feat immortalized in the memory of an audience when an actor, athlete, musician, an ordinary person or statesman does something amazing or extraordinary. It is a lull by the audience until they rise as one in thunderous applause.

The silence in Heaven for a specific time is in stark contrast to all the action that precedes and follows. The martyrs had just been informed that the Lamb shall be their shepherd and guide them to springs of the water of life. But it is God who will wipe every tear from their eyes. 7:17 When Heaven is silent, it does not signify that God is asleep, or his attention deferred. The silence of God is as powerful as His words!

God was silent during Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. When God is silent be ready... for He is about to accomplish something magnificent! Silence can be deafening! The silence of our final breath is not followed by silence in Heaven. The pregnant pause erupts into joy.

Pastor Don Piper was pronounced dead for 90 minutes. He remembered: “Everything I experienced was like a first-class buffet for the senses. I had never felt such powerful embraces or feasted my eyes on such beauty. In those minutes—and they held no sense of time for me, others touched me, and their warm embraces were absolutely real. I saw colors I would never have believed existed. I’ve never ever felt more alive than I did then. I was home; I was where I belonged.”²⁶

²⁶ Ibid. 90 Minutes in Heaven, p. 37, 45.

34. The mental ability to Identify Objects is a reality.

Books, harps, golden bowls of incense, trumpets, an altar, the Ark of the Covenant, thrones, and clothing permeate the story of Revelation. All these items were tangible and significant

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. Revelation 5:1

The word “book” appears in various forms 21 times.²⁷

Seals were important connections to royalty and power. Seals were representative of authority. Pontius Pilate placed a seal on the stone that secured Jesus’ tomb. Matthew 27:66

The four living creatures and twenty-four elders each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense...each one holding a harp and golden bowls. Revelation 5:8

Incense represented prayers that had ascended to Heaven. Bowls or vials were related to plagues and God’s wrath. The harp’s musical aesthetic evoked calmness.

The Heavenly items were all basic in John’s Earthly context. Common, ordinary fixtures and utensils on Earth have their facsimiles in Heaven.

²⁷ Wikipedia, The Book of Revelation.

35. Understanding Limitations is a mental reality.

The rich man experienced physical limitations in Hades' spiritual realm. Communication and visual access were available between Hades' Club Dead and Abraham's Side. However, an impassable gorge prevented entry or exit. Justice demanded the "good" be separated from the "evil".

Between us and you there is a great chasm fixed so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and no one may cross over from there to us.

Luke 16:26

The moral, written, and unwritten law distinguished the law-abiding people from the law breakers. God's Law required a Great Barrier separating the obedient from the disobedient. Those who distained any of those laws deserved to be sequestered in a prison-type afterlife. Those who lived and died after the giving of the Law had no excuse.²⁸

"Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder spoke and do not write them."

Revelation 10:4

John was limited to what he recorded in Heaven spoken by the seven thunders. No explanation was provided, only that he was not allowed to record their words.

John was also prohibited from measuring the court outside the temple as it has been surrendered to the nations who will subdue the holy city for forty-two months.

Revelation 11:1-2

²⁸ Romans 1:18-20

36. The ability to Request Justice is an afterlife reality.

“How long, O Lord, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

Revelation 6:10

This is a question posed by all God’s martyrs throughout all ages! The souls under the altar had been murdered. Their assailants were still alive without justice being served. There were no incarcerations for their crimes, no convictions or sentencing. True justice rarely sees the light of day on Earth. Justice will be dispensed by God in full view of everyone on the great Day of Judgment. The martyrs knew the word of God:

“Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

Romans 12:19

The martyrs were not begging God to unleash His vengeance. They were asking, “How long will you refrain?” Maybe it was the Lamb or His angels who tempered their concerns with rest “for a little while longer”. The purpose for waiting: *“the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed was not yet complete.”*

Their plea follows the advent of a conqueror, warrior, judge, Death, and Hades, who were given the power to kill 1/4th of the Earth. The timing of their question may already be soon... sounding though the halls of Heaven if they have not begun already! When the number of martyrs is complete, the 6th seal will be broken. and all nature will unleash its fury on those who “dwell on the Earth”. On judgment day, the slain will recognize those who murdered them. Forgiveness may be in their hearts. God’s justice will reign, for those who murdered others will pay for the deeds they did on Earth.

37. The ability to Receive Justice is an afterlife reality.

Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her (Babylon). Revelation 18:20

Justice will be executed upon Babylon but more so, on its worldwide, all-time citizens.

I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away. I saw the dead, the great and the small standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened which is the book of life; and the dead (every one of them) were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. Revelation 20:11-13

Benchmarks of the dispensed Justice:

- Judgment is universal and comprehensive.
- All will stand before the throne. Everyone is equal with no status.
- All the recorded deeds by the living will be exposed.
- A separate book, the Book of Life, will be opened.

Will everyone's deeds in the books be announced before all of Earth's inhabitants? It is likely! The ultimate difference is whether or not your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life!

If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:15

Justice will be dispensed by a Just God.

38. Experiencing Forgiveness is an afterlife reality.

Isaiah recognized his precarious position. He was in the throne room of the Lord. His situation should have evoked wonder and majesty. Instead, the weight of his sin caused him to remark:

Woe is me, for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips, for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.
Isaiah 6:4

A seraph remediated the predicament by purifying Isaiah's mouth with a burning coal taken from the altar.

He touched my mouth and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."
Isaiah 6:6-7

Our cognitive processes are imprinted and earthly predisposed with negative beliefs, behaviors, attitudes, and experiences. If Isaiah's profile is an example, after death and entry before the Lord, our mental characteristics and purified and transformed by angels. Our spirit's mind, heart, and personality deficits are forgiven, and we are made acceptable before the Lord. We inherit the mind of Christ.

Forgiveness is not so much an afterlife reality as it is an afterlife necessity! God cannot tolerate sin. The process of death is a cleansing release from our stained body and mind. Our body deteriorates but our mind is washed by the blood of the lamb. Forgiveness comes from He who sacrificed Himself for us. Transformation changes our spiritual clothes and mind. We will see ourselves as God sees us.
Revelation 7:14

39. The ability to Reign with Christ is an afterlife reality.

Scholars place enormous emphasis on the theory that the faithful will reign on the New Earth for a thousand years.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth. Revelation 5:10

This is the only verse in Revelation where believers reign on Earth with the Lamb. Some manuscripts state: “are reigning on Earth,” in the present, not future tense.

I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and had not worshiped the beast; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. Revelation 20:4

The martyrs refused to worship the beast and were beheaded. They reign with Jesus for a thousand years. This privilege is reserved only for those who were beheaded, not all the martyrs. The souls were in Heaven and reigned there.

John the Baptist was beheaded by King Herod. Quite possibly James, the brother of John (Revelation’s recorder) was also beheaded (killed by the sword). Acts 12:2

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. Revelation 20:5

This implies the remainder of the martyrs will come with Jesus at His return in the clouds. I Thessalonians 4:16

The priority of Jesus has always been to serve, not reign. Wherever Jesus resides, the New Heaven, New Earth, or New Jerusalem is where we must seek to serve.

40. An Afterlife Reality: The Mental ability to Worship.

Worship is the sum of our spirit uniting totally with God's Spirit. Worship is me reconnected with Thee.

The Presence of God.

Worship in the afterlife is being and living in God's presence. Those whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life will mentally and spiritually be in the presence of the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe! No wonder...

The twenty-four elders will fall before Him who sits on the throne and will worship Him who lives forever. Rev. 4:10

All the nations will come and worship before You... 5:4

God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

Our spirit will reconnect with God's spirit in truth.

There will be no pretenses, posing, posturing, religion or rituals. Worship will be our way of life. It is the result of the total absorption of our entire being with our Creator. Our mind, heart, soul, emotions and spirit are embodiments that we are created in God's image. Worship is connectedness with God. We will once again be like Him. There is only one way to describe the effect: We will be back home!

Worship here and now is not the same as it will be in the there and then. It is not an eternal church service. Worship will be God's love magnified through infinity!

Sadly, worship of God will not be an activity or reality in Hades or the Lake of Fire.

Scriptural Evidence

There are 23 Physical human characteristics that transfer with our spirit to the afterlife. There are 17 Cognitive attributes that transmit with our spirit after death.

The realities of the Afterlife need to be priority #1 for the living and the dying.

These forty human characteristics are being utilized by our deceased faithful to Christ friends and family now in Heaven. They have no regrets.

“Many dying people express four regrets:

1. They did not fulfill their life’s purpose.
2. They did not allow themselves to be fully loved.
3. They did not love others unconditionally.
4. They did not appreciate the ‘now’.”²⁹

These regrets, however well-intentioned, are marinated in this temporary world of “what was and is.”

Instead, the living and dying should focus on the realities of eternity... “what will be”.

It makes good sense to investigate as much as we can regarding the world to come. For after we leave here, we will dwell there forever.

“It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.
Hebrews 9:27

²⁹ Fortune.com. Alexa Mikhail, April 13, 2025. “The Good Death”, Suzanne O’Brien.

The Afterlife Reality

Chapter Five



Sources of Indirect Evidence

Eyewitness Testimony

Near-Death Experiences

The Importance of Eyewitness Testimony

A common false statement: "Nobody knows what happens when we die or even if there is an afterlife."

In the Bible there are 10 documented cases of individuals who experienced death and raised back to life. They provide indirect evidence of the afterlife reality.

In the Old Testament there are 4 resurrections.

- Samuel I Samuel 28:14
- Zarephath woman's son by Elijah I Kings 17:22
- Shunammite woman's son by Elisha 2 Kings 4:35
- The man in Elisha's tomb 2 Kings 13:20-21

In the New Testament there are 6 resurrections.

- The widow of Nain's son Luke 7:11-17
- Jairus' daughter Mark 5:41-42
- Lazarus John 11:44
- Jesus Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Tabitha (Dorcas) Acts 9:40
- Eutychus Acts 20:12

9 of the 10 resurrected people died a second time. Only Jesus resurrected and ascended to Heaven.

Two Old Testament men appeared during Jesus' transfiguration as eyewitnesses to the afterlife.

- Elijah did not die. 2 Kings 2:11; Matthew 17:3
- Moses Deuteronomy 34:5-6; Luke 9:30-31

Scriptures do not record what the dead revealed after their resurrection. Moses and Elijah knew about the future. Lazarus was visited by multitudes while the chief priests plotted his murder. John 12:9

Indirect Evidence

Two men visited the throne of God in Heaven without dying:

- The Prophet Isaiah Isaiah 6:1-8
- The Apostle John Revelation 4:1-2

A total of 14 eyewitnesses resurrected and testified to the realities of the afterlife.

Other eyewitnesses who encountered resurrected individuals provided collaborative evidence:

- The medium of Endor witnessed Samuel's return.
- The prophets Ezekiel and Daniel documented their visions and experiences.
- Mary Magdalene and the other women conversed with Jesus after his resurrection.
- The two disciples enroute to Emmaus talked with Jesus.
- The ten disciples and Thomas often rubbed elbows with the resurrected Christ.
- Over 500 men plus women and children saw the Lord.
- Doctor Luke was present at Tabitha and Eutychus' resurrection from the dead.

Over 500 men saw the resurrected Jesus. They all knew what happens to us when we die! They no doubt confided in the family and friends about their experiences. Their accounts and testimonies inspired faith and steadfastness.

If no one knows if there is an afterlife, then the Bible is a lie, fabrication, and fiction. If the scriptures are true, there is foundational, reliable evidence and testimony of the afterlife reality!

Eyewitnesses

In the Old Testament supporting evidence is provided by eyewitnesses of human qualities transparent in supernatural settings. Their indirect evidence is compelling.

The Medium at Endor

I Samuel 28:7-19

King Saul consulted a female medium in Endor. Saul required her to conjure up the deceased prophet Samuel. She screamed when she saw him because she was surprised and in shock Samuel's spirit actually appeared.

The king said to her, "What do you see?" She said, "I see a divine being coming up out of the earth." And he said, "What is his form?" She said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe." 28:13-14

The Hebrew word for "form" (taorow) means "a change in shape or appearance". A corresponding Greek word is: morphe³⁰ and means the same thing. This is biblical confirmation 1000 years before Christ that one's deceased spirit has shape or form. Samuel wore a robe and was "old".

1. The medium perceived the apparition was god-like (elohim) ascending, "out of the earth". The second "coming up" was "out of a place;"³¹ not, "out of the earth".
2. Samuel was able to predict the imminent future.
3. This is an anomaly, not evidence mediums can conjure up the dead. The medium was an unwilling witness.

³⁰ Topical Lexicon G3444.

³¹ Brown-Driver-Briggs, 5927, 1 b., "alah".

I Kings 17:17-24

This ancient visual infers the boy was travelling somewhere toward a destination after his demise but interrupted and returned to his physical body. Where he was headed is often noted in the Old Testament as “Sheol”, the underworld or netherworld.

Abraham, Lot and Daniel observed angels could:

- 93

Ezekiel's Evidence

Ezekiel and Daniel's experiences happened on Earth and not in Heaven but cannot be categorically dismissed as they also support and complement the genre of human qualities within the eternal, spiritual body.

Ezekiel's heavenly vision and commission was received while he was by the Chebar River (1:2). He recorded human-like qualities of Heaven's inhabitants. This prophet in Babylon saw visions of God and four heavenly beings in human form. His identifications are similar to the four living creatures in John's revelation.

- They had faces, feet, hands, wings, and wheels. 1:4-28
- Ezekiel concluded they were cherubim. 10:20
- He heard a voice giving him a commission. 1:26, 28
- Ezekiel saw something resembling a throne with the figure and appearance of a man. 1:26

Daniel's Testimony 3:25; 7:13; 8:16; 10:6,13

The prophet Daniel in Babylon described human attributes of heavenly individuals. King Nebuchadnezzar saw "four men loosed and walking about in the fiery furnace without harm, and the appearance of the fourth was like a son of the gods!" Daniel dreamed he saw the Son of Man. He conversed with Gabriel and Michael. He encountered a certain man who had "a body, face with the appearance of lightning, eyes like flaming torches, arms and feet like polished bronze and a voice that sounded like a tumult." These visions happened in Babylon, not in Heaven.

In the New Testament

Three individuals were raised from the dead by Jesus in the New Testament.

Jesus raised the widow of Nain's son

Now as He approached the gate of the city accompanied by a large multitude, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother and she was a widow, and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep." He touched the coffin, and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" And the corpse sat up and began to speak. And fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" And "God has visited His people!" Luke 7:11-17

When Jesus saw the funeral procession approaching the city gate, and noticed the dead boy was the only son of a widow, the Lord 's heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry", he spoke to the grieving woman. To the deceased young man he said, "Get up!" Somewhere between the gates of Nain and the gates of Sheol, Jesus left a brief message on the boy's I-Phone: "Arise!" Jesus wasn't suggesting the young man arise out of bed. He was urging the lad to "get up or stand up". The spirit of the boy was not asleep. He was dead long enough to be placed in a coffin and began transitioning to Sheol.

His return to this life he sat up and began to speak. He had much to describe and say to his mother and more than likely to the small-town crowd. That would explain further why the crowd was gripped with fear.

Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus Luke 8:40-42; 55

The official begged Jesus to visit his house to heal his daughter who was about twelve years old. A messenger from Jairus' home delivered the horrible news that his daughter had died. Jesus comforted the father and told him not to be afraid. *"Only believe, and she shall be made well."*

Jesus entered the house accompanied only by Peter, James, John, Jairus and his wife. Jesus confirmed, "She has not died, but is asleep." Their grief turned to laughter. They knew she was dead. Jewish houses were tiny. A crowd could not have been in the house. Jesus took her by the hand and called (Gk: phoneo; to summon, figuratively telephoned to the young girl), *"Child, arise!" And her spirit returned.*

Her spirit rerouted from her brief visit to Abraham's Bosom, and she rose up immediately. Jesus instructed her parents to tell no one what had happened. If a crowd were in the house, everyone already would have known, and Jesus' instructions would have been meaningless.

Jesus' statement that she had not died but was asleep confuses many who conclude that Jesus words were literal...she was asleep. She was obviously dead, and her parents and disciples knew it. The girl's spirit had left her body. She appeared to be sleeping, but her spirit was on a journey. Like the young man from Nain, her spirit may have been in comforted in the protection of Abraham's Arms. Children often appear to be asleep in their parents or grandparents' lap, but their spirit is active and alive. This girl's spirit was away from" her body. She was on the other side of death. Jesus commanded her to "arise" (the same Greek word as His command to the widow of Nain's son.

Indirect Evidence

“And her spirit returned, and she rose immediately.”
One cannot return if they are asleep. Jesus’ narrative in Luke 16 gives us the picture of where the daughter had returned from: Abraham’s Bosom.

The Hebrew word literally means “to turn back”. The raising of the two children 800 years apart verified that Jesus, like Elijah, had the power to “return the life” of someone who had died and was travelling toward a destination.

The 12-year-old girl had much to describe. “Rose immediately” demonstrates an eagerness and chattiness” motivated by her journey to the other side. She had spoken directly to the Creator of the Universe and He phoned her, not the other way around.

Her daddy was the leader of the synagogue. Predictably, he required her silence to such exploits. He had a religious responsibility to quell such myths as a near death experience would provide. But 12-year-olds are not prone to silence.

Jesus raised Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha

Lazarus, Mary, and Martha of Bethany were dear friends of Jesus. Bethany was located on the other side of the Mt. of Olives, where Jesus would later ascend into heaven. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped His feet with her hair. John 11:1-44

Lazarus' sisters sent Jesus a message: "Lord, your dear friend is very sick." He told His disciples:

"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

Jesus deliberately stayed two days in the place where He was (approximately 20 miles away from Bethany). Then He said to his disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." His disciples objected because they knew the Jews in Judea were seeking to stone Jesus to death. *He said,*

"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep."

The disciples thought Lazarus' sleep was a sign that he was getting well. They thought He was speaking of literal sleep. Jesus clarified...

"Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes, that I was not there, so that you may believe."

Jesus knew Lazarus was already dead. The purpose of his death was so God and Jesus would be glorified. The conclusive evidence of Jesus' claim to be the Messiah was that he could conquer death even after a person had been deceased for four days. It was confirmation He Himself, could rise from the dead after three days.

Indirect Evidence

The resurrections of the young man from Nain and Jairus' daughter were immediate. Skeptics claim that these were resuscitations, not resurrections. But skeptics have no response to a resurrected person who had been dead for four days except to denounce that it was a hoax. If this was true, Jesus was a liar, a con man or a clever magician. If we get sucked in by the skeptics, then we, like them lose all hope of life after death. We are stuck in our sins, and there is no moral reason or obligation to do good on Earth. The skeptics in Jesus' day knew it was a real, genuine miracle and that is why they plotted to murder Lazarus after Jesus had raised him back to life.

The great multitude therefore of the Jews learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. But the chief priests took counsel that they might put Lazarus to death also. John 12:9-10

Lazarus would be murdered by the same religious aristocrats that demanded Jesus be crucified on the cross. Lazarus died of natural causes the first time. The second time he died by homicide.³²

When they arrived at his wealthy friend's burial cave, a stone was lying against it. Within a month, a wealthy man would allow Jesus' body to occupy his own tomb, and a stone would lie against it as well. Significantly, an owner only allows someone to "borrow" something he expects to have returned.

³² John 12:10

The Afterlife Reality

Jesus said, *“Remove the stone.”* A stone crafted to roll and yet keep out thieves and animals and big enough to cover an entrance could weigh up to two tons. Mark described in His testimony that the stone was “extremely large.”³³

Why didn’t the Creator of the Universe simply direct the stone to move away on its own? Could not Jesus have spoken to the rock and caused it to move? Our Creator understands and respects human’s ability to do what humans can do. The miracle would result from raising Lazarus from the dead, not in the moving of the tomb’s barrier.

Martha, the sister of Lazarus said to Jesus,

“Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

The obvious disclosure is the credential that this was not a scam. It was a fact. Lazarus had died. He did not faint. He was ripe!

They removed the stone.

“He cried out with a loud voice: “Lazarus, come forth.”

Lazarus was in Abraham’s Bosom for four days. Jesus called with a loud voice (“megale phone). Jesus used a “megaphone” to call Abraham and specified: “This is the guy I want to come back from the dead.” Lazarus had been in Abraham’s Bosom for four Earth days. That is why Jesus elevated His voice. Abraham’s hotel for the righteous could hear the projected voice of Jesus but unlikely hear human voices.

³³ Mark 16:4

Indirect Evidence

Jesus was NOT talking about poor Lazarus (Luke 16). He was calling the Patriarch, Abraham on the phone requesting that his dear friend Lazarus be able to have real Face time with His Creator.

“And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

“That’s a wrap!”

Two atheists were having a discussion. The first atheist asked the other, “Has there been any time you didn’t have an answer for a Christian’s defense?”

The second atheist nodded in the affirmative: “Just once. I was debating with an old Christian pastor. I referred to the resurrection of Lazarus and stated, ‘If this incident of raising Lazarus from the grave wasn’t a conspiracy, then why did Jesus shout, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’?”

The Pastor humbly replied, ‘If Jesus had not called Lazarus by name, all the dead in their graves in Bethany would have risen.’”

The first atheist asked, “You didn’t have a response?” The second atheist shrugged his shoulders: “How do you reply to faith like that?”

We imagine Lazarus had some stories to relate while he was briefly alive again. With all the paparazzi hounding Lazarus and the death threats from the religious leaders, I am positive Lazarus was thankful for a second chance to be with Jesus and his sisters, but apprehensive that he would leave his sisters again and face death a second time.

The Afterlife Reality

All three of the people Jesus raised from the dead during His three-year ministry died a second death. We do not know the stories they had to tell or if they had any memory of their time away from their physical body. All we know is that Lazarus was a celebrity.

The large crowd of the Jews then learned that Jesus was there (Bethany); and they came, not for Jesus' sake only but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

John 12:9-11

Conclusion:

These three case studies, in addition to Moses and Elijah who were transfigured with Jesus, confirm that when the spirit leaves the physical body, it has a destination. A resurrection is a "return" from that journey if not from the destination itself. Therefore, we connect, based on Jesus' testimony in Luke 16:19-31, that the journey to or the "checking into that location" was Abraham's bosom.

Jesus' own words confirm that it is a viable, animated existence: *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies."*

John 11:25

Indirect Evidence

Indirect Evidence from Jesus' own resurrection

Eyewitnesses described human characteristics of Jesus' spiritual body.

Eyewitness: Mary Magdalene (and the women)

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She glanced over her shoulder and saw someone standing behind her. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "Why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned toward him and exclaimed, "Teacher!" "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them I am ascending to my Father and your Father, my God, and your God."

John 20:11,14-17 NLT

Jesus' resurrected appearance was different. Mary spoke to Jesus but initially did not recognize Him. She thought He was a gardener. His resurrected body had human characteristics, but it did not look the same. Jesus' voice was recognizable. Mary knew Who He was when He spoke her name. She exclaimed, "Rabboni", which means "Teacher".

The women with Mary had difficulty recognizing Him either because they were grieving, afraid or did not expect to see Him. Jesus recognized and acknowledged them.

As they went, Jesus met them and greeted them.

Matthew 28:9

The Afterlife Reality

The women grabbed Jesus and held onto Him. His pre-ascension body had substance. He was not a ghost!

They grasped his feet and worshipped him.

Matthew 28:9 NLT

Jesus made it clear to Mary: "I am ascending to my Father. Go tell my brothers." The present tense "I am ascending" means Jesus' first ascension was imminent.

The two Disciples journeying to Emmaus Luke 24:13-33

Their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. Luke 24:16, 31

"He appeared in a different form (Gk: morphe – outward appearance) to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem to the country." Mark 16:12

Jesus had a different form or outward appearance. The two disciples did not recognize Him, they were being prevented or restrained for the purpose of personal discovery. Insight (faith) comes first, then sight.

"In the New Testament, "morphé" refers to the essential form or nature of something, particularly in a way that is visible or manifest. It is used to describe the outward expression of an inner reality. The term implies more than just external appearance; it encompasses the true essence or nature of a being."³⁴ The Greek word morphe is used only two more times by Paul in the New Testament.

Jesus...who existed in the form (morphe) of God...taking the form (morphe) of a bond-servant. Philippians 2:6-7

³⁴ Strong's Lexicon: 3444

Indirect Evidence

The two disciples walked, talked, and heard Jesus' scriptural evidence proving that He was the Messiah. Their eyes were opened as He prayed and broke bread with them.³⁵

As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! Luke 24:30-31 NLT

He vanished...Jesus spiritual body could appear and disappear at will.

Eyewitnesses: The Ten Disciples

Jesus appeared in a locked room with ten disciples.

When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. John 20:19-20

Jesus' resurrected spiritual body was able to materialize in a locked room. The doors were shut because the disciples were fearful of the Jews. Jesus' ability to appear or disappear pertains only to the resurrected Lord.

Our human spirit departs from the physical body upon death and is carried to our destination with no revisitation on Earth. After our death vanishing or appearing to the living is not in our spirit's wheelhouse.

³⁵ Luke 24:27, 31-35

The Afterlife Reality

Jesus did show his wounds to the ten disciples that night. This was His spiritual body with holes from the crucifixion in His hands and side, but no blood. Supernatural events require extraordinary forensic validation.

Jesus did not show Mary His wounds that morning. Mary and the other women may have seen the nail imprints in His feet as they held onto them. Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:39 However, there is no reference in the New Testament that Jesus' feet were nailed to the cross...only David's prophecy:

"They have pierced my hands and feet." Psalm 22:16.

Eyewitness: Thomas

Eight days later, Jesus also appeared to Thomas and the other ten disciples after the door had been locked. Jesus volunteered to show His physical scars to Thomas.

Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving but believing." Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:27

By appearing to them, Jesus offered many convincing proofs to the apostles whom He had chosen.

After Jesus' resurrection He presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

Eyewitnesses: the 500 Brethren (+ women & children)

He appeared to more than 500 brethren at one time; most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep. I Corinthians 15:6

Indirect Evidence

Between the time of Jesus' resurrection and ascension, He was seen by His disciples and many other people. His spiritual body was different than his physical body but still retained human qualities. After Jesus' resurrection, His body was able to:

- Eat fish and bread. Luke 24:42-43
- Walk and converse. Luke 24:17
- Appear in a locked room. John 20:19
- Explain the scriptures. Luke 24:27
- Disappear. Luke 24:31
- Recline at a table, break bread, and pray. Luke 24:30
- Show nail holes in his hands and side. John 20:27
- Lift up His hands and bless people. Luke 24:50
- Recognize friends and call them by name. John 20:16
- Observe, ask questions, and provide guidance. 21:5-6
- Predict the future. John 21:19
- Lift up into the sky. Acts 1:9

These human qualities were empirical evidence of the spiritual prowess of Jesus' resurrected body. Some may be specific to Jesus and not to the general human race. These attributes were obvious to those on Earth, and more than likely conveyed to Heaven.

Jesus' resurrected body was unique. He displayed some human qualities that are unique from the 40 qualities we will experience in eternity. He still bore the scars of his crucifixion. He was able to eat and prepare food and yet "appear and disappear" at will. How much we will be like Jesus when we morph into our spiritual body will no doubt be phenomenal and incredible, yet as simple as changing clothes.

Doctor Luke's Testimony: Tabitha

Acts 9:36-43

It came about that Tabitha (Greek: Dorcas - Gazelle) fell sick and died. The disciples heard Peter was in Lydda and sent two men to encourage him to come to Joppa. When he arrived, Peter sent all the widows out of the upper room, knelt and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." She opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up and he presented her alive.

Lydda was about eight miles from Joppa. The round-trip walking time is seven hours. Riding a horse or donkey takes about two hours. Tabitha's spirit would have been in Heaven a minimum of three hours. Doctor Luke was candid in his choice of words. Everyone was jubilant at Dorcas' resurrection, except Dorcas! She opened her eyes and sat up. More than likely, she gave Peter an ear full! As grateful as she was to be reunited with her Lydda friends, she experienced Heaven's portals for three hours. It is doubtful she was thrilled with her spirit's return into her human body.

Doctor Luke's Testimony: Eutychus

Acts 20:7-12

A young man named Eutychus sat on a windowsill during Paul's six-hour sermon. A deep sleep overcame him, and he fell three stories to his death. Paul resuscitated him. The Troas church members were comforted Eutychus was alive, but Luke doesn't mention the young man's reaction.

Luke does not inform us if Dorcas and Eutychus had a Near-Death Experience. Their response to Peter and the church suggests that while they were dead, they may have traveled beyond this life into the next. Once a person has experienced the light on the other side, it is difficult to return and readjust to the darkness of this life.

Anecdotal Evidence: Near-Death Experiences.

“Studies have suggested that approximately 4.2% of the population has reported an NDE...one out of every 25 people.³⁶ Although no two experiences are identical, there are amazingly common elements to the core NDE’s described by people of all ages and backgrounds. Dr. Jeff Long reported on the percentage of each core element described in his study of 1,300 NDE’s from around the world.”³⁷ The insights of Isaiah, John and Jesus coincide with some core NDE experiences.

1. “Out of body experience: separation of consciousness from the physical body (75.4%).” Validated by:
 - John: “I was in the Spirit...” Revelation 1:10
 - Jesus: “carried away by angels”. Luke 16:22
2. “Heightened senses (74.4% said ‘more conscious and alert than normal).”
Jesus and John authenticated the transferring of the five senses from our physical to the spiritual body.
3. “Positive emotions or feelings (76.2%).”
 - “Lazarus is comforted here.” Luke 16:25
 - Isaiah’s sin was removed. Isaiah 6:5
4. “Passing into or through a tunnel (33.8%).”
 - Lazarus was carried away by the angels. Luke 16:22
5. “Encountering a mystical or brilliant light (64.6%).”
 - Jesus’ face was like the sun shining in its strength.
Revelation 1:16, 21:23-24
 - Angels wore dazzling apparel. Luke 24:4

³⁶ Ibid. John Burke, What’s After Life? P. 17.

³⁷ Ibid. Burke, pp. 26-27.

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6. "Encountering mystical beings or deceased relatives or friends (57.3%)." Jesus testified the rich man:
 - Saw Lazarus in Abraham's bosom. Luke 16:24
7. "A sense of alteration of time or space (60.5%)."
 - John: about ½ hour Revelation 8:1
 - Jesus: Between you and us is a great chasm... Luke 16:26
8. "Life review (22.2%)."
 - Isaiah: I am a man of unclean lips... Isaiah 6:5
 - Jesus: During your life you received... Luke 16:25
9. "Encountering unworldly ("heavenly") realms (52.2%)."
 - Isaiah: the Lord sitting on a throne. Isaiah 6:1
 - Jesus: described Hades and Abraham's Bosom, Luke 16:23
 - John: a throne was standing in heaven Revelation 4:2
10. "Encountering or learning special knowledge (56%)."
 - Isaiah: Go and tell this people... Isaiah 6:9
 - Jesus: They won't repent if the dead go. 16:26
 - John: I will show you what must take place. Revelation 4:1
11. "Encountering a boundary or barrier (31%)."
 - Jesus: a great chasm fixed Luke 16:26
 - John: measure the city, gates and wall. Rev. 21:15

Near-Death Experiences are segues into the halfway houses of Heaven or Hades and windows into what happens during our transition to the afterlife. They are snapshots of forever!

NDE's: Glimpses into the other side

Near-Death Experiences are very real to those who are transported temporarily to the other side. Many aspects of their testimonies are supported by Scripture.

NDE reporters (64.4%) often speak of seeing a bright light believing it is Jesus. It could also be angels (often described as wearing dazzling clothes, or the Devil.

Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:14

Spiritual warfare extends beyond Earth. It is characteristic of Satan to deceive individuals even in heavenly places.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

31% of NDE accounts also refer to a tunnel.

Jacob and Jesus' description of "the tunnel".

The tunnel for transporting the spirits of the faithful to Heaven is described in Genesis as "a ladder."

Jacob had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. The Lord (Yahweh) stood above it.

Genesis 28:12

Jesus (Yahweh) is the ladder and stands at the top.

Jesus said to Nathanael, "All of you shall see the heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

John 1:51

The Afterlife Reality

When faithful individuals die, they are transported to Heaven by angels.

Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom...

Luke 16:22

The ladder between the physical and spiritual realm

1. The ladder sets on Earth and reaches Heaven.
2. Angels descend and ascend on the ladder by the authority of Jesus (Yahweh). He is at the top.
3. The faithful will see an opening in Heaven.
4. Ascending angels carry our spirit. They would not need to carry our spirit unless our imperishable being has form, substance and weight.
5. The transfer is immediate to Abraham's Side as Lazarus' spirit did not linger on Earth after his death.

Ladders are wider at the bottom than the top. Tunnel vision occurs naturally during transport as our peripheral vision is blocked by angels as we approach the light.

The ladder for the unfaithful

If there is a ladder for the unfaithful, it is set on Earth and extends to Hades. Many Near-Death Encounters also report Hellish scenes. Speculatively, the unfaithful dead either travel alone or are accompanied by demons (angels loyal to Satan). Hades is still a real place today.

All spirits who die before Jesus' return are transported to temporary locations until Judgment Day.

Two men in the Bible did NOT see death

1. Enoch was “taken” (transferred).

Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.
Genesis 5:24

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and He was not found because God took him up, for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.
Hebrews 11:5

Enoch did not see “Death”. He walked with God. He was pleasing to God before his translation. This is the only verse in the Bible using the word “walk” in a heavenly context. Walking is not one of the 40 human characteristics. There was no purpose in God taking Enoch if there was no place for him to reside. They enjoyed an animated relationship.

2. Elijah was “taken” (translation).

There appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated Elijah and Elisha. And Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind (windstorm) to heaven.
2 Kings 2:10-11

Two men (Elijah and Moses) were talking with Jesus, who appearing in glory (splendor) were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
Luke 9:30-31

Elijah did not experience death. He was whisked to Heaven. He gloriously reappeared on Earth at Jesus’ transfiguration, not asleep but predicting future events. The ladder in this instance was horses and a chariot of fire.

“Nobody knows what happens after we die or even if there is an afterlife!”

A common misnomer, this statement ignores the mounting evidence from those who attest to a Near-Death Experience. A 2011 Study in Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences found that 9 million people in the United States have reported a transformative NDE.³⁸

Nine million people in the U.S. alone...how many millions more world-wide? They all have seen a movie trailer into the afterlife. One could argue Satan, or brain chemistry, drugs or a hallucination influenced them. But then, there is the Bible...the evidence compiled by the prophets, the witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, and others who were raised from the dead.

Jesus' testimony and presence is the loudest testimony of all! Everyone who was raised from the dead died a second time. All who have NDE's will eventually die. But not Jesus! The faith of Christians world-wide rises or falls with Jesus' resurrection. If He has not been raised, our faith is worthless, and we are still in our sins. Those who have died in Christ have perished. If He was resurrected, we know there is an afterlife, and we know what is beyond the horizon of this life.

Nobody knows...?

³⁸ Alex Orlando, Discover Magazine, “Death Defying”, August 23, 2021

Indirect Evidence

The Afterlife Reality

Chapter Six



Temporary Afterlife Destinations

Sheol/Hades/Gehenna

Abraham's Side

Tartarus

Heaven

My Trajectory in the Afterlife

When we breathe our final breath and our physical body deteriorates, our spirit will be transferred to a destination of our choice prepared for us by our Creator. Where our spirit will function in the afterlife depends on what our spirit and physical body chooses to do during this life. We have a choice to live for God or live without Him. If we live with Him here, we will live with Him there.

“One of the most powerful stimulants for good and deterrents from evil in this life is a profound conviction as to the reality of the future life, and that our estate there will depend on our behavior here. A heart firmly fixed in Heaven will surely mean a more careful walk in this world. This one has an end. That one lasts forever.”³⁹

My destination venue

“It’s never too early to investigate your options and start making travel plans. Eternity is an awfully long time to end up in the wrong place and you never know when your departure is going to be.”⁴⁰ Your first destination is determined the moment you take your last breath on Earth. Your final destination is determined on Judgment Day.

Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:12-15

³⁹ Halley, Henry: Halley’s Bible Handbook, p. 515.

⁴⁰ Jennings, Ken. 100 Places to See After You Die: A Travel Guide to the Afterlife, Scribner, 2023, p. 11.

Temporary Destinations

How long is Eternity?

Imagine a sparrow scooping one drop of water in its beak from the Atlantic Ocean and flying across America until it reaches the Pacific Ocean. The sparrow deposits the drop of water into the Pacific, then retraces its path back across the nation until it reaches the Atlantic, where it once again retrieves a drop of water and again flies back to the Pacific where it again deposits the drop of water.

Eternity is the length of time it takes for the sparrow to empty the Atlantic Ocean into the Pacific Ocean.

What will I do during my timeless life in eternity?

After death, our eternal spirit transitions from our physical body into our immortal body. A person's spirit in the afterlife is the same spirit that existed in the human body. The most important part of me continues to exist. Much of who I am and what I can do here will be possible there.

The afterlife is going to be very spirited, humanly speaking! The afterlife is going to be very human, spiritually speaking!

There are four temporary half-way houses and two permanent destinations for our spirit after we die.

Of course, our bucket list will depend in large part to where we will live...with or without Jesus!

The most important question I will ever ask and need to answer in my life: "Is my name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?" Where I spend eternity depends on my answer.

Temporary Club Dead Destinations

Two temporary destinations are revealed in Jesus' narrative account of the rich man and Lazarus: Hades and Abraham's Side (arms). Luke 16:19-31; 23:43

1. **Hades/Sheol/Gehenna** is the temporary house for the unfaithful from Adam until Jesus' return or Judgment Day. Sheol in the Old Testament and Hades in the New are interchangeable. Psalm 16:10 and Acts 2:27

Gehenna is used eleven times by Jesus and once by James. Gehenna "refers to the destruction of the well-being of a person's soul or spirit, not the loss of being."⁴¹

Hades is NOT "Hell" or "the grave". The term "Hell" is not found in the Greek text of the New Testament, but rather "Hell" is a synonym that originated circa 725 A.D. The "Grave" is also used incorrectly to describe this afterlife.

Jesus referred to Hades four times in the Gospels.⁴² It is the temporary destiny of the doomed, a condition more than a location. It remains intact and is currently viable. Club Dead remains the popular destination choice for multitudes of all ages. Until Judgment Day, the spirit of all humans of every generation and nationality will arrive at this chosen destination after their final breath. According to Jesus, the unfaithful are awake, aware, in torment, and incarcerated until His return or the Final Judgment. Then, Hades will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:14

⁴¹ W.E. Vine, The Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, p. 300.

⁴² Matthew 16:18; 11:23; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Revelation 1:18

Temporary Destinations

2. **Abraham's Side/Paradise** was a Temporary location for the faithful from Adam's time until Jesus' resurrection. An uncrossable chasm separated Abram's Side from Hades.



Abraham's Side was Paradise, a place of comfort and consciousness. Jesus promised the criminal on the cross, *"Today you will be with me in Paradise."* Luke 23:43

Jesus' body was buried in Joseph's tomb, but His spirit fulfilled "the sign of Jonah". Matthew 12:40

Christ was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison who once were disobedient.
I Peter 3:18-19

The spirits who accepted Jesus' message resurrected with Him on the third day, came out of their tombs, entered Jerusalem and were seen by many. Matthew 27:51-52

Abram's Bosom was vacated, and the inhabitants were transferred to Heaven.

The Afterlife Reality

3. **Tartarus** is the temporary place prepared for the Devil and his angels after the war in Heaven. Tartarus (pits of darkness) is the current address for Satan's angels.

Revelation 12:7-9

For God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into Tartarus (incorrectly translated "hell") and committed them to pits of darkness reserved for judgment.

2 Peter 2:4

Tartarus is the Abyss, the bottomless pit. Rev. 9:1-11

- Demons begged Jesus to not send them into the abyss. Luke 8:31
- An angel had a key to it, and it could be shut and sealed. Revelation 20:1, 3
- It has a king over them, the angel of the abyss, his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, (Destruction) and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon (Destroyer). 9:11
- The beast comes up out of the abyss, will make war with the two prophets and kill them. Revelation 11:7
- The beast is about to arise out of the abyss, and to go to destruction. Revelation 17:8
- An angel grabbed Satan and threw him into the abyss for 1000 years. Revelation 20:2-3

Tartarus will empty before Judgment Day, and the rebellious angels will accompany Satan into the Lake of Fire.

Jude 6; Revelation 20:7-10

4. **Heaven** is the temporary dwelling place of the Family of God and their angels. Since Jesus' resurrection, it is also the temporary home for the faithful from Adam to the Parousia. This heaven will pass away. Revelation 21:1

Temporary Destinations

The Realities of the Current Heaven

Who we will see

- Jesus sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

Set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

Colossians 3:1 NLT

- Angels, 4 Living Beings and 24 Elders

Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. Revelation 5:11 NLT; 4:4; 11:16

- God's Family of Faith - the martyrs and heroes

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. Revelation 7:4, 9; 14:1; 19:6

What we will see

- Around God's throne there is a sea of glass like crystal. Revelation 4:6; 15:2
- God's throne looks like a sapphire stone. Ezekiel 1:26
- Under the God of Israel's feet: a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. Exodus 24:10
- The Temple (tabernacle) 7:15; 11:1; 11:19; 14:15; 15:5
- A golden altar 6:9; 8:3; 11:1
- The Ark of the Covenant 11:19
- A Marriage Supper of the Lamb with His bride. 19:7

The Afterlife Reality

What we will realize

- We are back at our place of origin.

For our citizenship is in Heaven from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

Philippians 3:20-21; Jeremiah 1:5

- We have an eternal body

When we die and leave these bodies—we will have a home in heaven, an eternal body made by God himself and not by human hands. 2 Corinthians 5:1; John 14:2

- We are Home until Judgment Day.

We are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord!

2 Corinthians 5:8; Matthew 24:35

What is NOT in the current Heaven

The “pearly gates” are in the new Jerusalem that comes down from Heaven. The gates of pearls are not mentioned as being “in” heaven, but in the city, the bride of Christ.

Revelation 21:21

The “streets of gold” are in the new Jerusalem that comes down from Heaven. Neither the pearly gates nor the streets of gold are in this Heaven.

Revelation 21:21

Heaven and Earth are temporary and destroyed by fire

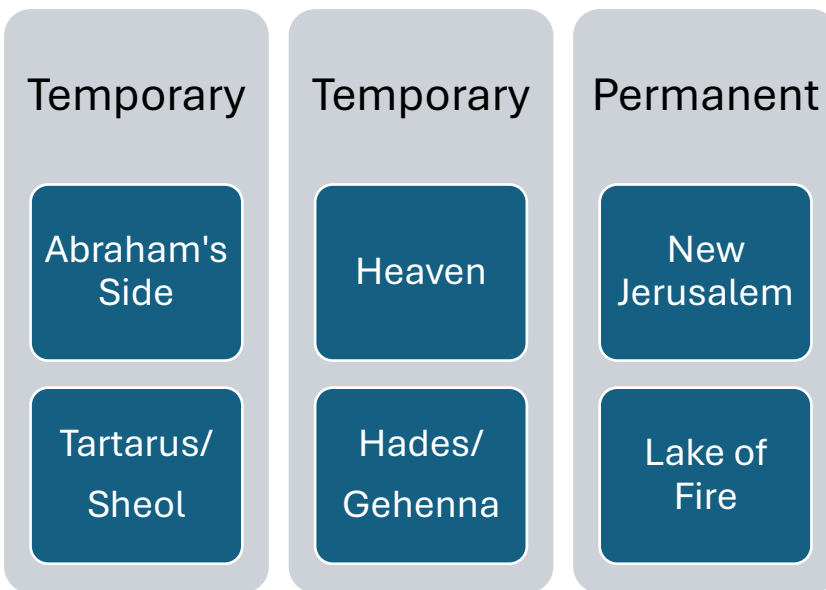
The day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

2 Peter 3:9-10

Temporary Destinations

The faithful who died from Adam to Jesus' resurrection were transferred first to Abraham's Side. All of them transitioned to Heaven upon Jesus' ascension. After Judgment Day, the Earth and Heaven will be destroyed, and the righteous will dwell permanently in the New Jerusalem that comes down out of Heaven.

The unfaithful who died prior to Jesus' resurrection settled in Sheol. Satan's rebellious angels live in darkness in Tartarus. Jesus referred to the Hebrew Sheol as Hades or Gehenna in the Greek New Testament. Hades remains active until Jesus returns (the Parousia). After Judgment all residents are tossed into the Lake of Fire.



If I throw in all my cards with God... I, me, myself, my inner being, spirit, personality and all that makes me who I am will experience The AFTERLIFE REALITY of living in the presence of Almighty God forever and more. Revelation 21:3

The Afterlife Reality

Chapter Seven



Between Now and Forever

The Signs

Jesus' Return

Judgment Day

The Afterlife Reality

The Signs

He was sitting on the Mount of Olives. The disciples came to Him saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"
Matthew 24:3

1. When will these things be?

- The last days
- Apostasy
- Tribulation
- Deception
- The Man of Lawlessness (666)
- The antichrist(s)

2. What will be the sign of Your coming?

- Israelites will say: "Blessed is He Who comes..."
- Universal lightning and seismic disturbances.

3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?

- The first gathering of nations opposed to God for war.
- Jesus' Parousia (2nd coming of Christ).
- The second and third gathering of nations
- The Great White Throne Judgment.
- Sentencing

Therefore, be on the alert for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.
Matthew 24:42

When will these things be?

Volumes have been written about popular Bible words and themes. The last days, the antichrist, the great tribulation, apostasy, mark of the beast, Armageddon, and the 1000 years of tribulation capture the imagination. You may be stunned to discover that the Bible says very little about what Hollywood and Christian authors dramatize.

There are approximately 31,103 verses in the Bible.

Uniquely, in scripture...

- Only 13 verses refer to “the last days”.
- There is only 1 verse that refers to “the apostasy”.
- “The great tribulation” only occurs 1 time.
- There are only 4 verses that use the word “antichrist”.
- Only 1 verse identifies the number of the beast: “666”.
- Only 1 verse mentions “Har-Magedon (Armageddon).
- The phrase “1000 years” appears in only 6 verses.

Christians love sensationalism and get excited about final events. The central focus of every book of the Bible is Jesus! We need to concentrate on Him rather than dramatizing prophetic events. “Scholars have identified 1,845 different biblical references to the second coming of Christ.”⁴³

⁴³ Davidjeremiah. Blog. What the Bible says about Christ’s second Coming.

The Last Days

The “last days” has been the subject of much speculation and misinterpretation. In essence, the apostles of the first century believed they were living in the final days.

The Greek word “eschatos” means “last or extreme”. Matthew, Mark, and Luke never used the phrase “last days,” nor is it found in Revelation. “Eschatos hemera” means “the last days or last times”. The phrase refers to...

1. Joel’s prophecy.

Joel prophesied that in the last days the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all mankind. What was prophesied by Joel 800 years before Christ was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. Once a prophecy is fulfilled, it is completed and done. The prophecy does not need to be repeated unless God deems it so. Peter and the apostles preached to representatives from all over the world.

*But this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:
“And it shall be in the last days, God says, that I will pour
forth of My Spirit upon all mankind.” Acts 2:16; Joel 2:28*

2. The life and words of Jesus.

*In these last days God has spoken to us in His Son
Hebrews 1:2*

*For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who
beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal
life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”
John 6:39-40, 44, 54, 11:24*

Between Now and Forever

3. First Century Christians.

First Century Christians believed it was their “last hour” because many antichrists were active and persecuting their faith and longevity.

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; for this we know that it is the last hour. I John 2:18

4. Difficult times applicable to any century or age.

2 Timothy 3:1; James 5:3

5. Mockers in the world. 2 Peter 3:3; Jude 17-18

Evil in the first century was rampant as it is today...we have been in “the last days” for centuries.

6. The Resurrection and Judgment “on the last day”.

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:39-40; 44, 54; 11:24; 12:48; I Peter 1:5

The “last days” or “last hours” are not limited by time. The first century church believed they were in the last days and expected the Lord to return. According to Scripture, we have been in the last days since the first century A.D. Modern films, books and sermons claim that twenty-first century Christians are in “the last days”. When God is ready, those who are alive on planet Earth will have front row seats to the greatest event since the resurrection of Jesus. Those who are obedient to the Lord will have an “uprising”.

The Apostasy comes first.

Matthew 24:12

Regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

The “apostasy” is the falling away from the faith. The apostasy was already a reality before Paul’s death by Nero in 67-68 C.E. There were many Christians in Paul’s day who were falling away from the faith. The Apostle identified his companions and co-workers who deserted him.

- Alexander and Hymenaeus I Timothy 2:19-20
- Philetus 2 Timothy 2:16-18
- Demas 2 Timothy 4:10
- Phygelus and Hermogenes 2 Timothy 1:15

Falling away from the faith is a process...

“But the spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons...” I Timothy 4:1

- Christians can “drift away”. Hebrews 2:1
- Christians can “turn away”. Hebrews 3:12, 14

They will deliver you to tribulation and will kill you and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. At that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. Matthew 24:9-10, 21

Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. Matthew 24:12

People will pay attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.

Deceitful Spirits

- Satan is The Deceiver

You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

John 8:44

The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Revelation 12:9

He who deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast...

Revelation 13:14

The beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. Revelation 19:20

The angel coming down from heaven threw him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed, after these things he must be released for a short time.

Revelation 20:3

Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations...

Revelation 20:8

The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone.

Revelation 20:10

The Afterlife Reality

- The Man of Sin (Lawlessness) is a Deceiver

The lawless one will be revealed, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power, signs, and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth. For this reason, God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

The Man of Lawlessness is the “son of destruction”.

He is the one who’s coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power, signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish. Matthew 24:24; Revelation 13:13; 2 Thessalonian 2:3-10

The Man of Sin or Lawlessness will “take his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God”. God’s temple no longer exists in Jerusalem. Therefore, this individual is a future or possibly present dictator.

Nations will succumb to the miracles, powers, signs, false wonders and deception of this individual and his cronies.

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24

Deceivers’ ultimate justice!

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, immoral persons, and sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. 21:8; 22:15

- The Antichrist(s)

John used the term “antichrist” four times in his letters, but never in the Books of John or Revelation. It occurs nowhere else in the Bible. Jesus, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul never used the word “antichrist”.

“The antichrist” suggests it would be one person.

Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. I John 2:22

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 2 John 7

Every spirit that does not confess Jesus, is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. I John 4:3

Satan or his right-hand man was already alive and working in the first century Christian Era.

“Antichrists” (plural) were prevalent in the first century. Christians believed it was the “last hour” during their lifetime and Jesus’ return was imminent.

It is the last hour. Just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even NOW many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. I John 2:18

The Afterlife Reality

Christians must understand that the antichrist has been at work in the world since the first century and will be active until Jesus returns. The antichrist is anyone who denies God and His Son Jesus. The “antichrist” is commonly identified with the Man of Sin⁴⁴ and the beast of Revelation 13, but the Bible itself does not make this identification.

Christians throughout history thought they were living in the “last days” with “antichrists”. Only God the Father knows when the Man of Sin will arise...or present. Our role is NOT to know. Our role is to be ready!

- **666** Revelation 13:18

Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Some early manuscripts read 616. Either way, the number is that of an “Anthropos”, man or mankind. The Hebrew equivalent is “Adam”. Identifying this individual should not be too difficult for...

There was a mouth giving to him, speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. Revelation 13:7-8

666 is a man full of deceit and arrogance.

⁴⁴ 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12

Tribulation Passages

“The great tribulation” is a hotly debated subject among Christians. “Tribulation” occurs 8 times in scripture.

In the Old Testament: “A time of great distress” will be experienced by Jews as Michael stands over your people.

Daniel 7:24-27; 12:1

In the New Testament, this distress is described as:

“The Great Tribulation” (1x) – multitudes from all nations.

These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Revelation 7:13-14

“Great Tribulation” refers to the Jews’ Sabbath. Matt. 24:21

“The Tribulation”(3x) is a universal, trial, testing or persecution. Matthew 24:29-30; Mark 13:24; Revelation 1:9

“Tribulation” (x2) Jews: Matthew 24:9-10; Mark 13:19

The Hour of Testing may be a specific or figurative time.

Revelation 3:10; 17:12; 18:10, 17, 19

Tribulation has been the reality for Jews and Christians of all generations and nations. The internal and external distress applied by the henchmen of the devil has existed since the first chapters of Job and persists through Revelation Chapter 20.

We also exult in in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance... Romans 5:3

What will be the sign of Your coming?

Nation will rise against nation, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. Matthew 24:7

He will come quickly (Gk: taxei). Revelation 3:3; 22:7, 22

- People will enjoy banquets, parties, and weddings.
Matthew 24:38-40
- Two people will be working together in the fields and grinding flour.
Matthew 24:41
- He will come quickly like a thief. Revelation 16:15

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming like a thief in the night. While they are saying, "Peace and safety" then destruction will come upon them suddenly and they shall not escape. I Thessalonian 5:1-3

These signs precede Jesus' return. Matthew 24:3

1. God's chosen people (Israel) will continue to exist.

This race will not pass away until all these things take place. Matthew 24:34

2. Universal lightning flashes, sounds, and peals of thunder.
Revelation 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18

So shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Lightning will light up the world sky. Matthew 24:27 NLT

3. The Chosen People's Proclamation.

"From now on you will not see Me until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Baruk habba basem Yahweh". Matthew 23:39; Psalm 118:26

What will be the sign of the end of the age?

He will come in the clouds.

Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him. Revelation 1:7

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see The Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. Matthew 24:30

The Lord Himself will descend from heaven...

- *With a shout (a loud command),*
- *With the voice of the archangel,*
- *With the trumpet of God.* I Thessalonians 4:16

He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. Matthew 24:31

The seventh trumpet is the last trumpet heralding the final woe upon mankind. Revelation 11:14

The Dead will be transformed.

I tell you a mystery; we shall not all die (sleep), but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. Revelation 11:15; I Corinthians 15:51-52

The dead (Heaven and Hades) are already in their imperishable bodies and raised in that condition. At the last trumpet the natural, physical body of the living will be changed into the eternal, imperishable spiritual body.

The Afterlife Reality

The dead in Christ shall rise first. I Thessalonians 4:16

*For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so
God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in
Jesus.* I Thessalonians 4:14

God the Father and Holy Spirit lead and accompany the dead. God's faithful who died between Adam and Easter lived in Abraham's Bosom. It was vacated during Jesus' resurrection and the faithful ascended into Heaven with Him. All who died after Jesus' resurrection until He returns reside in the present Heaven. It will be emptied when Jesus descends from Heaven. God and His trumpet sound reveille.

Those faithful who are alive on Earth are next.

*We who are alive shall not precede those who have
fallen asleep.* I Thessalonians 4:15

*Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up
together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the
air, and we shall always be with the Lord.*

I Thessalonians 4:17

The reunion crescendos in the clouds when we greet those who were dead and meet the Lord "in the air". Eternity for all begins. We will reside with the Lord forever. The living and saints possibly return to Heaven with Jesus.

When the archangel shouts and God's trumpet resound, there is no more opportunity for people to repent.

The reunion of the faithful happens in Satan's own backyard.

*You were dead in your sins in the course of this world,
according to the prince of the power of the air.* Eph. 2:1-2

The Parousia (Gk: appearance) Controversy

Jesus' Parousia (appearance, coming, return) is highly contested. Bible scholars debate the actual point in Revelation when Jesus returns. Theologians point to seven separate passages in the Book of Revelation attempting to pinpoint Jesus' 2nd coming.⁴⁵ The popular term for this event is "The Rapture". However, this word is not in the Bible.

The first warning in Revelation is in the future tense:

Behold He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Revelation 1:7

Jesus' present tense words during the assembling of the Dragon's warriors at Har-Magedon signify His coming is imminent.

Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake, and keeps his garments... Revelation 16:15

If this is the point Jesus returns, believers will not be on Earth during the final destruction of the world.

However, no one knows, not even Jesus Himself.

Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Matt. 24:36

"Revelation" means "to uncover" or "reveal" what things must take place in quickness (Greek: tachei; 1:1) Many translations imply these events will happen "soon" which is misleading. Jesus clarified many times "I am coming quickly."

⁴⁵ Between Chapters 3 & 4; 6:12-17; 11:15-19; 14:14-20; 16:14-16; 19:11-16; 20:5-6.

The Three “gatherings” or “assembling” of evil armies.

There are three gatherings for the final engagement. The Greek word for “assembled” (Gk. “sunago”), describes three stagings for war in Revelation.

1. “Har-Magedon” (Hebrew), not “Armageddon”, (Greek).
Three unclean demon spirits gather together all the kings of the inhabited Earth. A massive earthquake splits the great city, Babylon. No battle takes place. Rev. 16:16
The “great city” Babylon, (Jerusalem) falls. Rev. 17-18
2. The beast and all the kings of the Earth and their armies assemble to make war against Jesus and His army. This is the actual physical battle. All are killed. The birds eat the human flesh. The beast and false prophet are deposited in the Lake of Fire. Revelation 19:19-21

The (a) Thousand Years. Revelation 20:2-7; 2 Peter 3:8

3. After Satan is released from prison, he deceives the nations in the four corners of the Earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for the war. The number of the armies was like the sand of the seashore. They stage on the breadth (diameter) of the earth (7,900 miles) surrounding the camp of the saints and Jerusalem. This is spiritual warfare between Jesus and the unseen forces of Satan. Fire comes from Heaven and devours them. Rev. 20:7-9
 - Satan is thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:10
 - Earth and Heaven are destroyed by fire. 2 Peter 3:10

The present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:7

1000 Years

Only John and Peter introduce the phrase “1000-years”. It may be an indefinite or specific period of time. The phrase appears in seven Bible verses.

But you must not forget, dear friends, that a day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 2 Peter 3:8

“Like” means “similar to” or “resembles”.

“A” thousand years: An Indefinite amount of time. Revelation 20:2, 4 focus on spiritual events taking place in Heaven and in the Abyss, not on Earth. “A” thousand years is general and can be any 1,000-year period. “

“The” thousand years: is an exact and specific, particular period. Just those years. The phrase appears four times in Revelation 20:4, 5, 6, 7.

These six verses have been the main theme for countless sensational movies, books, and sermons. The fact that no other New Testament writer other than Peter used the term “the thousand years” doesn’t seem to faze supporters who claim: “God only needs to say it once”. Only Peter subsidizes the phrase “1000 years” and stated it was “like” one day.

We must live in continual expectation of the Lord’s Coming. The Devil will be incarcerated temporarily for a period and deceive the nations. If Jesus returns in the sixteenth chapter of Revelation, Christians will be with Jesus during these events.

Judgment Day

God sits on a great white throne.

I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence (face) earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. Revelation 20:11

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another. Matthew 25: 31-33

- Heaven and Earth will flee from his face (presence).
- No place was found for them. They passed away.

Everyone must stand before the Lord's throne. 2 Cor. 5:10

- No exceptions or exemptions. Matt. 25:32; Rev. 20:12
- The sea will give up the dead which are in it. 20:13
- Death and Hades will give up the dead in them. 20:13

The books will be opened.

- The dead will be judged from the things written in the books according to their deeds. The last phrase is repeated twice. Revelation 20:12,13

Another book will be opened, which is the Book of Life.

Anyone whose name is not found written in the Book of Life will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. "The book of life" is repeated twice. Revelation 20:12, 15

Death and Hades will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

- This is the second death. Revelation 20:14

The faithful will be transferred to a new Heaven, the city of New Jerusalem, and the unfaithful to the Lake of Fire.

The Lamb's Book of Life was written by the Lord

The LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book." Exodus 32:31-33

Those who sin against God will have their names erased.

*Pile my enemies' sins up high, and don't let them go free.
Erase their names from the Book of Life and don't let
them be counted among the righteous. Psalm 69:27-28*

Believers in God can rejoice that their names are recorded in Heaven.

*"Rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."
Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3*

*You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn
children, whose names are enrolled in heaven.
Hebrews 12:22-23 NLT*

The names of overcomers will not be erased from the Book of Life.

*"He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white
garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of
life..." Revelation 3:5; 21:27*

The Book of Life was written with our names in it before Earth was created. If we are faithful to God, our names remain in the Book because Jesus redeemed us from all sin. If we choose to sin and reject God, our names are deleted from the Book of Life. Eternal security is dependent upon our decisions to be faithful to God. Those who obey God's Word, were guaranteed before their birth to live with God eternally. Those who choose to disobey God's Word select their option to have their name erased from the book.

Who will stand before the Lord on Judgment Day?

Our judgment is based on our deeds. Everyone will be judged whether we are believers in Jesus or rejected Him by decision or ignorance. Romans 1:18-21

Christians believe our sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. This is a fact.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. Romans 8:1-2

This monumental act and grace of Jesus does not release us from standing before the throne. Our life's deeds, recorded in Heaven's books, will be exposed.

Charles proudly showed me his professionally restored 1957 Chevy worth \$150,000. I asked his permission to drive it. He reluctantly gave me the keys to his prized possession with the caveat that I not drive carelessly as his vintage car was uninsured. Minutes later, I ran a stop sign and T-boned another car injuring the driver. Charles' unique vintage antique was totaled. I apologized to Charles, and he forgave me. He even told me I did not need to pay him the \$150,000 for his loss. That is grace amplified! However, I broke the law and injured the other driver which required me to stand before a judge. That is justice!

Jesus forgives us, but we must account for our thoughts and actions during judgment. Our faithfulness to Jesus will move us to the right side of the cosmic courtroom. If we deny Him, we will stand on the left with the unfaithful. Incredibly, on Judgment Day we will see and be with every person we have encountered during our lifetime and all of history; past, present and future.

Why I can be confident when I stand before God!

Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions. It is by our actions that we know we are living in the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before the Lord, even if our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our conscience is clear, we can come to God with bold confidence.

I John 3:18-21

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him. So, we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world.

I John 4:16-17

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Hebrews 4:16

Our citizenship, our home has been with God and for God since before time began. We are basically God's ambassadors on this planet. We renounce our citizenship when we choose to live under Satan's flag. God's plan has always been to redeem and rescue those who want to be rescued.

For the believer, our citizenship is in Heaven! Do not be afraid! Don't be complacent! Be prepared and ready.

The Afterlife Reality

Permanent Afterlife Destinations



The Lake of Fire
New Jerusalem

There are Two Permanent Destinations

There are four temporary afterlife destinations. Abraham's Side is already vacant. Tartarus is the address for the Devil's angels. Heaven and Hades are in effect for humans until Judgment. You can't exchange your boarding pass after you die.

We must all appear before the great white throne of God for judgment. Afterwards, we will live in our permanent new Jerusalem home or be incarcerated in the Lake of Fire based on our earthly deeds and our commitment to or denial of God and Jesus. The two permanent destination sites are:

The Lake of Fire

Hades, Death, Satan, and all those who rebelled against God in Tartarus, Heaven and on Earth will be eternally tormented in the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:11-15

The first to do the cannonball into the Lake of Fire are the beast, false prophet and those who worship his image.

The beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Revelation 19:20

The second swim meet showcases Satan's swan dive.

The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone.

Revelation 20:10

Permanent Destinations

The third living entities to Pike Dive into the Lake of Fire are Death and Hades. Revelation 20:14

The fourth crowd to hit the Lake in a backward dive are those whose name is not found written in the book of life. Revelation 20:15

If I rebel against God, my afterlife reality will be my choice with no one to blame. I, me, myself, my inner being, spirit, and personality with all my human physical and mental characteristics will swim in the Lake of Fire forever.

My spiritual body will have eyes, ears, tongue, nose, mouth, hands, feet and mind and will be able to:

- See, identify objects, spiritual beings and physical traits of myself and others.
- Hear.
- Speak, communicate with others and cry out.
- Touch.
- Taste bitterness.
- Smell brimstone.
- Maneuver.
- Experience pain.
- Wear the mark of the beast.
- Understand limitations.
- Remember family and my previous life on Earth.
- Reason and think analytically.

I will swim in the lake because of the choices or lack of choices I made during my lifetime. Is this the AFTERLIFE REALITY I really want to choose and experience...forever?

New Jerusalem is a permanent destination.

After the White Throne Judgment, the redeemed will be transferred to a new Heaven and a new Earth because...

Earth and Heaven fled away from God's presence (face) and no place was found for them. 20:11

According to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth. 2 Peter 3:13

The holy city new Jerusalem will descend from the new Heaven.

I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:2,10

Long ago Abraham searched for the city of God.

Abraham was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:10

Mount Zion is that city.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels. Hebrews 12:22; 13:14

As the new Jerusalem descends from the new Heaven the residents will realize:

1. The holy city new Jerusalem is the bride of Christ. 21:2
2. God dwells among people. 21:3
3. The 12 gates are 12 pearls in new Jerusalem. 21:21
4. The streets are pure gold like transparent glass. 21:21
5. There is no temple. 21:22

Permanent Destinations

**Human features my immortal, spiritual body
will display in the new Jerusalem**

My spiritual body will have eyes, ears, tongue, nose, mouth, hands, feet and mind. I will be able to:

- See, recognize others, identify objects, spiritual beings and physical traits of myself and others.
- Hear, enjoy music and distinguish silence from noise.
- Speak, communicate with others, sing, and regulate the volume of my voice.
- Touch, hold palm branches and write.
- Eat, taste food and attend a marriage supper.
- Maneuver, sit, stand and fall.
- Wear white linen and a mark on my forehead.
- Experience comfort and rest.
- Smell incense, plants and fruit from the Tree of Life.
- Access water and the River of Life.
- Reason and think analytically.
- Understand limitations, make comparisons, measure the concept of space, time and dimensions and use numbers.
- Recognize family, friends and historical people of faith.
- Request and receive justice.
- Worship and reign with Christ.

Location, location, location!

I am in new Jerusalem because of God's mercy and Jesus' forgiveness. I made my choice to live in Heaven with my faithfulness and deeds for Him on Earth. The curb appeal of eternal habitation is the real estate of every individual.

The New Jerusalem's dimensions Revelation 21:15-17

Heaven and Earth pass away. There is no longer any sea. Our final destination has been achieved through the grace of God.

The New Jerusalem descends from the new heaven...not necessarily upon the new Earth but perhaps suspended between the two as the dimensions are different.

The city is laid out in a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. Revelation 21:16

According to angelic and human measurements the city is 12,000 stadia in equal length, width and height. The Greek stadia is 600 feet. 12,000 x 600 feet = approximately 14,000 miles. This NASB is incorrect in its multiplication.

The city's dimensions were measured by an angel: 1400 miles wide, 1400 miles long and 1400 miles deep. Heaven is a cube. The size is half of the United States horizontally and all the distance vertically from Mexico to Canada. Plus, it is 1400 miles deep. Our present Earth's crust is 1800 miles in thickness under the continents.⁴⁶

These measurements may be spiritual, symbolic, or exact. The acreage is enough space for all Christians who have ever lived to inhabit if we had physical bodies instead of spiritual bodies. Heaven is not so much a "what" or a "where" as it is the presence of God.

⁴⁶ How Deep is the Earth? Copilot Search

With Jesus, I have eternity to:

Get to know the Creator of the Universe and the

- Celebrate the marriage of the Lamb and His bride!
- Understand the mysteries of Heaven and Earth.
- Interview all the faithful Biblical characters.
- Meet and chat with past and future generations; and all the faithful people I knew on Earth.
- Comprehend God's plan.
- Celebrate Satan's demise!

Eternity may not be long enough!

Just so we are sure of the odds...

The believer's spiritual body in the afterlife has 40 human characteristics and qualities.

The unbeliever's spiritual body in the afterlife has 17 of the same attributes. Those who ignore, reject, and hate God possess these characteristics, which will only amplify their misery!

If this research and biblical interpretation is valid, everyone who has ever lived and died will possess either seventeen or forty of these abilities in the afterlife.

How can we be certain our spiritual body will have these human capabilities after our death?

- Jesus claimed it and certified it.
- Isaiah and John confirmed it and authenticated it.
- Eyewitnesses verified it.
- Near-death experiences provide snapshots of it.

The Afterlife Reality

Balance is key to this life and the next. The things of this life are real, but temporary. Placing all of our faith in them is like eating an ice cream cone on a hot day. Eternal balance is achieved as we focus on unseen things in the spiritual world. This life is vapor. The next is forever.

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:18

Temporal things relating to life here and now

Even though we are spiritual beings having a human experience, most of our life is consumed with visual objects. Temporary things, theories, thrills and physical traits mesmerize our horizon. The old phrase, “Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we may die”, is a mantra embraced by many.
1 Corinthians 15:32

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.
James 4:14

“Remember that you are really living in the unseen—that is the real life.”⁴⁷

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, powers, world forces of this darkness, spiritual force of wickedness in the heavenly places.
Ephesians 6:12

The Unseen life is real life, for it is eternal. This life is Temporary...forever-less. The next life is forever more.

⁴⁷ Ibid., God Calling, September 3rd.

Permanent Destinations

Dear Chance:

The Mirage Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada has closed its doors after 34 years. It will be replaced with a bigger gambling house, yet unseen. God's mansions in Heaven are no Vegas Mirage and Earth isn't your last resort.

If God required you to swim from San Diego to Hawaii to be saved, you would dress in your swimming suit and wade out into the Pacific but would most assuredly drown before reaching the Island beaches.

If Jesus commanded you to climb to the summit of Mount McKinley in Alaska to pay for your sins, you would grab your gear and begin the ascent. More than likely, you would perish somewhere between the tree line and the top.

All God asks of you is to give Him your life. What do you receive in return? Eternal life with God, exercising 40 human characteristics in your spiritual inheritance.

It's time to Ante Up! Everyone has a mandatory stake. Your balance of time is non-negotiable. There is no such thing as "luck" when it comes to where you will spend eternity. It's time to place all your chips on the table.

Don't mess up! Jesus is your only chance!

Love always!

Zoe

Jesus Is Our Afterlife Reality

We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. I John 3:2

Jesus' appearance in Revelation

John described the Lord's heavenly characteristics in his panorama of the afterlife. Revelation 1:13-16

*I saw one **like** a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and wrapped around the chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white **like** white wool, **like** snow; and His eyes were **like** a flame of fire. His feet were **like** burnished bronze when it has been heated to a glow in a furnace, and His voice was **like** the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was **like** the sun shining in its strength.*

Jesus' human features are profiled by John.

- He was clothed in a robe reaching to His feet.
- His head and hair were white as snow.
- His eyes were like a flame of fire.
- His feet were like burnished bronze.
- His voice was like the sound of many waters.
- His right hand held seven stars.
- His mouth was like a sharp two-edged sword.
- His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

John's depiction of Jesus confirms the spiritual body is comparable to our human body. How will our spiritual bodies resemble Jesus in the afterlife? We will have a face, eyes, mouth, voice, right hand, feet, hair on our head, and a body clothed in a robe. We will be like Him!

Our Harbor Pilot

My wife and I volunteered with International Disaster Emergency Services to restore and renovate hurricane damaged homes in the Bahamas. We chose to take a cruise ship because it was less expensive than flying. It was a Gambling ship...in more ways than one. A cursory glance at the hull confirmed we took a gamble by just boarding it. We stood on the top deck about 50 feet above the water line as the vessel chugged out of the West Palm channel. Looking down at the choppy waters we noticed a 20' boat running closely parallel to the gigantic ship. As we reached open waters, the small boat bumped against the ship, and we saw someone jump from the cruise ship onto the bobbing boat. A fellow passenger was also observing this event. I asked him: "Who's the guy abandoning our ship?" He indifferently told us it was the captain. I swallowed deeply remembering the captain was supposed to be the last one, not the first one, to abandon the ship.

The passenger continued. "That Captain is called a 'Harbor Pilot' and has detailed knowledge of a port's channels. He guides ships through congested and dangerous waters like harbors." I could not absorb what he was telling me from what I saw. The Harbor Pilot didn't look anything like a white bearded Captain Ahab. He looked more like a young gazelle who jumped effortlessly from a steady, humongous ship onto a cork at the mercy of the waves.

Jesus is our Harbor Pilot. He navigates our vessel when we leave our home port and when we return. He guides our ship through harrowing channels. You may never be able to thank the Harbor Pilot but knowing that you can't leave or return to the Harbor without Him, is priceless.

Conclusions

The immortal, spiritual body according to scripture will feature 40 human qualities. 23 (57.5%) are reserved for Heaven only. Heaven and Hades share 17 similarities: (42.5%). While decomposition begins in the human body after death, the Bible declares that the spiritual body is a composition continuation of an individual's mind, heart, will, character and personality. My profile and vitae are forever!

Currently, I am a spiritual being having a human experience. Everything I do in this life, outside of my relationship with my Creator, passes away. Upon death I will be a spiritual being having an eternal experience. Eternal life is the only lasting life.

"For me to live is Christ, to die is gain!" Philippians 1:21

What do we gain by dying? We retain 40 aspects of our human body. After death, many of our key components extend into our imperishable, eternal bodies. We can be confident in the accuracies of Isaiah's, Jesus' and John's testimonies.

Our options: their documented evidence can be accepted, denied, ignored, feared, and rationalized away. We can gamble on the inevitability of what comes after this life by trusting religions, philosophies, hypotheses and theories. Those comfortable with finite thinking fixate on the caterpillar without imagining the butterfly's transformation.

Only someone who was raised from the dead would know the realities of the afterlife: Jesus! To live for Him here is our personal gain there.

Conclusions

The old saying, “Nobody knows what happens after death” is only comforting for people who discount Jesus’ resurrection. Our destiny is determined by a singular roll of the dice. The theory we embrace defines our eternity.

Our smorgasbord of possibilities is like a Roulette Table. We can bet on a single number or several, but only one can be the winner. We can gamble and hope that nothing happens after death and we become extinct. Or we suspect something happens after we die so we play roulette with several theories: we become ghosts, we are incarnated into a higher life form, we land in a temporary intermediary location, or we go to sleep.

What happens to us when we die is not based on our choice alone, a roulette table or singular roll of the dice. God’s Word is definitive. Jesus, Isaiah and John knew what happened after death. Those resurrected in the Bible knew what happens. The thousands who have had an NDE know. The reader of this book also knows.

“It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment”.
Hebrews 9:27

Our conscious inner being on Earth transfers to and through Eternity. Who we are now is who we will be then and there. Our choice to serve Jesus guarantees 40 human characteristics in Heaven. If we choose another path, 17 of our human attributes will endure in the Lake of Fire.

Eternity is too long to be wrong!

The response from the Opposition

Satan was depressed because many people slipped through his fingers and were giving their lives to Jesus. He decided to hold a competition to see which of his demons could come up with the best scheme to stop people from believing Jesus is the Son of God.

The first demon said in a squeaky voice: "Let's tell everyone Jesus' virgin birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection are fake news."

"Are you kidding me?" Satan replied skeptically. "Everyone knows Jesus was a historical person who died for their sins and rose from the grave. We even paid people to lie and deceive others about the facts! Anybody else have a rational idea? Come on, brainstorm!"

In a quivering, choked-up voice a second demon proposed: "Tell people that Jesus is the Son of God, He became human, He was crucified for their sins, He resurrected from the grave, and He is coming again."

"WHAAAAAT" the Devil cringed and screamed. "You want to tell them the truth?"

"Yesssssss, your majesty. Tell them the truth but tell them they have plenty of time to accept Him as their Lord and Savior."

The devil raised his head slowly with a delightful, evil grin on his face. "Excellent! That's what we will do. Go tell people they have plenty of time to commit their lives to Jesus."

This plan was adopted and implemented.

Conclusions

What we do on Earth echoes through Eternity

The Four most important words and actions on Earth that have eternal ramifications:

The most important words we can say on Earth:

"I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!"

"Everyone who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 10:32

The most important actions on Earth: My deeds.

Revelation 20:12-1

The most important question we answer on Earth:

"Is my name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?"

Revelation 20:15

Our most important goal on Earth:

Finish the race faithfully!

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

Welcome Home!

We are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord!

2 Corinthians 5:8

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

This is the Afterlife Reality!

The Afterlife Reality