

Assembly of Eloah

This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent -- Jesus Christ. Jn. 17:3

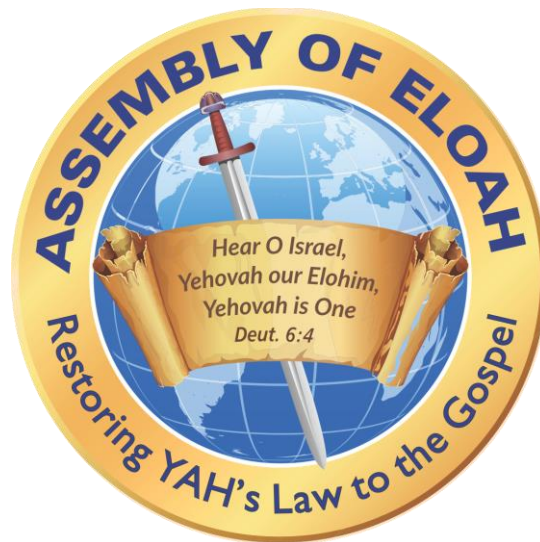
Funeral Service

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Edition 2

Death is the cessation of our physical life. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. The corruptible mortal body must change to put on immortality as God intended for us. This change necessitates death and the destruction of our human material form.

Our temporary human existence will be replaced by a form of life as spirit beings. It is appointed for mankind to die once but unless repentance and conversion is acted upon after this comes a corrective judgment with resurrection.



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Introduction

Occasionally we may be asked to speak at, if not to direct a funeral service for a friend or family member. Much of the commentary should be directed to the individual's good traits as the service is primarily for the benefit of the grieving family and friends. The Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God should provide a measure of peace of mind.

Portions of this Scriptural Service can be used where it is deemed appropriate and explanations given as they relate to the individual and the Plan of God. This paper should not be read as if it was a sermon unless the family of the deceased are converted and agree. Copies of this paper can be made available so that interested individuals can take it and review it at a later time.

Read portions of the blessing and cursing chapters and make it clear that the reason for death and most of the unpleasant circumstances in life are as a result of sin.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 ¹⁹ "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, ²⁰ by loving Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which Y^ehovah (the LORD) swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

A short summary is at the end of this paper, as well.

Funeral Service

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven ² A time to give birth, and a time to die; (NASB except where noted).

What is Death?

Death is our primary enemy.

1Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The spirit returns to God at death.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 3:19-21 ¹⁹ For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts; for all is vanity. ²⁰ All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. ²¹ Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down to the earth?

Only Jesus Christ did not decay and become dust at his death.

Psalm 16:10 For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.

Psalm 31:5 into thy hand I commit my spirit; thou hast redeemed me, O Y^ehovah (LORD), faithful God.

In death there is no thinking.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

This means we have no conscious thoughts and we are not a life or soul independent of our physical existence. Therefore, when we are dead, we have no memory or active consciousness, as takes place when dreaming.

Psalm 6:5 For in death there is no remembrance of thee; in Sheol who can give thee praise? (RSV)

Ecclesiastes 9:5 For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.

SHD 02143 zeker {zay'-ker} from 02142; is translated as; remembrance, memorial, memory and remembered.

Many individuals are remembered, but the dead know nothing and they have no memory before their resurrection. They are not in heaven or alive in the spirit world watching and even affecting the struggles of the living.

Ecclesiastes 9:10-11 ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going. ¹¹ I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise, nor wealth to the discerning, nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.

Sheol (*SHD 7585*) has been transliterated into English as hell and falsely represented as a living underworld instead a hole in the ground for burial.

Amos 9:2 "Though they dig into Sheol, From there shall My hand take them; And though they ascend to heaven, From there will I bring them down.

Numbers 16:33 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

Job 17:15-16 Where now is my hope? And who regards my hope? ¹⁶ "Will it go down with me to Sheol? Shall we together go down into the dust?"

Jonah was thrown into the sea and was swallowed whole by a large fish. People have fallen into Sperm Whales mouths and been swallowed but were recovered before death. Jonah prayed before he died and he then died and was dead for three days and nights in the stomach of the fish, which is also termed hell or sheol.

Jonah 2:1-7 ¹ Then Jonah prayed to Y^ehovah (the LORD) his God from the stomach of the fish, ² and he said, "I called out of my distress to Y^ehovah (the LORD), And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; Thou didst hear my voice. ³ "For Thou hadst cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Thy breakers and billows passed over me. ⁴ "So I said, 'I have been expelled from Thy sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Thy holy temple.' ⁵ "Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head. ⁶ "I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But Thou hast brought up my life from the pit, O Y^ehovah (LORD) my God. ⁷ "While I was fainting away, I remembered Y^ehovah (the LORD); And my prayer came to Thee, Into Thy holy temple.

The dead dwell in darkness.

Psalm 143:3 he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead. (KJV)

Where there is silence.

Psalm 115:17 the dead praise not the LORD,
neither any that go down into silence. (KJV)

The same fate awaits all mankind.

Ecclesiastes 9:3 This is an evil in all that is
done under the sun, that there is one fate for
all men. Furthermore, the hearts of the sons
of men are full of evil, and insanity is in their
hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they
go to the dead.

We are as in a deep sleep or
unconscious.

Luke 8:49-56 ⁴⁹ While He was still speaking,
someone came from the house of the
synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter
has died; do not trouble the Teacher
anymore." ⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard this, He
answered him, "Do not be afraid any longer;
only believe, and she shall be made well." ⁵¹
And when He had come to the house, He did
not allow anyone to enter with Him, except
Peter and John and James, and the girl's
father and mother. ⁵² Now they were all
weeping and lamenting for her; but He said,
"Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is
asleep." ⁵³ And they began laughing at Him,
knowing that she had died. ⁵⁴ He, however,
took her by the hand and called, saying,
"Child, arise!" ⁵⁵ And her spirit returned, and
she rose immediately; and He gave orders for
something to be given her to eat. ⁵⁶ And her
parents were amazed; but He instructed them
to tell no one what had happened.

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the
LORD is the death of his saints.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-2 A good name is better than
a good ointment, And the day of one's death
is better than the day of one's birth. ² It is
better to go to a house of mourning Than to
go to a house of feasting, Because that is the
end of every man, And the living takes it to
heart.

God has no pleasure in death and wants
all to repent and keep the Covenant.
Most of humanity makes a holy day of
ones day of birth but the time of death is
more important in the plan. For those
designated to the second resurrection,
death will commence the process of
redemption through repentance.

Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the
death of any one, says Y^ehovah (the LORD)
GOD; so turn, and live."

Is there life after Death?

Job asked the same question as all of us
do:

Job 14:14-15 ¹⁴ If death takes a man, will he
come to life again? All the days of my trouble
I would be waiting, till the time came for me
to be free. ¹⁵ At the sound of your voice I
would give an answer, and you would have a
desire for the work of your hands. (BBE)

Job 14:14-15 ¹⁴ If a man die, shall he live
again? All the days of my service I would
wait, till my release should come. ¹⁵ Thou
wouldest call, and I would answer thee; thou
wouldest long for the work of thy hands.
(RSV)

1Corinthians 15:20-23 ²⁰ But now is Christ
risen from the dead, and become the first
fruits of them that slept. ²¹ For since by man
came death, by man came also the
resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all
die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the
first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at
his coming. (KJV)

Death is described as if it is a deep sleep.
When our spirit is returned to us, we will
once again have a conscious life and,
when it is combined with God's Spirit, we
will have life inherent.

Psalm 68:20 Our God is a God of salvation; and to GOD, Y^ehovah (the LORD), (Elohim, YHVH) belongs escape from death.

Only Christ has been granted an inherent life, presently. This gift or grant of a life inherent was not held by him before, which is why he and all of the spirit world can die.

John 5:24-26 ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. ²⁵ "Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, (RSV)

It is not true that spirit beings cannot die.

Isa 14:12-17 ¹² "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! ¹³ "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵ "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. ¹⁶ "Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man (Ish) who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?'

This death will encompass Lucifer, who will become human being and removed from the spirit world in the same way as it did Christ who did it voluntarily.

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise

partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

Why must all die?

Romans 5:12 Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned—

James 1:15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown brings forth death.

We all must die because we all have sinned (*Rom. 5:21; 6:16- 21*).

What is Sin?

1John 3:4 Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

Sin is breaking the spiritual principles found in the Covenant of God.

With death as the compensation or payment for sin and with life as the gift from the resurrection, we should all keep the Commandments of The One True God on whom we rely.

2Corinthians 1:9 Why, we felt that we had received the sentence of death; but that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead;

Eternal life is the gift of God.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How did Sin originate?

Sin developed from the deception of the god of this world (2Cor. 4:4) beginning in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Y^ehovah (The LORD) God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And Y^ehovah (the LORD) God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Genesis 3:1-4 ¹ Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that Y^ehovah (the LORD) God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die".

The deception, transmitted here, is that we have an immortal soul and can't really die. Therefore, we do not need the saving sacrifice of Jesus Christ which destroys Satan's workings.

1John 3:8 He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

There are two beginnings in creation. First was the spirit dimension in which Lucifer was blameless or perfect in his conduct, Eze. 28:15.

Ezekiel 28:1-19 ¹ The word of Y^ehovah (the LORD) came again to me saying, ² "Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, 'Thus says Y^ehovah (the LORD) God, "Because your heart is lifted up And you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the heart of the seas'; Yet you are a man and not God, Although you make your heart like the heart

of God-- ³ Behold, you are wiser than Daniel; There is no secret that is a match for you. ⁴ "By your wisdom and understanding You have acquired riches for yourself, And have acquired gold and silver for your treasuries. ⁵ "By your great wisdom, by your trade You have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of your riches-- ⁶ Therefore, thus says Y^ehovah (the LORD) God, 'Because you have made your heart Like the heart of God, ⁷ Therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you, The most ruthless of the nations. And they will draw their swords Against the beauty of your wisdom And defile your splendor. ⁸ 'They will bring you down to the pit, And you will die the death of those who are slain In the heart of the seas. ⁹ 'Will you still say, "I am a god," In the presence of your slayer, Although you are a man and not God, In the hands of those who wound you? ¹⁰ 'You will die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of strangers, For I have spoken!' declares Y^ehovah (the LORD) God!"

Satan loses his spirit existence and becomes a human being as a man and not a god or elohim.

¹¹ Again the word of Y^ehovah (the LORD) came to me saying, ¹² "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says Y^ehovah (the LORD) God, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared.

The spirit world has many if not all of the features of the physical.

¹⁴ "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

Satan transferred many of his sins like fire walking to the human world.

¹⁵ "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned;

This caused his removal from God's presence and he will convert or die.

Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. ¹⁸ "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade, You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you. ¹⁹ "All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified, And you will be no more."

The being who became Satan was sinless in his beginning or day he was created and later became a murderer and liar and sinned with the beginning of the creation of Adam, if not the physical creation.

John 8:44 "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.

He had been told that the weak physical beings would be made equal to him and this may have been to source of the rebellion.

Adam and his offspring had an opportunity to obey God and not die.

Genesis 3:22 Then Y^ehovah (the LORD) God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever"--

What is Life?

There is a physical as well as a spiritual life and both exist because of God, the Father.

Job 12:9-10 ⁹ Who among all these does not know that the hand of Y^ehovah (the LORD) has done this? ¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

Job 10:12 Thou hast granted me life and steadfast love; and thy care has preserved my spirit.

Isaiah 57:15-16 ¹⁵ For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite. ¹⁶ For I will not contend for ever, nor will I always be angry; for from me proceeds the spirit, and I have made the breath of life.

Job 33:4 The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

God the Father has life inherent or "in Himself" and gives life to all, including Christ. He, Himself, does not have life but He is Life. He has set a way before us.

John 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself,

If God took back His spirit, all flesh would perish together.

Job 34:14-15 ¹⁴ If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; ¹⁵ All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust. (KJV)

We will die physically but will live eternally in the spirit.

1Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit;

Mark 10:17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

We can however, shorten our lives.

Ecclesiastes 7:16-17 ¹⁶ Be not righteous overmuch, and do not make yourself overwise; why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷ Be not wicked overmuch, neither be a fool; why should you die before your time?

The question above was pondered and studied by

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he/she found the answer and responded to the calling and the purpose of life.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. (Mat. 5:19, 19:17; Job 14:15, 15:10, 1Cor. 7:19; 1John 3:23-24, 5:2-3; 2John 1:6; Rev. 12:17, 14:12, 22:14).

Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

The purpose of life is to live our lives as an Ambassador for the glory of God by keeping all of His Commandments.

We have been created and have not evolved. We are to fulfill our duty and thereby bring glory to our Father. Heaven and earth are the two witnesses for this contractual relationship.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 ¹⁹ "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ "that you may love Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God, that you may obey his voice, and that you may cling to him, for he is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them".

Loving and obeying the Lord our God, or 'Y^ehovah our Elohim', means life to us all, but we can choose death.

Jeremiah 21:8 "And to this people you shall say: 'Thus says Y^ehovah (the LORD): Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.

Even so,

Ecclesiastes 9:11 Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to the men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all.

Therefore the Resurrections

Resurrection is SGD 386 anastasis {an-as'-tas-is} from 450;
1) a raising up, rising (e.g. from a seat)
2) a rising from the dead

The dead then lie, as in a deep sleep, in the grave. The dead, at the resurrection, hear a voice and are brought back to life.

John 5:25-29 ²⁵ "Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, ²⁷ and has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.

All of mankind, whether they desire it or not, will be resurrected, each in their turn. We should see clearly this order of the resurrections.

Firstly, that Christ is the first of the first fruits (*1Cor. 15:19-23*). Christ has already been resurrected and has been given eternal, inherent life from the successful completion of his task.

Romans 6:9 For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Believing this is the source of our faith and our salvation. It also means that the Spirit Being who became Jesus could die and remain dead, which God the Father or an eminence of His cannot do. Death is an aspect of His creation which He is outside of.

Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (cf. Acts 17:31; Rom. 4:24; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:20; Col. 2:12; 1Peter 1:21).

The First Resurrection

After our physical existence, the next event in the Plan of God is termed the first resurrection, which takes place at Christ's return. This event is in the sequence of having those who have been dead for many years rise first (*1Thes. 4:16*). Those Saints, those who possess the Spirit of God, and who are also left alive at his return to Mount Zion will be caught up with them and will go to be with the Messiah at Jerusalem (*1Thes. 4:17*).

1Thessalonians 4:13-18 ¹³ But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; ¹⁷ then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

It is necessary that we rise from the dead and be resurrected as spirit beings because flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (*1Cor. 15:50-55*).

This gospel or good news of the coming Kingdom of God is the message that the Messiah preached.

Mark 1:14 Now after John was arrested,

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,

Luke 4:43 but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose."

Luke 8:1 Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him,

Today, most will not know the secrets of the kingdom, which we will all be placed in from the resurrection.

Luke 8:10 he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

Mark 14:25 Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

This will take place at his return to save those who wait for him, being as if asleep, meaning dead.

We therefore must be changed from the physical to the spiritual. This is done in order and sequence, as we are selected from his foreknowledge, as being ready to follow Him in obedience to His laws in the Holy Spirit.

1Corinthians 15:21-25 ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put

all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Order; SGD 5001 tagma {tag'-mah} from 5021; that which has been arranged, thing placed in order.

The Second Resurrection

At the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ, all people will be resurrected and brought to an understanding of God and His nature (*Rev. 20:5, 11-15*). From this point, we see that, at death, all the individual can do is wait, asleep. Job showed us that in Job 14:14-15.

With his eyes and no others eyes, Job would see his redeemer.

Job 19:25-27 ²⁵ For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: ²⁶ And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me. (KJV)

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The hand of Y^ehovah (the LORD) was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of Y^ehovah (the LORD), and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, ² And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. ³ And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Y^ehovah (LORD) GOD, thou knowest. ⁴ Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of Y^ehovah (the LORD). ⁵ Thus saith Y^ehovah (the LORD) GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am Y^ehovah (the LORD). ⁷ So I prophesied as I

was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. ⁸ And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith Y^ehovah (the LORD) GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. ¹¹ Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. ¹² Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith Y^ehovah (the LORD) GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And ye shall know that I am Y^ehovah (the LORD), when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, ¹⁴ And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I Y^ehovah (the LORD) have spoken it, and performed it, saith Y^ehovah (the LORD). (KJV)

While he or she was alive, Mr./Mrs./Miss walked worthy of the calling (*Eph. 4:1-3*). He/She fought the good fight, as did Paul (*2Tim. 4:6-8*).

1Corinthians 6:9-19 ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1Corinthians 15:24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

1Corinthians 15:50 I tell you this, brethren: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Our hope today is the crown of righteousness, which follows in the resurrection. 1Thessalonians 4:13-18 shows that we, as the dead with faith in Christ, will rise alive.

Our hope is in the resurrection.

1Corinthians 15:42-57 ⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵² I tell you this, brethren: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵² Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² 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. ⁵³ For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this, we now wait as did Job for we all shall live again. This is only because of Christ's acceptable and victorious sacrifice, that death is "swallowed up". For our life here is but a foretaste of what our father has prepared for us beyond the grave and the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

From this phase, we see the new future of mankind before us. There will be a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 21:1-7 ¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; ³ and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. ⁷ He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.

All those who overcome and conquer in faith will receive the Spirit of God, the Father, and this is what gives us life.

Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who

raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

The Second Death

Revelation 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death."

Revelation 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death.'

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and they shall reign with him a thousand years.

Death, Hades, the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot is removal from the presence of God.

It is not the individuals who have committed these sins but the actual sins themselves that will be destroyed in the second death - murder, fornication, lying, etc.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them, and all were judged by what they had done.

Revelation 20:14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire;

The second death is the cleaning of our minds in the lake of fire or divine cleansing into which even Satan as a human being will be placed.

Death and the grave are the last enemies that will no longer plague Spirit filled individuals. This also includes the fallen rebellious host who will live as humans and also need to repent.

Psalm 68:19-20 ¹⁹ Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; [The] God is our salvation. Selah ²⁰ Our God is a God of salvation; and to GOD, the Lord, belongs escape from death.

Death has reigned from Adam (*Rom. 5:14*) and life from Jesus Christ (*Rom. 5:17, 21; 1Thes. 1:10; Col. 1:22; 1Tim. 1:10; Heb. 2:9, 9:15*).

Therefore, we do not need to fear death.

Rev. 2:10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Committal Prayer

Our All-knowing and Almighty God, we commit to your safekeeping, your faithful servant and our friend:

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Who, while alive, walked worthy of the calling (*Eph. 4:1-3*) and fought the good fight (*2Tim. 4:6-8*).

We give you thanks for the life you have given us and we pray for your intervention and safekeeping of the family and friends of your servant.

We ask this by the authority of your only human born spiritual son, our friend, Jesus Christ

Amen, Y^ehovah.

Summary for a Funeral Service

All of the Adamic creation will die because of sin and all will be resurrected.

There are two resurrections, the 1st at Christ's return and the 2nd at the end of the Millennium. Time and chance happen to all and all must repent and overcome.

The human life, meaning soul or nephesh, gives man his creative or thinking abilities. This is akin to the soul or nephesh of the animal creation but we can think abstractly.

Its return to God means it is preserved in the mind of God. It is not eternal by itself but it is possible for it to be preserved and not to die and disappear. It is preserved in the mind of our God and Father.

The dead then lie, as in a deep sleep, in the grave. The dead then, at the

resurrection, hear a voice (*John 5:25-29*) and receive their inheritance. No one goes to heaven or to purgatory (*John 3:13*). Heaven will come to earth.

All mankind, whether they desire it or not, will be resurrected each in their turn. We all see clearly this order of the resurrections.

We, therefore, must be changed from a physical to a spiritual existence or dimension. This is done in an order and sequence, as we are selected from his foreknowledge as being ready to follow Him in obedience to His laws with the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the thousand year reign of Christ and the Saints, all people will be resurrected and brought to an understanding of God (*Rev. 20:5, 11-15*).

From this point, we see that at our death, all the individual can do is wait, without a conscious knowledge of the wait. Job showed us that in chapter 14:14-15. With his eyes and no others eyes, after his resurrection, he would see his redeemer.

We are to commit our ways to Y^ehovah and He will establish our thinking,

Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto Y^ehovah (the LORD), and thy thoughts shall be established (KJV).

so bring forth your righteousness and establish the meek in the land.

Psalms 37:3-8 ³ Trust in Y^ehovah (the LORD), and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate

faithfulness. ⁴ Delight yourself in Y^ehovah (the LORD); And He will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to Y^ehovah (the LORD), Trust also in Him, and He will do it. ⁶ And He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your judgment as the noonday. ⁷ Rest in Y^ehovah (the LORD) and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. ⁸ Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret, it leads only to evildoing.

Our hope in the promises of God today is in the crown of righteousness, which follows in the resurrection.

1Thessalonians 4:13-18 ¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

We and all of the Saints of the past 40 Jubilees, who are termed the dead in Christ, will rise to life.

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. ¹⁷ 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 thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Peace of mind will follow all who understand the Plan of God,

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

As our hope is in the resurrections.

1Corinthians 15:42-58 ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. ⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² 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. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

For us, there is no fear of death, as we conquer sin.

⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

For our present life here is but a foretaste of what our Father has prepared for us beyond the grave and

the resurrection from the dead. We have trouble with earthly matters and so much of the spiritual plan is withheld from us (*John 3:12*).

We see the new future of mankind before us where there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 21:1-7 ¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, ⁴ and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done. 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. ⁷ "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.