

# How Did Death Come Upon Humans?

Marlin Fannin

Today we're going to look at the subject called 'death.' There's an old saying, 'there's nothing surer than death and taxes.' For the most part taxes go on even after death. So, I guess it's longer than death. I'd like to ask:

- Why death?
- What brought it?
- Who caused death to come upon mankind?

In John 8:44: "You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice. He was a murderer from *the* beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it."

We see from this verse that Satan was a murderer from the beginning. He caused the death of Adam and Eve because of his lie to Eve. We know that Jezebel hired a couple of worthless scumbags to lie in order to have Naboth killed. There are more examples in the Bible where lies have caused the death of someone.

We know that Cain killed Abel because of not controlling his attitude and temper. I'm sure that Satan had a hand in that.

The main perpetrator and cause of death to come upon mankind is Satan the devil. Adam because of his disobedience brought death upon himself, Eve and all of offspring, of which we are. But it was through Satan and his lie to them that really caused their death.

God said that once you 'disobey Me and you take of this fruit' which Satan said, 'Oh no, Eve, that's a beautiful fruit, you need to try it, it's really tasty. So, she did and also gave to her husband, and in that way brought death upon themselves and also on all mankind, because of the lie that Satan had told Eve.

We'll see the account of where this took place. Genesis 2:16: "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'You may freely eat of every tree in the garden, but you shall not eat of the Tree of *the* Knowledge of Good and Evil, for in the day that you eat of it in dying you shall surely die'" (vs 16-17). God told them that if you take of it then in dying you will you're going to die.'

At that point they didn't realize what death was; didn't have a clue. But later on they would find out.

Genesis 3:19: "In the sweat of your face you

shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return." Again, God told Adam what the penalty is:

- he's going to have to work hard
- he's going to do some sweating
- he's going to get tired
- he's going to have some aching muscles

Then he would die and go back to dust from which he came or that he was made from.

Hebrews 9:27: "And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this, *the* judgment." Paul is saying here that man is going to die, it's appointed to man to die because of Adam and Eve's sin that was brought upon all of mankind.

Genesis 5:5: "And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years. And he died." Just as God said, there came a time when Adam died. It was 930 years, which is a long time; way beyond anything we can comprehend in living that long. But Adam truly did die as God said that he would.

Death, to why God calls the saints, is a good thing in His eyes, not a bad thing.

Psalms 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints." To God, those who have overcome Satan—over their human nature and through Jesus Christ and His blood—being able to walk through life as Abraham did with God and others, when they die then we know to God that's a precious thing. In their next awakening moments—or our awakening moments—we will be children of God forever to live and death will have no curse upon us, will have no hold upon us (1-Cor. 15).

God looks at it for the Christians—those who overcome that He calls 'saints'—are precious in His eyes for those who have made it and dies.

1-Samuel 2:6: "The LORD kills and makes alive. He brings down to the grave and brings up." Showing again that God can resurrect us from the dead, bring us back to life as we just saw in the Psalm that 'precious in God's sight is the death of His saints.' It plainly says here that ***God is the One Who gives life, He takes life and He can raise it back up!***

Psalms 68:20: "Our God is the God of salvation; for unto the sovereign Lord belong the issues of death." God is in charge. He's the One Who pronounced to Adam and Eve, and He's also the One through Jesus Christ that came to this earth to die for all of us, that our sins could be forgiven.

He is the One Who is said, ‘Salvation belongs to God.’ He is the One who takes care and handles the issue of death.

Romans 5:12: “Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and by means of sin *came* death; and in this way death passed into all mankind; *and it is* for this reason that all have sinned.”

As we read earlier, by one man—Adam—that sin came into the world. Then death passed on to all mankind.

Ecclesiastes 3:19: “For that which happens *to* the sons of men also happens to beasts—even one thing *happens* to them. As the *one* dies, so dies the other; yea, they all *have* one breath; so that a man has no advantage over a beast; for all *is* vanity. All go to one place; all are of the dust, and all return to dust again. Who knows the spirit of man whether it goes upward, and the spirit of the beast whether it goes downward to the earth?” (vs 19-21).

It says that basically man and beast goes back to dust, just like God said. But the *spirit of man* goes back to God, but the spirit of the beast goes downward, evidently to the earth.

God speaks plainly here, just as He told Adam, we know that we’re going to die at some point, as well.

Verse 1: “To everything *there is* a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what *is* planted” (vs 1-2).

As God said, there is a time and purpose for everything. There’s a time to be born, and right now there’s all kinds of births taking place around this world; also there are many death that are taking place around the world. God’s statement to Adam was true, and it has not been reversed. As we see today in our very own lives—with family and friends—we see it all the time. But we don’t need to be afraid of death.

Ezekiel 18:4: “Behold, all souls *are* Mine. As the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son, they *are* Mine. **The soul that sins, it shall die.**” This flesh, this nephesh, is going to come to the point where it’s no longer going to be alive; it’s going to die! That, again, was brought upon us by the man Adam.

Verse 20: “The soul that sins, it shall die....”

These Scriptures that we have read are not new; we’ve heard them over the years. They may be new to some ears who haven’t been listening or taught, but they’ve been very plain to us. We have seen from the Scriptures that we’ve read so far that we die because of Satan’s lie to Eve. We know that

Adam disobeyed God by taking the forbidden fruit. It brought death upon all of his descendants, mankind as a whole. We also saw that Adam and Eve died just like God said they would.

So, as sin entered the world by one man—Adam—and because of his death it also comes upon all of us. In the conclusion of this message I would like to give some Scriptures that show what death is. This is very important because there are all kinds of things that people believe.

- Some people think that they will come back re-incarnated as another human being, or maybe some kind of animal.
- Some think they’re going to heaven immediately upon death and they’ll be there with God the Father and Jesus Christ and looking down on everybody.
- There are those who think that you go to a place of ever-burning hell where you’re going to be burning and tormented forever.

or

- purgatory, a place somewhere in-between

There are all kinds of things that people believe about death. But God gives us some very definitive Scriptures about what death is and what it’s like. Many of these are brought out at the services of a funeral. For many people it’s foreign to their ears or they have all these preconceived beliefs that they’ve been taught or their family believed. These Scriptures are very plain and should be encouraging to us about what death is.

Ecclesiastes 9:5: “For the living know that they shall die; but the dead do not know anything, nor do they have any more a reward; for their memory is forgotten.” We see plainly here that once a person dies his memory just ceases at that point. It’s like being in a sound sleep. You’re not dreaming with all kinds of things going through the mind. It says that that memory has ceased for the present.

Verse 6: “Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is long ago perished; nor do they any longer have a portion forever in all that is done under the sun.” That is the rest of society, once they die and go the grave or are cremated—whatever happens to them—for that time, that portion, it’s done! We know that the spirit goes back to God, as it says.

Verse 10: “Whatever your hand finds to do... [this is an encouragement or command from God] (while we’re alive): ...do *it* with all your might; for *there is* no work, nor plan, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave where you go.”

It’s very important that while we are alive that we be doing something constructive. That each and every day the most important thing is that we

acknowledge God and we pay tribute and thanks to Him through prayer and study of His Word that we can be growing in knowledge; we can have our mind active on the right things—that are Godly things—as a opposed to what goes on in this evil, wicked society that we live in.

- the dead knows not anything
- the thoughts cease
- the works cease

Luke 8:52: “And they were all weeping and bewailing her. But He said, ‘Do not weep. She is not dead, but is sleeping.’” This is talking about the daughter of this ruler of the synagogue.

Verse 53: “Then they laughed at Him, knowing that she was dead.” They knew that she had died; the breath had gone out from this young child or maiden. But Christ said, ‘No, she’s not dead; she’s sleeping.

Verse 54: “But after putting everyone outside, He took hold of her hand and called out, saying, ‘Child, arise.’ And her spirit... [breath] ...returned, and she immediately arose; and He directed *that something* to eat should be given to her” (vs 54-55). We see that she was not dead! Christ was saying here that death was like a sleep. But they knew that she was dead! It goes to show then that death is like a sleep.

Let’s see another example, about Lazarus; John 11:11: “These things He said; and after that He said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going so that I may awaken him.’ Then His disciples said, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well’” (vs 11-12). They were thinking he was just resting. He was getting better, recuperating; maybe the fever or something had broken.

Verse 13: “Now, Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of the rest of sleep. For this reason, Jesus then said to them plainly, ‘Lazarus has died’” (vs 13-14). Again, showing that death is like a sleep. There’s no consciousness, no pain, no suffering. It’s like a sleeping state. To God, those who have died are in a sleep-like state.

Mark 12:26: “But concerning the dead, that they do rise, have you not read in the book of Moses about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I *am* the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? **He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living.** Therefore, you err greatly” (vs 26-27). To God they’re not dead; they’re just sleeping.

As we know, the spirit goes back to God. We come before the spirits of just men made perfect (Heb. 12). To God these people are just like in sleep

state, waiting for a resurrection back to life. Or in a change, ‘in the moment, in a twinkling of an eye’—as Paul talked about—that will occur, as well.

Luke 20:37: “But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed *by his words* at the *burning bush*, when he called *the* Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; for He is not *the* God of *the* dead, but of *the* living; for **all live unto Him**” (vs 37-38).

It shows here that as far as God is concerned, they will awaken, have life; not only life, but eternal life! But until that time they will be asleep.

Hebrews 12:22: “But you have come to Mount Zion, and to *the* city of *the* living God, heavenly Jerusalem; and to an innumerable company of angels; *to the* joyous festival gathering; and to *the Church of the Firstborn*, registered in *the Book of Life* in heaven; and to God, *the* Judge of all; and to *the* spirits of the just who have been perfected” (vs 22-23). So, the spiritual lives of those who have been *made perfect!* Men such as:

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Moses
- Noah

Some of the faithful are mentioned in Heb. 11. To God they are asleep, but they will be resurrected. They will have eternal life.

Ezekiel 18:23: “‘Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?’ says the Lord GOD. ‘Is it not *pleasing, instead*, that he should turn from his ways and live?’”

Verse 32: “‘For I have no delight in the death of him who dies,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘Therefore, turn yourselves and live.’”

God wants people to turn from their sinful lives—repent and change—so that they can have eternal life in His Family. One they do turn and they accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior in baptism and the laying on of hands with God’s Holy Spirit that starts us on the way to spiritual growth, building a new life, a new mind; the mind of Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel 33:11: “Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no delight in the death of the wicked, except that the wicked turn from his way, and live. Turn you, turn you from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?’” We could say now to any person, why will you die. God want you to turn from your lifestyle, your evil ways and to live.

Lamentations 3:31: “For the LORD will not cast off forever; for though He causes grief, yet, He will have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies. For He does not afflict willingly, nor does He grieve the children of men” (vs 31-33). God wants us to change and turn from our ways. He does not want eternal death to come upon us, but He wants us to have life eternally in His Family.

We see this explained a little bit more, 2-Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not delaying the promise of *His coming*, as some in their own minds reckon delay; rather, He is long-suffering toward us, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” Again, that’s God’s desire for all of mankind. For us to come to repentance, change our vial lives and turn to Him, that we can have life, not death.

- Whom should we fear?
  - Man?
- or
- God?

Matthew 10:28: “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but do not have power to destroy the life; rather, fear Him Who has the power to destroy both life and body in Gehenna.”

Man can kill the body; he can cause the breath to go out of man. He can cause you to go into that state of sleep until the resurrection or judgment. But man cannot give life. God is telling us here that He has the power to not only bring death upon us, for the body dies; but He is also able to destroy it completely as though it had never been if we reject God and refuse to—like the unpardonable sin or those who shake their fist at God and have become hardened and will not obey God—relent and change. It says that God is able to destroy both the body and the spirit—whatever containment that records all the things in our mind: good, bad, ugly, whatever it is it doesn’t make any difference. God is able to destroy that spirit that goes back to Him in heaven to be destroyed as well as the body.

That’s Whom we should fear! If we fear man—and we know that we do—we get scared, but he can only kill the body. God can destroy the body, the flesh, this life, and He can destroy us from having eternal life if we don’t obey Him, love Him and yield up our lives to Him. Plainly it says here to **fear God, not man!**

Peter had an understanding of this, and Christ told him basically what kind of death he was going to die. Peter had seen all kinds of miracles; he had seen the dead raised back to life.

1-Peter 3:13: “And *is there* anyone who will harm you if you be followers of that which *is* good? Now, on the other hand, if you do undergo suffering

for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. But you should not be afraid of their terror, *and* you should not let yourselves be intimidated; but sanctify the Lord God in your own hearts, and always *be* prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope *that is* in you, with meekness and reverence” (vs 13-15)—or respect.

We’re plainly told here in the Scriptures that God is the One Who has the answers to life. He’s the One Who controls our destiny, whether we have life or death, or eternal life. We know that we have to make some effort ourselves. What’s it called?

- converted
- we have to change
- we have to want to have eternal life
- we must want to be in the Family of the very Kingdom of God

We’ve gone through some Scriptures that show us about death. Why death came upon mankind through Adam, through his fall; and through Eve. We have seen how death came upon us.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) John 8:44
- 2) Genesis 2:16-17
- 3) Genesis 3:19
- 4) Hebrews 9:27
- 5) Genesis 5:5
- 6) Psalm 116:15
- 7) 1 Samuel 2:6
- 8) Psalm 68:20
- 9) Romans 5:12
- 10) Ecclesiastes 3:19-21, 1-2
- 11) Ezekiel 18:4, 20
- 12) Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10
- 13) Luke 8:52-55
- 14) John 11:11-14
- 15) Mark 12:26-27
- 16) Luke 20:37-38
- 17) Hebrews 12:22-23
- 18) Ezekiel 18:23, 32
- 19) Ezekiel 33:11
- 20) Lamentations 3:31-33
- 21) 2 Peter 3:9
- 22) Matthew 10:28
- 23) 1-Peter 3:14-15

Scriptures referenced, not quoted: 1 Corinthians 15

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