

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
ABOUT DEATH
1 KINGS 2:10-11

Introduction

As we closed last week, we saw how **David peacefully died physically** after giving his son, Solomon, the new king of Israel a charge to take care of some things! **Before we move on, let's think about the subject of death, because we see the death of one of God's greatest servants here!**

Death is usually something folks don't like to talk about or even think about! (e.g. One of my all time favorite commercials showed a casket maker busily working on finishing a cheap wooden casket from the inside. His helper standing outside the casket says, "*Uh oh, here comes that insurance salesman again.*" The guy drops his hammer falls back in the casket and the lid slams shut.) The message was that even folks who work around things concerning death, don't like to talk about or think about their own death!

However, for the true Believer, death is something that we need not fear! Understand that even though these verses show that David died physically and left the earthly shell of his body behind, **HE IS NOT DEAD, because for the Believer, Death Is Not Death!** There is a poem by that name:

Death Is Not Death (?)

"You see death is not death if you know the Lord. It is merely a change of place, a change of state, a transfer from one realm to another.

Death is not death, if it kills no part of us, except that which hindered us from the perfect life.

Death is not death, if it raises us in a moment from darkness to light, from weakness to strength, from sinfulness to holiness.

Death is not death, if it perfects our faith by making it sight, and lets us behold Him, in whom we have believed.

Death is not death, if it rids us of doubt and fear, sickness and disease, of sorrow and sadness.

Death is not death for the believer, for Christ has conquered death for Himself, and for those who trust in Him."

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We see David had **peace in his death!** **That's because of David's faith in the LORD!** Most of us are familiar with the Shepherd's Psalm of David.

Psalm 23:4—Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Think about that phrase "*the shadow of death?*"

Donald Grey Barnhouse was a noted Bible teacher who lived and ministered in the first half of the twentieth century. He lost his first wife to cancer and was left with three children under the age of twelve. As Barnhouse and his family were driving to the funeral service, a large truck passed them and cast a huge shadow across their car. Turning to his oldest daughter, who was staring sadly out the window, Barnhouse said, "*Tell me, sweetheart, would you rather be run over by that truck or its shadow?*" After she thought over her father's question, she replied, "*By the shadow, I guess. It can't hurt you.*" Barnhouse then shared this wisdom with his children: "*Your mother has not been overridden by death, but by the shadow of death. That is nothing we should fear.*"

Charles Spurgeon put it this way, "*Death in its substance has been removed, and only the shadow of it remains. Nobody is afraid of a shadow, for a shadow cannot block a man's pathway for even a moment. The shadow of a dog cannot bite; the shadow of a sword cannot kill.*"

When we look at the Scriptures and see folks die, **peace in the face of death is something we find repeatedly in people who were confident of their faith in the LORD** (both in the Old Testament and New Testament)!

Think about the Apostle Paul for a minute. **The Lord gave Paul perfect peace about both his approaching death and martyrdom.** *2 Corinthians 5:8—“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”*

That verse has been a comfort to many a Believer and should be a comfort to all Believers!

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Paul also wrote:

Philippians 1:21—“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Philippians 1:23-24—“23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.”

2 Timothy 4:6-8— “6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Let me ask tonight in thinking as we think about death:

"Are you prepared for your death?" Now I am not talking about preparing for it the way the world prepares for it even though there are some things we need to prepare in that arena too. Things such as...

A Last Will And Testament.

A Living Will.

Life Insurance.

Now those things are important and you need to prepare in that way too, but when I ask, **"Are you prepared for your death?"** I am speaking about eternal things. **"Where will you spend eternity? Have you truly been born again?"**

Some may say, **"I don't like to talk about it or think about it!"** You had better think about it! Because your **death is the gateway to where you will be for all eternity!**

Have you truly been born again? Follow me closely...

1. By that I'm asking first—**Has there ever been a time when you saw yourself as a lost, hell bound sinner?** (Did you know that in order to be saved you first have to admit you are lost?)

Romans 3:10—“As it is written, *There is none righteous, no, not one:*”

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Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23— “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

John 3:18— “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

2. **Have you realized that there is nothing you can do to save yourself?** (Not Church attendance, not Church membership, not baptism, not keeping the Law, not anything!)

If anyone could have done anything to save themselves, then there would have been no need for Jesus didn't need to come!

3. **Has there ever been a time when you saw what Jesus did for you on the Cross of Calvary and you repented of your sin and placed your faith and trust entirely in Him—His death, burial and resurrection)?**

Preparing for eternity is the most important thing to take care of prior to your death, because after you die it is too late!

Closing our mind to our appointment with death, by pretending it is not there, will not make us immortal or make death go away. Listen, because we are so frail and life is so short, we **MUST** prepare for eternity early because **we do not know when our appointment with death will come!**

Hebrews 9:27—“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

Listen closely, every death we hear about, every obituary we read, every funeral we attend, every funeral home we see, every graveyard or cemetery that we see should be a reminder to us that death is coming!

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James 4:14—Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

In this chapter David was on the borderline between time and eternity and he passed over that borderline from time into eternity with peace in his heart!

You may be on the borderline right now and not even realize it. This day could be the last day of your life! You may leave here and never make it to your home alive! Or you may lay your head down on your pillow in sleep for the last time tonight! None of us know when our appointment with death is!

The question is, where when your life here is over, do you know for sure where you are headed on the other side? If Christ is your Righteousness and your Life you can know!

1 John 5:13 “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

If you are NOT 100% SURE about your salvation don't leave here tonight without that assurance! We're here to help you with that!

How you deal with the subject of death will dictate your outlook on life. If you believe death ends it all, then you will probably follow the "**Live it Up!**" philosophy and lifestyle.

If you refuse Jesus Christ, then death is something to be feared! If you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, death does not have to be feared for in Him you know where you are going!