

# LIFE AFTER DEATH?

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Anyone who has lost a loved one has been overwhelmed by Death. The pain is sheer torture. The misery is inconsolable. There is no relief. In Death we are robbed, cheated and humiliated. Death is not fair. Death severs our relationship. In these times we realize more fully that one day we too shall die. Many shrug it off, either in avoidance or pride. Some say that there is nothing after we die, so why worry? They won't let Death bother them now. But these are foolish people. People who refuse to listen to what God has to say.

## *What Awaits Us After Death?*

We must let the Tanach be our guide to what we believe. Why? Because the Living God speaks to us through it. He is our Creator and He knows the Beginning from the End. If we really want to understand Reality, we must find out what He tells us in His Word. In the book of Ecclesiastes (2:7) it says:

‘And the dust returns to the ground as it was, and the life breath returns to God Who bestowed it.’<sup>1</sup>

Our soul returns to God who made us. Isaiah through the Holy Spirit said,

‘He will destroy death forever. My Lord GOD will wipe the tears away from all faces and will put an end to the reproach of His people over all the earth. For it is the LORD who has spoken. In that day they shall say: “This is our God! We trusted in Him and He delivered us. This is the LORD in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice and exult in His deliverance!” (Is. 25:8-9)

One day the LORD will end the reign of Death. He will wipe away all the pain that is associated with Death. And He will put an end to the reproach of the Jewish people. ‘In that day’ refers to the Day of the LORD or the Day of Judgment, when all people will be judged. The sentence continues with people saying that they ‘trusted in Him and He delivered us.’ This relates to what will happen after Judgment Day.

Those who really trust in the LORD will be saved from eternal wrath and enter into eternal LIFE. It is very important that we understand this. God is emphatic. There is like *after* death. Consider what God says through the prophet Hosea:

‘From Sheol<sup>2</sup> itself I will save them, redeem them from very Death. Where, O Death, are your plagues? Your pestilence where, O Sheol?’ (Hos. 13:14)

There is LIFE *after* death. God says through the Prophet Isaiah that He is preparing a new creation for those who trust and obey Him:

‘For behold! I am creating a new heaven and a new earth; *the former things shall*

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<sup>1</sup> All Scripture from the Tanach taken from תורה נביאים וכתובים (Torah, Nivi'im OuKtuvim: The Law, Prophets and Writings): *The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, thirteenth printing, 1982).

<sup>2</sup> Sheol, Hades in the New Covenant and Septuagint, is conceptually death. It's referred to as the devourer of men, i.e. the grave.

*not be remembered, they shall never come to mind.* Be glad then and rejoice forever in what I am creating. *For I shall create Jerusalem as a joy, and her people as a delight and I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in her people. Never again shall be heard there the sounds of weeping and wailing.* (Is. 65:17-19)

The pain that Death imprints on all of us will be eclipsed by the LIFE that is God. For in the new Creation we become 'one' with Him. We will be in union with God and know Him who is LIFE.

Does the fact that we are Jews guarantee us that we will automatically have this LIFE? Isaiah speaks of a distinction between the righteous and the wicked:

'For as the new heaven and the new earth which I will make shall endure by My will,' declares the LORD, 'so shall your Seed and your Name endure. And new moon after new moon, and Sabbath after Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship Me,' says the LORD. 'They shall go out and gaze on the corpses of the men who rebelled against Me: their worms shall not die, nor their fire be quenched; they shall be a horror to all flesh'. (Is. 66:22-24)

God incorporates all humanity, Jew and Gentile, into this new creation. He says that 'all flesh shall come to worship Me.' What awaits the Jew after death awaits the Gentile also. There is only one God, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth and all that is in them. The ones who have 'rebelled against' the Holy One will live forever in a horrible way. Not all are resurrected to eternal life. How do we obtain this life? What does it mean to 'rebel against' the God of Israel? What must we do in order to be found acceptable to God on the Day of Judgment? The Prophet Amos speaks of God's wrath toward Israel saying:

'Because they have spurned the Teaching of the LORD and have not observed His laws; they are beguiled by the delusions after which their fathers walked'. (Amos 2:4)

'Ah, you who wish for the day of the LORD! Why should you want the day of the LORD? It shall be darkness, not light! As if a man should run from a lion and be attacked by a bear; Or if he got indoors, should lean his hand on the wall and be bitten by a snake! Surely the day of the LORD shall not be light, but darkness, blackest night without a glimmer.' (Amos 5:18-20)

'All the *sinn*ers of My people shall perish by the sword, who boast, "Never shall the evil overtake us or come near us."' (Amos 9:10)

There are Jewish people who despise the Torah of Moses and the God of Israel. They do not follow the laws of our God. They live their life according to how they want to, with no regard for the Holy One who has made them. On the Day of Judgment they shall be eternally consumed by the Fire. For in their heart they deceive themselves by saying that no evil will ever come upon them because they think they are not evil.

There are also Jewish people who love the God of Israel. They seek to please Him by ordering their lives accordingly. They want to know what His Ways are so that they can walk in them. But trying to keep the Torah does not give us Eternal Life. Nowhere does the Torah declare that those who observe it will gain Eternal Life.

There is only one way for us to have eternal *life* and that is if God gives it to us! He gave us the promised Land and just as He made a way for us out of a land that meant death for us; Egypt. He gave us our freedom. What standard or Torah did we keep in Egypt for Him to deliver us? *He heard our cries, He felt our pain* and He sent Moses to free us. So it is with eternal *life*. There is no one that could be 'good enough' to earn it. There is only one way for us to be assured that we will be acceptable and that is the LORD's

Way. God, speaking through the Prophet Ezekiel declares that He is going to make the way for us again, in which Egypt was a picture:

‘The word of the LORD came to me: O son of Man, when the House of Israel dwelt on their own soil, *they defiled it with their ways and their deeds*; their ways were in My sight like the uncleanness of a menstruous woman. So I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they shed upon their Land, and for the fetishes with which they defiled it. I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries: I punished them in accordance with their ways and their deeds.’

‘But when they came to those nations, they caused My holy Name to be profaned, in that it was said of them, “These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave His land.” ‘Therefore I am concerned for My holy Name, which the House of Israel have caused to be profaned among the nations to which they have come. Say to the House of Israel:’

‘Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sake will I act, O House of Israel, but for My holy Name, which you have caused to be profaned among the nations to which you have come. *I will sanctify My great Name* which has been profaned among the nations, among whom you have caused it to be profaned.’

‘And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD when I manifest My holiness before their eyes through you.” “I will take you from among the nations and gather you from all the countries, and I will bring you back to your own Land. *I will sprinkle clean water upon you*, and you shall be clean: *I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness* and from all your fetishes. *And I will give you a new heart and put a new Spirit into you*: I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh; and *I will put My Spirit into you*. Thus I will cause you to follow My Torah and faithfully to observe My rules. Then you shall be My people and I will be your God.’ (Ezk. 36:16-28)

The sin that excludes us from eternal *life* is not our failure to observe Torah but our inability to be one with God, the essence of which is found in the Shema. In order for us to love God with all our heart, soul and strength, we must be in union with Him. From Adam’s fall we have been separated from God. If we are not in union with Him then ‘all our virtues [are] like a filthy rag’ (Isaiah 64:5). God doesn’t want *our* love; He wants His love reflected back to Himself as we are in union with Him.

God speaks of a ‘new heart’ and a ‘new Spirit’ (His Spirit!) and delivering us from our ‘uncleanness’ and tells us that He is going to do it for His Name’s sake. It’s just like Passover when He destroyed the firstborn of Egypt but spared the firstborn of Israel. Because of our Fathers’ ways, we were cast into exile among the nations where most of us are to this very day. The LORD was angry with our Fathers even though they said that they worshiped Him. For they also gave their hearts to all the pagan gods around them.

The LORD is bringing back Jews to the Land He gave to us, from the four corners of the Earth, just as He said He would. But do you have eternal *life*? Where is the clean water that He promised that He would sprinkle us with to take away our uncleanness? Where is our new heart and His Spirit that He said that He would put into us? For it is His Spirit that gives us eternal *life*. Ezekiel goes on to say that we shall be His people. God has come to set us free from all our sins, and our greatest enemy, Death. Deliverance comes by believing or trusting in what God has done for us. This is the way that we left Egypt, by belief that the

blood of the lamb would save us from death. We come into Eternal *life* the same way.

## ***God's Way: The Messiah of Israel***

The LORD has manifested His Holiness before the eyes of the Gentiles, through us, in sending Messiah through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and King David. In order for us to be able to stand before the Living God on Judgment Day and obtain eternal LIFE we must be cleansed from our sin.

God has done this in sending our Messiah Yeshua (the Hebrew Name for Jesus) to die as the Lamb of God who takes away our sin. Isaiah 53:3-6, 8, 10-12, speaks of the Messiah of Israel as dying for the sin of Israel; your sin...

‘He was despised, shunned by men, a man of suffering, familiar with disease. As one who hid his face from us, He was despised, we held him of no account. Yet it was our sickness that he was bearing, our suffering that he endured. We accounted him plagued, smitten and afflicted by God; but he was wounded because of our sins, crushed because of our iniquities.’

‘He bore the chastisement that made us whole, and by his bruises we were healed. We all went astray like sheep, each going his own way; and the LORD visited upon him the guilt of all of us...For he was cut off from the land of the living through the sin of my people, who deserved the punishment.’

‘But the LORD chose to crush him by disease, that if he made himself an offering for guilt, he might see offspring and have long life, and that through him the LORD’s purpose might prosper; My righteous servant makes the many righteous, *it is their punishment that he bears*; assuredly, I will give him the many as his portion, he shall receive the multitude as his spoil.’ ‘For he exposed himself to death and was numbered among the sinners, whereas he bore the guilt of the many and made intercession for sinners.’

Isaiah 53 is the chapter concerning Messiah ben Yosafe, Messiah the Son of Joseph, because like Joseph who was rejected by his brothers, so too Messiah by His brothers Israel. And as Joseph was raised to second in command under Pharaoh, so too was Messiah raised by God to second in command under Him. Joseph’s brothers didn’t recognize him at first, as 2nd in command of all Egypt and Yeshua’s brothers (Israel) don’t recognize Yeshua as second in command to God...yet. As Joseph forgave his brothers, so too will Messiah forgive Israel

The Messiah of Isaiah 53 is also called the Suffering Servant or the Leprous Messiah because He would take upon Himself ‘our sicknesses’ and ‘our sins’ and ‘the guilt of all of us.’ Leprosy is symbolic of sin. Just as leprosy eats away at the flesh of a person, even as the person remains alive, so those who sin walk in a living death, separation from God who is life. Messiah was crushed or tasted Death for us, that we might be made ‘whole’ and be ‘healed.’

God our Father loves you. He is a good Father. To live in the Presence of Him who is Holy Fire would destroy us in our sinful condition. He has overcome our inability to be like Him by transforming our nature to be like His so we can be in union with Him forever through the Blood of His Son, our Messiah Yeshua. This Blood of cleansing is applied to our being by the Holy Spirit that we might be both forgiven of our sin nature and our sins against Him (our rebellions), and be transformed into His Image or Nature. Because of this we can live with Him forever.

God wants to share His *life* with you today. Now. Believe in Yeshua and be immersed into His Spirit. A

Jew by the name of John, who walked with Yeshua, relates this *life* (Yeshua) to us:

‘The Word which gives life! He existed from the Beginning. We have heard Him, we have seen Him with our eyes, we have watched Him, and we have touched Him with our hands! The *life* was made visible and we have seen Him. We are testifying of Him and announcing Him to you, Eternal *life*! He was with the Father and He appeared to us. What we have seen and heard, we are proclaiming to you; so that you too may be in union with us. Our union is with the Father and with His Son, Yeshua the Messiah. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.’

‘And this is the message which we have heard from Him and proclaim to you: God is Light and there is no darkness in Him, none! If we claim to have union with Him while we are walking in the darkness, we are lying and not living out the Truth. But if we are walking in the Light as He is in the Light, then we have union with each other and the Blood of His Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin. If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the Truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, then, since He is Faithful and Just, He will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing. If we claim we have not been sinning, we are making Him out to be a liar and His Word is not in us’ (1st John 1:1-10).

Yeshua is our Messiah. This has been proven by Yeshua being raised from the dead by God. He sits at the right hand of God until God makes all His enemies Messiah’s footstool. Psalm 110:1 has King David seeing two Beings:

‘The LORD said to my lord, “Sit at My right hand while I make your enemies your footstool.”’

‘The LORD’ is the God of Israel. But King David saw and heard the LORD speaking ‘to my lord’ David says. This is Yeshua, King Messiah. David knew Messiah Yeshua and spoke of Him. The LORD has raised Messiah Yeshua from death, proclaiming to all that belief in Yeshua is the way out of death, both here on Earth and on Judgment Day. Yeshua’s Blood cleanses us from our sin nature. A nature that, try as it might, will always be seen as unholy compared to the holiness of the God of Israel. We can never do enough ‘mitzvot’ to change our nature to be like God’s.

Isaiah said that Messiah would be despised by us. We Jews, who have long awaited Messiah, rejected Him when the LORD sent Him! This is not unusual for Moses, the greatest picture of Messiah, was rejected continually by us in the wilderness; the very one who saved us from Egyptian bondage!

Isaiah says that Messiah, ‘was wounded because of our sins, crushed because of our iniquities.’ The LORD sent Messiah to sacrifice His Blood, for it is the source of cleansing that Ezekiel speaks about. The Torah speaks of the blood removing sin. Lev. 17:11 states:

‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have assigned it to you for making expiation for your lives upon the altar: it is the blood, as life, that effects expiation.’

Expiation means to put an end to guilt, to atone or pay the penalty for it. The LORD, speaking through Isaiah, goes on to say that all of us have gone astray, like sheep, but that He placed our guilt upon Messiah. We deserve the punishment of death in this lifetime and eternal death or Hell when we stand before the LORD because we have broken His Torah. But God ‘chose to crush him’ (Messiah) instead of us.

It was the purpose of God from before Time that Messiah would become ‘an offering for guilt’ that we might be declared ‘righteous’, not because of what we have done but because of what our God has done

for us. This is the great and mighty deed that the Passover–Exodus and entry into the Promised Land picture. In this we see God’s Love for us.

The ‘intercession’ that Messiah is doing for you right now is seen when we, in our arrogance, pierced Him to the tree. While many of us were mocking Him, He cried out, ‘Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.’ (Luke 23:24) Forgiveness of sin is why Messiah came the first time. His Blood pleads for God to forgive our sins. Yeshua the Messiah has come to shed His Blood for us, that we might have Eternal *life* now and forever. Yeshua said,

‘Thus, as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to anyone He chooses: for the Father judges no one: He has entrusted all judgment to the Son, *so that all may honor the Son as they honor the Father*. Whoever refuses honor to the Son refuses honor to the Father who sent Him. I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to My words and believes in the One who sent Me, has eternal life: without being brought to judgment he has passed from death to life. I tell you most solemnly, the hour will come, in fact it’s here already when the dead will hear the Voice of the Son of God and all who hear it will live. For the Father, who is the source of *life*, has made the Son the source of *life*.’ (John 5:21-26)

## ***Redeemed from the Curse***

Messiah Yeshua has come to give you *life*. He has given His Blood that you might be redeemed from the curse of the Torah. For the Torah is holy and states that anyone who breaks any of the Commandments of God will be cursed. Deut. 27:26 says,

‘Cursed be he who will not uphold the terms of this Torah and observe them’.

In Dt. 28:16-69, God speaks one curse upon another for those who break His Torah. Messiah Yeshua has taken our punishment, He was cursed for us. This is the love of God, that while we were yet in rebellion to Him, He sent His Son to die (take our just punishment) for us. In the Jewish New Covenant, a Jew by the name of Paul says:

‘Messiah redeemed us from the curse pronounced in the Torah by becoming cursed on our behalf, for the Tanach says, “Everyone who hangs from a stake comes under a curse.” ‘Yeshua the Messiah did this so that in union with Him, the Gentiles’ also ‘might receive the blessing announced to Abraham so that through trusting and being faithful, we might receive what was promised, namely, the Holy Spirit.’ (Galatians 3:13-14)

This is the Spirit of God that Ezekiel speaks of that will cleanse us from our sin, from our uncleanness. It’s the Holy Spirit that applies the Blood of Yeshua over our hearts, to transform our very nature into His. Peter, another Jew who knew Yeshua, spoke this message when the promised Holy Spirit was given:

‘Men of Israel! Listen to this! Yeshua from Nazareth was a Man demonstrated to you to have been from God by the powerful works, miracles and signs that God performed through Him in your presence. You yourselves know this. This Man was arrested in accordance with God’s predetermined plan and foreknowledge and, through the agency of persons not bound by the Torah, you nailed Him up on a stake and murdered Him! But God raised Him up and freed Him from death: it was impossible that death could keep its hold on Him. For David says this

about him:

“I saw Adonai always before me, for He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. For this reason, my heart was glad: and my tongue rejoiced: and now my body too will live on in the certain hope that You will not abandon me to Sheol, or let Your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the way of *life*: You will fill me with joy by Your Presence.” (Psalm 16:8-11)

‘Brothers, I know I can say to you frankly that our Father David died and was buried, his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that one of his seed would sit on his Throne, he was speaking in advance about the resurrection of Messiah, that it was He who was not abandoned in Sheol and whose flesh did not see decay. God raised up this Yeshua! We are all witnesses of it!’

‘Moreover, He has been exalted to the right hand of God: has received from the Father what He promised, namely, the Holy Spirit, and has poured out this Gift, which you are both seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into Heaven. But he says, “Adonai said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’” *Therefore, let the whole House of Israel know beyond doubt that God has made Him both Lord and Messiah, this Yeshua, whom you executed on a stake!*’

‘On hearing this they were stung in their hearts and they said to Peter and the others who had walked with Yeshua, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter answered,

“Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed in the Name of Yeshua the Messiah into forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit!”’

‘For the *promise* is for you, for your children, and for those far away, as many as Adonai our God may call!’ He pressed his case with many other arguments and kept pleading with them, ‘Save yourselves from this perverse generation!’ So those who accepted what he said were immersed and there were added to the group that day about three thousand (Jewish) people.’ (Acts 2:22-41)

We Jews have walked in ignorance of our Messiah for 1900 years. The rest of the world acclaims our Messiah but we have been blind to what our God has done for us. How could this be? God has shown us, who were at one time the only people to believe in the One True God, that this privilege is not hereditary! We too must believe what our God has done for us, and for all the world. The Prophets speak to us of a Messiah who would suffer for us; who would take our guilt upon Himself. Are we so foolish to think that because we were born Jewish, that that is all the LORD requires of us to enter into His Presence forever? That all we have to do is ‘be good.’ Or try and observe the Torah in all our fragmented ways? The Torah was given to show us our sin-full need for Messiah. The Living God has seen our perverse condition and has made a way for us where no way existed before. Yeshua stands before you now saying:

‘I am the resurrection and the *life*! Whoever puts his trust in Me will live, even if he dies.’ (John 11:25)

There is *life* after death and Yeshua our Messiah is the One who gives it to you. By believing that the LORD sent Yeshua to atone for your sins, you enter into a relationship with Papa God through the Messiah of Israel. You come to know Him by His Spirit. You can turn to Messiah now by telling Him that you

have sinned, that you have failed to observe all the Torah of Moses. And that you are grateful that He has come to cover you with His Blood. Ask Him to immerse you in His Spirit and wait upon Him until you experience His Spirit immersing you for the forgiveness of sin and filling you up with His Joy! You will feel the 'cleanness' that Ezekiel spoke of when the Spirit of the Holy One comes upon you.

Paul writes about the fact that Yeshua was raised from the dead and how that effects us,

'and afterwards He was seen by more than five hundred brothers at one time.'

'But the fact is that Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a man, also the resurrection of the dead has come through a Man. For just as in connection with Adam all die, so in connection with Messiah all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Messiah is the first fruits, then those who belong to Messiah, at the time of His (2nd) Coming.' (1st Cor. 15:6, 20-23)

There is coming a Day when all peoples will be judged. Those who walk with Yeshua will go on to Eternal life. And those who do not will go to eternal damnation. The difference is the Blood of the Lamb. As it was in Egypt, so it is now. We Jews must be covered by the Blood to escape the Destroying Plague of Death. We must come to our Messiah Yeshua. The LORD says this to you today:

'How long and how often I have desired to hold and to love you. But you would not have Me. You turned away from the Author of *life* to the Author of Death...the gods of this world. Your hearts are far from Me, only turned unto yourself and what will benefit you. Is this My Torah? You do not even know My Torah, My Word of Instruction. You cast it away as a filthy rag that is of no use anymore.'

'You wonder why life is so full of tzuris: pain and bitterness. It is because you have not chosen *life*! You do not receive My written Torah, nor do you now receive My Living Torah that has come in fleshly form. What am I to do with you My Children? Unruly, rebellious and stubborn as you are, I have loved you with an everlasting love that has no Beginning and no End. I have ought with you for you've trampled My Love under your feet, as if it did not exist. You say in your heart, how can I love you if I 'allow all these terrible things to happen in the world.' I gave you the world to have dominion over when I gave it to Adam. Adam listened to another who now rules and reigns in this world through those who are not committed to Me. I sent Another who came from My Side. I sent My Son who was tempted to listen to another also, but He did not. He walked in total obedience to My Torah, My Will. He restores *life* to all who will receive Him.'

Are you tired of the vanity and darkness enough to want to know Him? He wants to reveal Himself to you. Contact me and I'll share with you our Messiah King Yeshua.

'Many Jews who heard Him say these things trusted in Him. So Yeshua said to the Jews who had trusted Him,

"If you make My words your home, then you are truly My followers. You will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free.'" (John 8:30-32)

Only in Messiah Yeshua will you know God's Truth, Love and Life for you.