

What is after Death?

04.04.2021



Agenda

- Introduction
- Eternal life
- Mystery of the Separation of the Spirit from the Body
- What is after Death?
- Intermediate state of the spirit

Introduction

We will not talk today from our mind or thoughts but our references will be:

- The Holly Bible
- Father's sayings and Canon's of the Councils
- The Liturgy



Do you know what is the abbreviations of the word “Bible”?

bible

B	Basic
I	information
B	befor
L	leaving
E	Earth

Why should we know about that topic?

Introduction

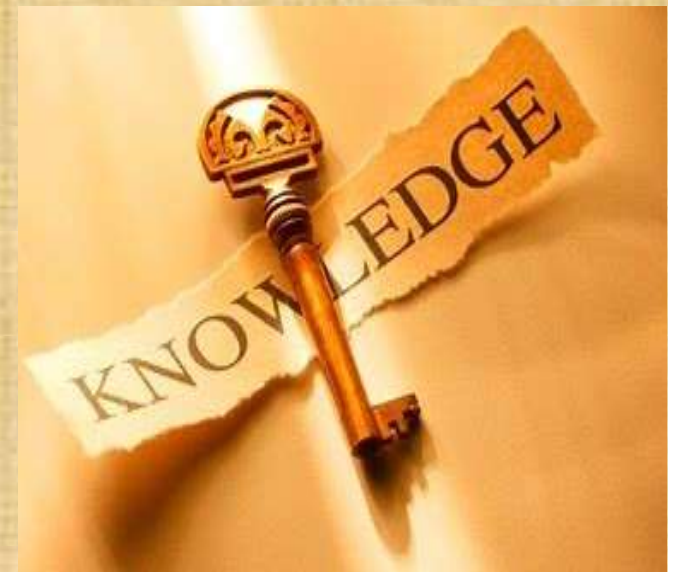
There is a nice verse in Hosea says:
“My people are destroyed for lack of
knowledge” (*Hosea 4:6*)



Do you have the capability to know but you don't want?
Do you have the references but you are lazy to work on them?
How will you face God?

The excuse of “I do not know” might
not be acceptable before God!

The knowledge alone is not enough for
our salvation, but the good knowledge is
the one that leads to behavior and
changes our desire to get closer to God



1. Eternal life

What is the eternal life?

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” *(John 17:3)*

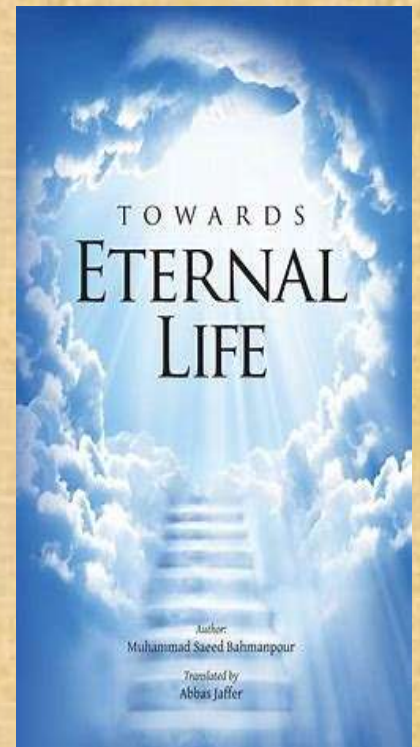
so simply the eternal life is the knowledge of God. Do not expect that you will live eternally with God if you did not know Him on earth!

Another nice verse “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end”

(Ecclesiastes 3:11)

In the NT, our Lord Jesus Christ confirms that by saying

“For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you” *(Luke 17:21)*



Characteristics of the Eternal life

1. Is a gift:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” *(Romans 6:23)*

So, it is a gift we received as a seed through the church's sacraments (baptism, confirmation, communion)

Then it becomes a taste during our life on earth through the prayer, fasting, Holy Bible, Spiritual books, ...



Then it is a delight through our eternal life in Heaven

Characteristics of the Eternal life

2. Eternal Joy:

“The place our of which grief, sorrow
and groaning have fled away in the
light of your saints” *(The Litany of the departed)*



3. Kingdom of God:

We will live forever with God, praising Him and enjoying Him

“Grant them the good things of Your
promises, that which an eye has not seen
nor ear heard, neither have come upon
the heart of man” *(The Litany of the departed)*



Characteristics of the Eternal life

4. New Nature:

Body with no hunger, no thirst, no lust, no need to rest, no boring, ...

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven” *(Matthew 22:30)*



“They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat” *(Revelation 7:16)*

Characteristics of the Eternal life

5. Continuous Growth:

Our growth will not be stopped when we reach Heaven

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.
Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known” *(1 Corinthians 13:12)*

6. Glory is different from one another:

“For one star differs from another star in glory” *(1 Corinthians 15:41)*

“What can we learn from that? If all righteous will be in the kingdom of God but not all will enjoy same reward, and if all sinners will be in hell but not all will face same punishment” *(St. John Chrysostom)*



2. Death “Mystery of the Separation of the Spirit from the Body”

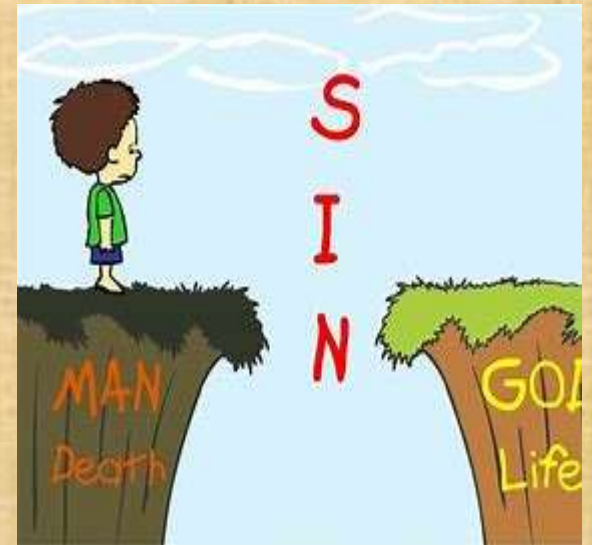
There is a lot of kinds but let's us focus here on three kinds:

1. Physical Death: Separation of Spirit from Body

2. Spiritual Death: Separation from God

“The Fellowship with God is the Life, and the Separation of God is Death” *(St. Irenaeus)*

“God is Life, whomever separated from God is real dead” *(St. Cyril)*



Remember the prodigal son “for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found” *(Luke 15:32)*

“I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead” *(Revelation 3:1)*

2. Death “Mystery of the Separation of the Spirit from the Body”

3. Eternal Death:

Someone who died physical and died Spiritually, so he is considered died eternally

So, what is happening at the moment of Death? Is there some pain? Is Death just a moment or does it take some time? Is there anyone who died whom Jesus returned back to life, who spoke about that moment? ... **Let's search about it!**



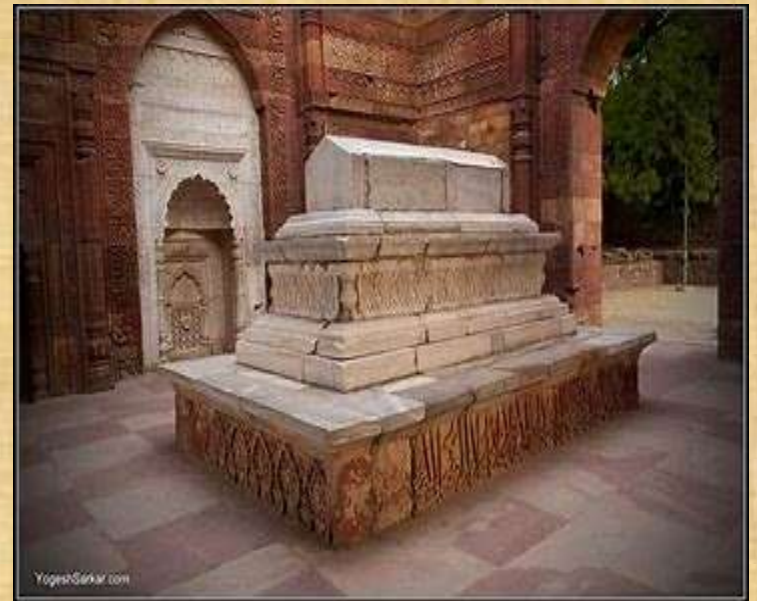
Characteristics of Death

1. Is not an entity:

“Death does not have existence, death is the absence of life” *(St. Athanasius)*

2. Death is real:

It is the only confirmed truth we are 100% sure of it in our life.
Even the atheists believe in Death!



“What man can live and not see death?” *(Psalm 89:48)*

Characteristics of Death

3. Pangs/Joy of Death:

a) Pangs:

“Help us to overcome the pangs of death, before death and after death” *(Absolution of the Priests)*

Also, in the 3rd litany in the 11th hour in Agpeya

“And when my soul departs my body attend to me, and defeat the conspiracy of the enemies, and shut the gates of Hades, lest they might swallow my soul, O you, blameless bride of the true Bridegroom”

Satan does not want to leave the soul of the departed to go away from him!



Characteristics of Death

3. Pangs/Joy of Death:

b) Joy:

Usually upon the departing of any of the monks, the fathers surround him to encourage him and write whatever they see. In the book of the “Paradise of monks” there is a story about St. Sheshoy, upon his departing he says:

“Look, here is St. Anthony is coming, then here are many of prophets, then here are the apostles” and in each moment his face is shined more, and after a moment he was talking and when the other monks asked him, he said “I am asking the angels to not take my soul now as I need more time to repent” then his face was shining as the sun, then he declared that our Lord Jesus Christ came, then his soul was separated from his body and all monks smell good aroma”

Characteristics of Death

4. Death is the last enemy:

“The last enemy that will be destroyed is death” *(1 Corinthians 15:26)*

5. Death is the wages of sin

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” *(Romans 6:23)*

6. Death is a departure or transfer:

“For there is no death for Your servants, but a departure” *(The Litany of the departed)*



The eternal life is through the death of the body. The Death is just a step; the death is the key of the eternal life!

“What you sow is not made alive unless it dies” *(1 Corinthians 15:36)*

3. What is after Death?

Let's start a journey of the Spirit:

1. Physical Death: Separation of Spirit from Body

“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it” (*Ecclesiastes 12:7*)

2. Spirits move to Waiting Places (*No Bodies*):

- a. Paradise for righteous spirits
- b. Hades for evil spirits



3. Second Coming:

“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (*Matthew 24:27*)

In the second coming there is some living on earth and some departed by their bodies

3. What is after Death?

4. General Resurrection:

a) First for whom departed:

The Spirit will return to its glorified body

“So also, is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” *(1 Corinthians 15:42-44)*

“And the dead in Christ will rise first”

(1 Thessalonians 4:16)

and they will meet Christ on the clouds



3. What is after Death?

4. General Resurrection:

b) Righteous Living: Two things will happen:

i. Be Changed:

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)



That change is a result of the change to a glorified body
(there is no weight)

3. What is after Death?

4. General Resurrection:

b) Righteous Living:

ii. Be caught up:

“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

Being caught is a sign of the change

c) Evil Living

“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:7,10)

“Then they will begin ‘to say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” (Luke 23:30)



3. What is after Death?

5. The Judgment Day:

The Judgment is real; some heresies deny it

“Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us” *(Romans 8:34)*

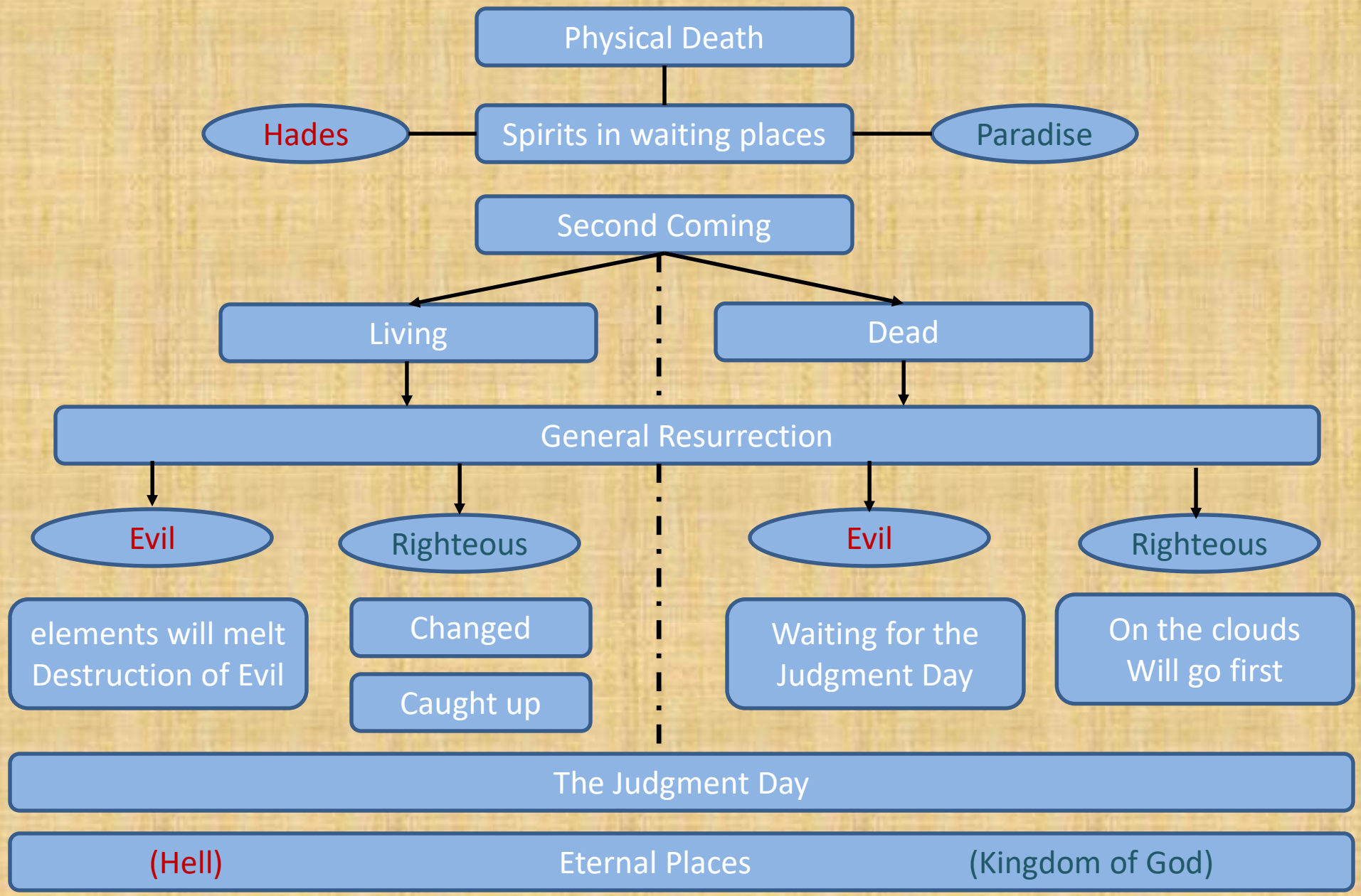
6. The Eternal Places:

“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” *(Matthew 25:46)*

- a. Eternal Kingdom (Kingdom of God)
- b. Eternal Hell



3. What is after Death? (Summary)

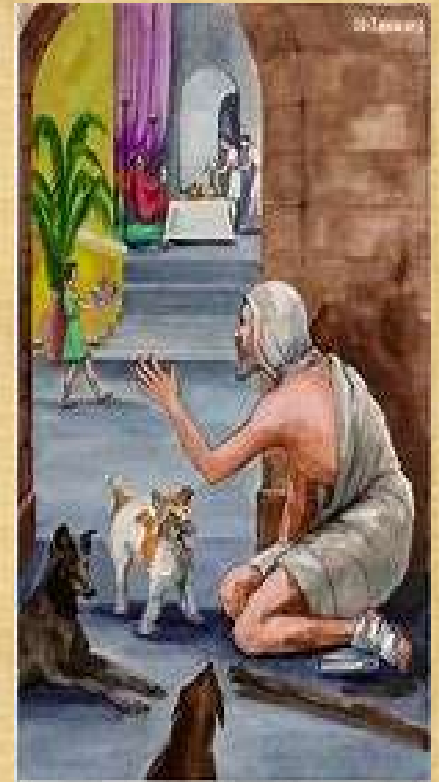


4. Intermediate state of the spirit

We can extract that part from the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Even though this is a parable, but our Lord Jesus Christ wanted to deliver some principles to our faith and our belief (similar to the parables of the ten virgins, the good Samaritan, the prodigal son, ...)

But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' " (Luke 16: 19-31)



Characteristics of the intermediate state

1. The Spirit remembers

Moses in the

for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.

2. The Spirit serves all

In verse 28, the brothers on earth

But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented

3. The Spirit follows what is happening on earth

In verse 25, Abraham knows the story of the rich man and Lazarus

Also, Abraham knows that Moses and the prophets came after him on earth

Also, the rich man knows the status of his brothers and understands they did not repent, he tried to help them



(even his was evil, so how about the saints when they intercede for us?)

Characteristics of the intermediate state

4. The Spirits know each other in the earth

Abraham knew

And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us

5. The Spirits cannot see each other at a great distance

In verse 26, the rich man and Abraham talked to each other despite the great gulf between them the capability of the spirit is much bigger than that of the body

6. The Spirit remembers

But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented

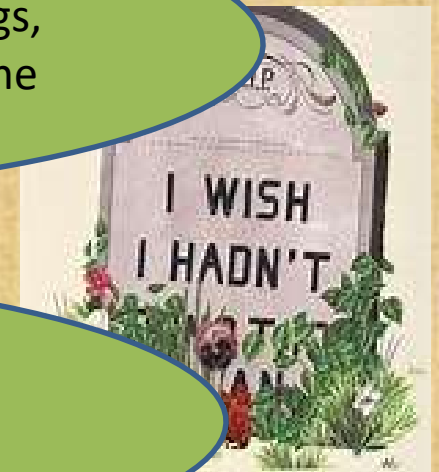
7. The Spirits cannot enjoy the earth

In verse 25, despite the rich man has no body but he is afraid about his torment, he is regretting on his sins

Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house

8. There is a great gulf between the spirits and the earth

In verse 27, same for the saints today



Characteristics of the intermediate state

9. The Spirit did not reach the perfect joy

“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed” (*Revelation 6: 9-11*)

10. No repentance after death

Even the righteous cannot intercede for any evil one.
There is no will to change our destiny

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might;
for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom
in the grave where you are going” (*Ecclesiastes 9:10*)



Conclusion

Thinking of death and the fear of death might be a first step to fear God. I fear God because I love Him, and I do not fear from God as He will punish me!

“Who does not learn from the sermons about Death never learns”

(St John Chrysostom)

The Death is the key to the eternal life

Start to live the eternal life from here on earth by getting closer to God and knowing Him more

We were created to live forever with God

This is a nice verse that summarizes God's plan and it represents a small Bible:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”

(John 3:16)



Summary

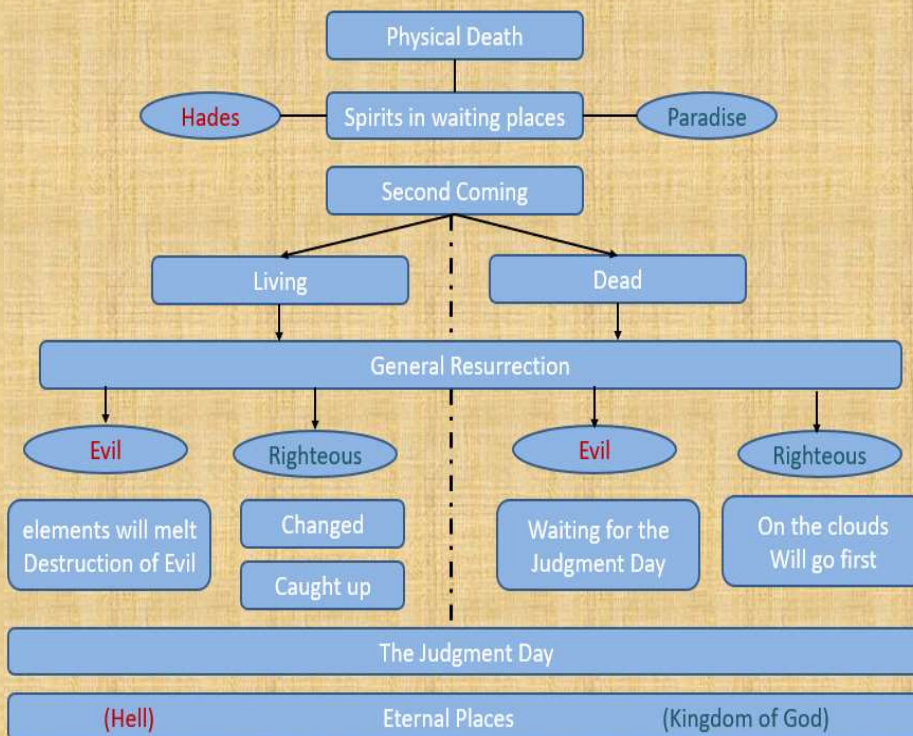
1. Eternal life

1. Gift
2. Eternal Joy
3. Kingdom of God
4. New Nature
5. Continuous Growth
6. Glory is different from one another

2. Death

1. Not an entity
2. Is real
3. Pangs/Joy of Death
4. Is the last enemy
5. Is the wages of sin
6. Death is a departure or transfer

3. What is after Death? (Summary)



4. Intermediate state of the spirit

1. Remains alive and has the capability to grow
2. Preserves all the knowledge even after leaving earth
3. Follows what is happening on earth
4. Know each other even they did not meet on earth
5. Connect to each other despite the long distance
6. Remembers what it did on earth in details
7. Can live in joy or suffer
8. Probability of the righteous man to return to earth
9. Did not reach the perfect joy
10. No repentance after death



Glory be to God

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,