

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHRISTIAN PASSES

For this I will use four bible passages to show what happens as a Christian passes from this life into the next. You will no doubt notice that I use the term “passes” instead of dies. In reality a person never dies as we perceive death. Jesus himself makes this statement in John 11 vs.26. **And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?** Now ,if that statement had been made by anyone other than our Lord it would be outrageous. Even spoken by the Lord it is tempting to “spiritualize” it, but the statement is fact as we shall soon see.

Paul has this to say in 2 Cor 5 vs.8. **We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.** This does not mean tomorrow or the next day but implies immediately. You are “here”, then you are “there”. Only the body remains “here”. Keep in mind that the body is not you. The soul and spirit are the real you.

Now let's look at Luke ch16 vs.22. **And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;** Here we see that beggar carried by multiple(at least two) angels into Paradise. From this we know that we have angelic guides as we leave this body. They take us where we need to go and, no doubt, hang around to give us information about our new home. Heaven is going to be vastly different from this present world and we are going to need help taking all this in. Notice too that Lazarus is carried to a place of comfort signified by “Abraham's Bosom”. That implies a place of comfort. While you are at this passage, in Luke,take a quick look at the fate of the rich man. He is not “separated from God” as some modern preachers teach. He is in eternal torment in very real flame. He was there two thousand years ago and is still in torment and will always be there.

Let's look at this from Genesis Ch.35 vs. 29. **And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.** Notice the phrase ,“**and was gathered unto his people**”. That indicates ,to me,that Issac was taken to a place where he knew people,probably including some deceased relatives. Again,this indicates a place of comfort and companionship. True,this is Old Testament but the principle still applies. God doesn't just drop us in the middle of nowhere.

Now,for the last very interesting verse. Genesis 35 vs.18 **And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.** Her soul,and spirit,are conscious as they

depart the body. No matter your condition here, you will be fully awake, and aware, as you leave. Rachel was able to name the baby as she left. I have always felt that Jacob was a real jerk for not letting the name stick but then he always was a sorry character.