

Letter 923
First Death, Second Death
2023-12-12

Dear **Yeshua**,

Tuesday, 12 December 2023, 11:00PM

FIRST DEATH: *The termination of life in the human body, after which it is sent to the grave.*

SECOND DEATH: *The moment beginning after which a person is sentenced by God to everlasting hell and the lake of fire, to receive the just wages for their sins.*

("Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once." - Dr. Chuck Missler)

Some time ago **Jesus** spoke to me and said **He** wanted me to write a Letter concerning the twin topics of the First Death and the Second Death.

I had already been thinking about these two concepts for quite some time, so when **He** issued that order, it made sense.

The detailed concept of the distinction between two deaths comes from the Book of Revelation.

Here are the verses that speak of these doctrines:

8 "And to the angel of the **church in Smyrna** write,
'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

...

11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the **Spirit** says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by **the second death.**" '

Revelation 2:8, 11

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is **the first resurrection**. **6** Blessed and holy is he who has part in **the first resurrection**. Over such **the second death** has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4-6

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is **the second death**. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14-15

I discovered from this study that Scripture makes the distinction not between the first death and the second death, but between the First Resurrection and the Second Death.

I think this is because when a Christian “dies”, according to Scripture he doesn’t really die, but simultaneously sleeps in the dust and lives in Heaven with Yahweh, where there is no death (or dust). Also, at the Rapture, “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,...” (see 1 Corinthians 15:51b-52a).

This concept of “physical body sleep” (NOT “soul sleep”, as some have erroneously taught) is revealed in Matthew 27:52-53, where it says that: **52** “... and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had **fallen asleep** were raised; **53** and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”

Here we see that Saints, whose bodies were “dead and buried”, are described as having “fallen asleep”. But we also know from Scripture that “absent from the body is present with the Lord” (see 2 Corinthians 5:8).

It was from these verses that I was inspired to write a poem given me from the Lord commemorating the passing of my own father. One of the stanzas says these words:

“CHRISTIANS DON’T DIE.
THEY SLEEP IN THE DUST,
AND LIVE IN THE SKY.”
(See Letter 52)

Those who have read my earlier Testimonies know that I suffer chronic pains, which at times can be debilitating.

Often I begin to talk about this in the presence of my angel Family. That’s when angel Gabe reminds me that the suffering in the flesh is “first death” stuff. He points out that first death stuff is minor compared to second death stuff. His implication is that I should at that point focus on the things of Heaven, where there is no death.

This is also true in the world today. All those alive in the world who are in distress because of the “wars and rumors of wars” and the sudden and voluminous increase in evil men and the crimes they commit, are still only being effected by “first death” activities.

Should anyone outside of salvation in Christ Jesus die in their sins, they will enter in to the second death, from which there is no recovery.

I will recover from my pain and broken body, and my body of flesh shall be transformed and made new in the First Resurrection.

But the lost will be damned forever in the lake of fire.

Here is what Jesus taught about those who die in their sins:

Mark 9:43-48

43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—

44 where

‘THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE
AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.’

45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— **46** where

‘THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE
AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.’

47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— **48** where

‘THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE
AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.’

But here is the Way to be saved from everlasting hell.

The Book of 1 Corinthians
Chapter 15
Verse 1 Through 11

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ** died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that **He** was buried, and that **He** rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that **He** was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

6 After that **He** was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

7 After that **He** was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

8 Then last of all **He** was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

11 Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

“JESUS LOVES US”
“BELIEVE HIS GOSPEL THEREFORE”
“AND BE SAVED”
“RECEIVE ALSO HIS SPIRIT”

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus