

## WHEN WE LOSE A LOVED ONE

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# WHEN WE LOSE A LOVED ONE

**A MESSAGE OF HOPE  
FROM THE BIBLE**



## WHEN WE LOSE A LOVED ONE

It is sometimes said that it is natural for people to grow old and die, yet millions of people die before they grow old. What about babies and young children? Why do they die?

The Bible teaches that death is God's penalty for sin, the consequence of Adam's disobedience in the garden of Eden.

The whole human race has come from Adam and shares his God-given life but also the death penalty placed upon him when he sinned. Understanding that we are members of a dying race helps us to realise that death is not an individual punishment for something we or our loved ones have done wrong. Fortunately for us, God also has a plan to restore all people to life in the future. This is the message of hope we wish to share with you.



## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR LOVED ONE?

The Bible teaches that death is like a sleep. Jesus said this of his friend Lazarus and of a young girl who had died (John 11:11,14; Matthew 9:18, 23-26).

Death is likened to sleep because the two states share two main similarities.

The first is that those who are asleep are not fully aware of what is happening in the world around them. Those who have died are totally unaware, free from all pain and sorrow; "For the living know that they will die but the dead know nothing" (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

The second is that there is the expectation of an awakening and a return to active life again, as John writes "for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out" (John 5:28, 29). We believe that the word "all" in this verse includes every person who has ever lived, including your loved one.

## WILL WE EVER SEE OUR LOVED ONE AGAIN?

Certainly we will. God has promised that He will restore to life all who have ever lived on the earth (John 11:24,25; Acts 24:15, 1 Corinthians 15). Jesus told us to pray for God's will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven; this can only happen after all people have been raised from death.

God's promise to the human race is a world order of peace, security and happiness under the rulership of His son, our king, Jesus Christ. God has promised that He "will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4). But we do not see that yet.

It is difficult for us to imagine a world in which there is no pain or death, but God has promised that it will come and Christians believe His promise and are encouraged. As you read God's promises you also may be encouraged that you will see your loved ones again and will never again be parted from them because of the power God has given to His Son, Jesus Christ.



## WE CAN TRUST THE BIBLE

Many people have tried and continue to try to discredit the Bible and its claims. Such opposition was foretold: "you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires." (2 Peter 3:3).

Jesus himself prophesied that "people will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world" (Luke 21:26). This is the situation of our world right now; most people feel hopelessly lost because without God and a belief in a resurrection they see no hope for life or peace now or in the future.

## A HEAVENLY PROMISE

The Bible's promise to the human race is to be restored to life again and to continue to live forever on a restored earth (Isaiah 35 and many other Scriptures).

There is, however, a special promise to faithful Christian believers to receive something even better than life on the earth (Hebrews 11:35-40); they are to be made like Jesus, as spirit beings with everlasting life, when the resurrection of the dead commences. This promise is only to a "little flock" (Luke 12:32).

God's heavenly promise is dependent on Christians showing faith and obedience until the end of their lives and the promise is that this "little flock" will assist Jesus in the future work of blessing all nations and families of the earth (Genesis 12:3; 22:18; Hebrews 6:13-18; Galatians 3:8, 16; 1 Corinthians 15:49).

Everyone is invited to become part of this "little flock", inheritors of this amazing heavenly promise, by accepting God's gracious offer to follow Jesus' example, become his disciples now and remain faithful until death.



## WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

We can grieve for the loss of our loved ones and the pain caused by sin and death. Grief is a natural human emotion (Ecclesiastes 3:4) and one Jesus understood (John 11:35).

We can comfort one another in our time of sorrow, and be at peace, remembering that in the future "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" (Revelation 21:4).

We can wait in peace for the sure and certain hope of the fulfilment of God's promise that we will one day be reunited with our loved ones in an age of true justice, peace and security, the "new heavens and a new earth," the new world order promised by God (2 Peter 3:13).