

The Second Death

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I am told that a cat has nine lives. Is this really true? The myth that cats have multiple lives exists in many cultures around the world. It's not always nine lives, though. Some Spanish-speaking regions believe cats have seven lives, while Turkish and Arabic legends claim cats have six lives. No! Cats have one life just like any other living creature. However, a cat is probably the most independent pet out there. They can withstand falls and other serious accidents, many times land on their feet, without being fatally wounded, which is perhaps where the saying "a cat has nine lives" actually comes from.



This brings up another question. How many deaths does an unsaved person experience? I was talking to a man about the second death which is spoken about in the Bible. His eyes got big and said, "I only want to die once, not twice." I began to share

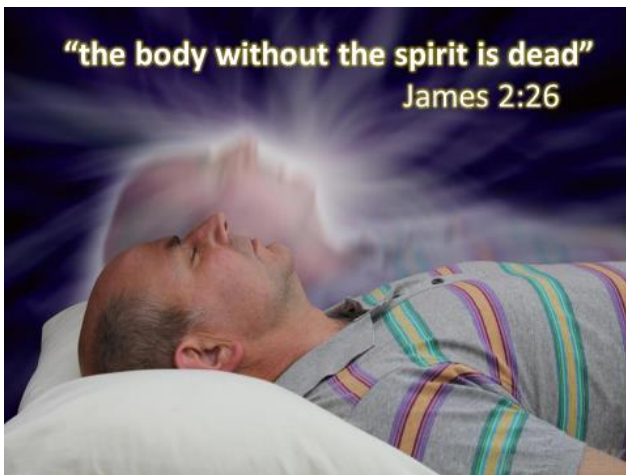
with him that if he knows Jesus Christ as his Savior, he would only die once and go to Heaven. But if he died without Christ as his Savior, he would die once physically and his spirit would go to hell and then at a later time die a second time (physically and spiritually) and both his body and spirit would end up in the eternal Lake of Fire. The reality of this is frightening and should be an important point when witnessing to unsaved and lost people.

The Bible repeatedly speaks of a second death in the Book of Revelation. This death is distinct from the first death that people experience at the end of their lives on earth since it is termed a second death. What is the meaning and significance of this death? Let's find out in this study.

The Bible teaches that every unsaved person will experience a first and second death.

This is seen in two ways.

1. The first Death



The word "death" speaks of a separation. In the *first death* (physical death), the spirit and soul (immaterial part of a person) is separated from the physical body. James 2:26 says speaks how "the body without the spirit is dead" which is reference to the

separation of the human spirit from the body at the time of one's original or first death. When a person dies the first time, their immaterial spirit is separated from their body and it departs to the place of its choosing – Heaven or Hell.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

Even Solomon realized that the human spirit (the immaterial, incorporeal, or unseen part of our human existence) lives on after

death. From Solomon's vantage point, he verified that the spirit goes back under the control of God after death and He dispenses the spirit of an individual to the place of its choosing. This is a reversal of the process of creation (Gen. 2:7) where God took dirt and formed man and breathed into him the breath of life which began man's spiritual existence. At death, an individual's body goes back to the dirt and his spirit returns to God's full authority to dispense of a person's spirit to its appropriate place.

For those who know Christ as Savior, the departure of their spirit from their human body will be a time of joy and unending bliss.

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."

Acts 7:59

"And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Philippians 1:23

"For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart (depart from this body and life on earth), and to be with Christ; which is far better."

The Bible is very clear about the first death. At one point when the body ceases to function, the spirit of an individual leaves their body and departs into the next life. For those who know Christ as their personal Savior, following the first death, their human spirit will enter Heaven and they will experience rest, bliss, comfort, and great joy.

Revelation 14:13

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

These Scriptures, among others, reveal that between the first death and our resurrection (the intermediate state), believers (God’s children) will be able to see and function in another world, the unseen spirit world, with the senses that we now possess in our present physical world. We will be able to see things, feel things, and wear things (“robes” – Rev. 6:11; 7:14) and function normally, as we do today; however, in another spiritual dimension. For God’s people this will be a time of tremendous joy.

People have often asked me how spirit beings (Satan and demons) can suffer pain and punishment when they are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10). In a way unknown to our finite minds, the Bible teaches that even immaterial or incorporeal beings (angels) will suffer punishment, banishment, and judgment from God throughout eternity (Revelation 20:10, Matthew 8:29, Jude 6). Apparently, even spirit beings in their immaterial state can have the senses of physical functioning. They can actually experience pain and agony from God's judgment. This same type of suffering is also seen in the intermediate state of the unbelieving person, prior to their bodily resurrection (Luke 16:23-25).

Apparently a person lives in the realm of only his spiritual (incorporeal) existence following the first death (Rev. 6:9) but can experience the same sensation and stimuli as when possessing a body. It’s difficult for us to fully understand what it’s like to exist in another spiritual dimension without possessing a human body

but this is what will occur between our physical death and bodily resurrection (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23).

As wonderful as the first death is for those who are believers in Christ, the opposite is true for those who have not responded in faith and received Christ as their Savior (John 1:12). The first death is not the same for those who have rejected Christ as their Savior. When an unsaved person dies, their spirit enters the place called Hades, which is a compartment in the center of the earth, a place where the unsaved suffer God's wrath and judgment until the Second Death, which occurs at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

Luke 16:23-25 describes this awful place of judgment where the unsaved human spirit enters following the first death. "And in hell (hades) he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."



For the unsaved who die without Jesus Christ as Savior, like this rich man, their human spirit will enter the world of the damned, which is a place where their full senses will experience thirst, pain, and also the painful memories of the past. You see, Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for your sins, being judged in your place (1

Pet. 3:18), but if you reject Christ by refusing to believe in His death and resurrection to save you, then you must face the penalty for your own sins in this awful place called Hades.

Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

The human spirit lives on after death and will suffer the righteous judgment of God (Rev. 16:7; 19:2).

The story is told of a Jewish woman in New York City who was approached by a Christian worker. He began to tell her of Christ and her need of salvation. He explained that she was a sinner and was going to Hell. She cried out, “I don’t believe in hell!”

“Why not?” asked the Christian. “Because 6 million of my Jewish brothers and sisters were murdered at the hands of Adolf Hitler and his Nazis. I cannot believe they will all go to Hell!”

He then asked her, “Ma’am, so I suppose that when you get to Heaven and walk down the streets of gold, you’ll see Adolph Hitler there. Will you tell him ‘hello’ for me?” “Adolph Hitler” she shouted, “Why, he won’t be in Heaven, he’ll be in hell!”

Immediately the woman saw her fallacy. She realized that hell was a place to punish sinful men who have rejected Christ as Savior, whether they are Hitler, Jews, or Gentiles.

So, the first death can mean either Heaven or Hell (“hades) for those who die. The first death is the time when the human spirit (the immaterial aspect of a person’s existence) separates from the

human body and departs into one of two places – Heaven or Hades.

2. The Second death

The Second Death occurs at one point after the first death. The first death can be experienced by either believers or unbelievers. However, the Second Death can only be experienced by unbelievers who have rejected Christ as Savior.

Here are the verses that mention the second death.

Revelation 2:11

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”

Revelation 20:6

“Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:14 -15

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 21:8

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

“And whosoever
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Revelation 20:15



In the Second Death, as recorded in Revelation 20:14 and various other Bible verses, man is separated from God both spiritually and physically in a second or final way. This means that his entire being (body and spirit) is separated from God forever. In the Second Death, the human spirit is reunited with the body once again to experience a final separation from God in the Lake of Fire. Revelation 21:8 states that the unsaved “shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Let’s think through the Biblical teaching of death as it relates to an unsaved person. While an unsaved person is physically alive he is already dead spiritually (Ephesians 2:1, John 5:25, I John 5:12). This means his human spirit is already separated from God, without possessing God’s life and presence (Eph. 2:12), while he still lives in his human body. There are a lot of walking dead people in the world today. They are spiritually dead, which means their human spirit is separated from God and His regenerating life.

At one point, an unsaved person will physically die and his spiritually dead spirit will separate from his body and enter the place of “hades” (Luke 16:23). This occurs at the first death. The human spirit of the unsaved will then exist in the place of Hades until the Great White Throne Judgment, which is the time when the human bodies of the unsaved is raised from the death and their spirits are taken out of Hades and reunited with a resurrection body fit for eternal judgment.



The Lake of Fire is the place where the Second death will be experienced for eternity (Rev. 20:15; 21:8) This is a literal place somewhere on the outskirts of God universe and which may exist in another timeless existence outside the bounds of time as we know it today. Jesus

spoke about this place during His earthly ministry and described as the place of “everlasting fire” (Matt. 25:41) and “hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched” (Mark 9:43-48).

The Bible reveals how the Second Death will be experienced.

Revelation 20:14

“And **death** (the realm of physical death = the human body removed from the grave) and **hell** (the realm of spiritual death = the spirit removed from hades) were (reunited and) cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.**”

When the body of the unsaved is resurrected from the realm of physical death (the grave) and the spirit is removed from "hades" (the realm of spiritual death and place where human spirits reside until this End Time judgment), both will be reunited together to experience a final and eternal judgment that is called the Second Death.

When an unsaved individual experiences the "second death," the individual actually passes through a final and eternal death or separation from God. He dies in a second or final way, whereby he is forever and finally separated from God in his immaterial or spiritual existence and also separated from God from a physical standpoint, by possessing a resurrected body that is fit for eternal suffering in the Lake of Fire.

The Second Death speaks of the resurrection of the human body and reunification of the human spirit with the body, which has come from the realm of the spirit world, and which results in a person being judged both spiritually and physically for all eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Instead of possessing everlasting spiritual life within a person's human spirit as Jesus promised to believers (John 3:15-16), the unsaved person will possess everlasting spiritual death (Romans 6:23), which means an eternal separation from God in a place where the human spirit can never enjoy the presence of God. The Second Death means that this person's human spirit can never be restored to God and never live with God and enjoy His presence! It will never be possible for an individual to live in the presence of God in Heaven.

Carol Fuller was a 72-year-old grandmother living alone in West Hollywood in 1995. During a home invasion robbery, she was

locked in a closet, her home was ransacked and her car was stolen. All of this took place without anyone knowing. But the worst part followed.

Days later, investigators found her dead in the closet with her fingers cut from trying to claw her way out. Sadly, Carol Fuller left this world experiencing much the same horror many will experience for the rest of eternity. Try as they might, claw as they might, they will only have death and darkness as their companion and they will never escape from the awful place of the Lake of Fire.

How different it will be for God's people who will live forever with Him!

Revelation 21:3-4

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

"When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun."

God's saints have a glorious destiny but the devil's children (1 John 3:10) will suffer the wrath of God for eternity in the Lake of Fire (the Second Death). As we have confirmed, although the Second Death is spiritual in nature, there are also physical ramifications connected with this Second Death. The resurrection

of the wicked human body (Revelation 20:12) guarantees a reconstructed, eternal body, which will endure the wrath of God in the flaming torments and agonies of Hell (Matthew 10:28).

At the Second Death, there will also be a bodily resurrection of the unsaved and wicked. The bodies of the lost will be resurrected so people can suffer the agonies of Hell (Gehennah or the Lake of Fire) in a physical body. So, the Second Death also speaks of a time when the unsaved are bodily resurrected and separated from God in the Lake of Fire. The Second Death involves not only a spiritual but also a physical (bodily) separation from God in the eternal suffering of hell.

Revelation 20:15 once again states:

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Let’s recap what we have learned. The unsaved person dies once (physically) and his spirit is separated from God in the temporary place of “hades” (Luke 16:23). But he will then die a second death, where both his spirit and body are eternally separated from God in the Lake of Fire.



God has chosen to work with a resurrection program of the human body for both saved and unsaved people who are part of the human race (John 5:28-29). At the time of the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11), a judgment associate with the unsaved of all the ages, God will resurrect a type of body that will be able to experience eternal pain and dying (a Second Death). The resurrected body of the unbeliever, suited for God's judgment, will actually exist in an ongoing state of physical death and dying (separation from God), while it is being eternally judged. Jesus called this "the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29).

As we have confirmed, in the Second Death, both the human spirit and human body will experience separation from God while experiencing the eternal judgment of God. This means that the "second death" will be a judgment resulting in the separation of the person's spirit from God's presence forever (an eternal spiritual death) but will also include the physical punishment of a body, through which man can experience eternal pain and agony in a state of ongoing death (physical death). Just as the resurrected bodies of the saints will be living forever in God's presence, so the resurrected bodies of the unsaved will be dying forever, away from God's presence in the judgment of the Lake of Fire.

Hebrews 10:31

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

This would mean that the bodies of the unredeemed will not be consumed by the fire of Hell but will remain in a state of "being consumed" or a state of "ongoing" death as outlined in the Bible (Matthew 10:28, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 20:12, 14). If God can make the believer's body eternally glorified to live in His presence,

He can surely make an unglorified body, eternally suited for eternal pain and endless death in the fires of hell.

So actually both the human spirit and human body will experience what is termed the Second Death. The Second Death will involve a person's spiritual death (a spiritually dead spirit being judged and separated from God's presence) and also a physical death (a body being judged and separated from God's presence). From the perspective of the human body, the Second death means that a person's body will experience ongoing pain and suffering in an eternal separation from the presence of God.

So, in the Second Death both the spirit and body will be separated from God's presence in a second or final (eternal) way. A person will die forever spiritually in his lost estate and also die forever physically, away from God's presence, as he suffers the perpetual agonies of hell tormenting his body.

Revelation 14:11

“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

Agonies and pain eventually stop the functioning of the human body in this life ending in physical death. But in the Second Death, the human body will continue to function while experiencing pain and torment in a real physical way. In reality, when a person experiences the Second Death, they will be in a constant and ongoing state of death, which means they will keep their bodies and continue to suffer God's wrath and judgment. Essentially, a person will never leave his body when experiencing the Second Death, but continue to die in his resurrected human body for eternity!

Yes, those who die as lost sinners face a terrifying future in what the Bible terms the "second death." They will be finally and forever separated from God's presence, to be judged harshly by God's justice. They will exist in an eternal state of death (separation) from God. This death or separation will involve the eternal banishment of their spirit from God and the eternal banishment of their bodies in the fires of Gehenna (Matthew 5:22). Both their spirit and body will be judged in the future. The spirit of man will be separated from God. Also, throughout the ages of time, man will want to physically die, but will be unable to die as recorded similarly in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 9:6

“And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.”

Untold billions of people will want to pass out of existence when they are in the Lake of Fire but God will not allow it to be so. Each lost individual will continually experience a second, final (ongoing) state of dying, in a body suited for eternal damnation (Rom. 3:8; 2 Pet. 2:3). The Second Death involves a person passing through a final phase of eternal separation from God's presence in relationship to his spirit and body. This separation and judgment from God will be experienced within another timeless existence unbeknown to us today.

Matthew 10:28

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul (the immaterial part of our human existence) and body (the physical part of our human existence) in hell” (Gehennah or Lake of Fire).

The Second Death will result in an eternal state of ruin or loss as is depicted in the New Testament words of "perish" (John 3:15-16, Luke 13:5) "destruction" (Matthew 7:13, II Thess. 1:9) and "destroy" (Matthew 10:20). These words actually point to the wrath and judgment that God will shower upon the lost in the future and final Second Death. When a person does "perish" as Jesus mentions, they experience the final separation of their spirit from God's presence. This means they are banished from God's presence forever and will experience His righteous wrath.

But when an unbelieving sinner does "perish" they will also experience the eternal pain of a tormented body in their lost and sinful estate. Once again, to die the Second Death not only reflects upon the truth of a separated spirit from God, but also takes on the meaning that a person will experience pain and suffering throughout eternity in a physical body (Matthew 23:14, Romans 2:6).

The words "perish," "destruction" and "destroy" are translated from Greek words which mean "ruin" or "loss." The words "perish" and "destroy" are taken from the same Greek word. These words within their appropriate settings convey the idea that man will be eternally judged by God in relationship to his spirit and body, experiencing ruin or loss, missing out on God's intended purpose for his human existence. The Bible does not teach the annihilation (cessation of existence) of a man's immaterial soul and spirit by these words recorded in the New Testament (perish, destruction, destroy). Rather, the Bible teaches the eternal judgment of lost mankind in both spirit and body (Matthew 10:28, Revelation 19:20, 20:10, Daniel 12:2, II Thess. 1:9, Matthew 25:41).

The Real God of the Bible!



The final thoughts about the "second death" are very solemn. We must remember that God has two sides to His eternal character — mercy (the cross and salvation) and justice (judgment for sin and sinners). Lost sinners

who reject God's mercy and grace will not escape the justice of God (Revelation 15:3, 16:7) or "the righteous judgment of God" (Romans 2:5) in the unending doom of hell's fire, sulphur and maggots (Revelation 14:11; 20:10, 15, Mark 9:42-49, Isaiah 14:11). The unsaved will die a second or final (eternal) death in the unending agonies of damnation where both their spirit and body will be separated from God's presence.

Oh the unquenchable fire, the darkness, the undying worm, the loneliness and the fear! No more will God's mercy be within your reach! You will be separated from God forever! Never shall you rest again! Your sins will haunt you and God's wrath will judge you throughout the eons of time! Dear friend, think what it means to be lost forever! Think of what it means to experience God's wrath and punishment for your sins forever. What a terrible judgment awaits the unsaved.



Revelation 20:14

“And death (the realm of physical death = the human body removed from the grave) and hell (the realm of spiritual death = the spirit removed from hades) were (reunited and) cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”



Think what it means to be lost forever!

Are you prepared to die? Are you prepared to live with God forever? Are you going to Heaven or Hell? Here is the good news. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). If you have never personally believed on Jesus Christ, in His death and resurrection to grant you the forgiveness of sins, save you from hell, and give you eternal life in Heaven, then you need to transfer your faith to Him right now. At this very moment, you can believe on Jesus Christ and make sure you escape the Second Death.

You can express your belief or faith in Christ through a simple prayer. If you would like to be saved from hell, transfer your own faith to Christ right now as you pray.

“Dear God, I know I am a sinner that deserves Hell. But today I want to believe on Jesus Christ to be my Savior. I believe He died on the cross taking my sins and judgment upon Himself. I believe He was buried and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life in Heaven. I’m transferring all my trust and confidence to Christ alone for my salvation. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”