

A Biblical View of Death

By Don Hunt, M.D.

In Psalm 116 we read: “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” This, not in the sense it is highly valued, but carefully watched over by God. Christians are called *saints* in Scripture because we belong to God. We have been justified (declared righteous) by faith in the Lord Jesus and are by nature a son or daughter of the King, set apart before the foundation of the world.

We are (all of us) close to a point in time when we will be transferred from being time-bound (earth) to being literally timeless (eternity). The only thing in the physical universe that does not age is light, because at the speed of light, there is no passage of time. On earth we experience time in one dimension—linear and forward. The ‘new creation’ will likely have multiple dimensions. John’s vision of the ‘New Jerusalem’ describes it as a cube: 1,380 miles in length, width and depth. So, gravity, mass or both, as we know them, will not exist because anything as massive as the New Jerusalem would become spherical under the force of gravity.

Paul discusses at length in his first letter to the Corinthian church that believers will be transformed from a ‘natural’ body to a ‘spiritual’ body—one perishable; one imperishable. After his resurrection Jesus was radically changed. He left his solid rock tomb *through* the solid rock. He talked with two men on the Emmaus road, but when they recognized him, he disappeared. Does scripture give us any ideas as to what our imperishable bodies might be like?

John gives us some clues in 1st John chapter 3: “Dear friends, now we are children of God and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” So, could our spiritual bodies have the properties of light, which is outside of time with a divine aspect to its nature?

When temporal experiences occur in the equivalent of two or more time dimensions (geometric instead of linear time), every believer can have countless simultaneous interactions with others. The most astonishing thing is that this will include God himself. When God says, “I am making everything new,” he apparently means all the physics and features of the new realm will be radically altered from those we are familiar with. The end of sin and evil means the laws of physics will no longer be needed to set boundaries, limit creativity or relationships.

Finally, the new creation will be bathed in light, but not electromagnetic light. Rev. 21:23 states: “...the city does not need the sun or moon, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.” Amazingly, the glory of God will cast no shadows. Hard to imagine.