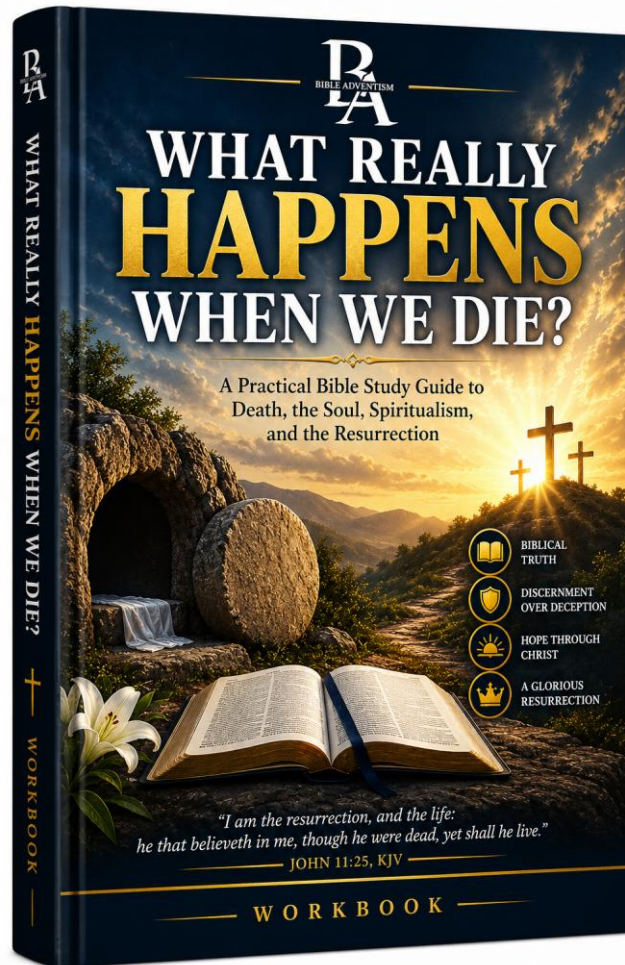




WHAT REALLY HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

A Practical Bible Study Workbook on Death, the Soul, Spiritualism & the Resurrection

KNOW THE TRUTH • RECOGNIZE DECEPTION • HOLD FAST TO THE RESURRECTION HOPE



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Bible Adventism

PUBLICATION & USE

SCRIPTURE

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV). Scripture is the final authority for every doctrine examined in this workbook.

PURPOSE

This workbook is designed for personal study, family study, small groups, Bible workers, and anyone who wants to examine what Scripture teaches concerning death. The objective is not simply to tell you what to believe, but to help you read, observe, compare, think, respond, and apply.

How to Use This Workbook

1. Read the relevant Bible passages for yourself.
2. Observe exactly what Scripture says.
3. Compare Scripture with Scripture.
4. Think carefully about whether your present understanding agrees with the evidence.
5. Respond by recording your conclusion in your own words.
6. Apply the truth spiritually and practically.

DO NOT TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV

Use your Bible. Look up every passage. Write down what the text actually says before reading the explanation.

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

What Do I Believe Right Now?

BIBLE TRUTH

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV

Death is one of the most universal human experiences. With death come questions: Where are they now? Are they conscious? Can they see us? Can they communicate with us? Does an immortal soul leave the body at death? When does the believer receive immortality? Why does Scripture teach a future resurrection?

STARTING POINT

Answer honestly before studying. Do not change your answers to what you think this workbook wants you to say. You will answer the same questions again at the end.

1. What happens immediately when a person dies?

- ☐ The person goes immediately to heaven or hell.
- ☐ The person remains unconscious awaiting resurrection.
- ☐ A conscious spirit leaves the body and continues living.
- ☐ I am unsure.
- ☐ Other: _____

2. What is a soul?

3. Is every human soul naturally immortal?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Why do I believe this?

4. Are dead people conscious?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

5. Can deceased people communicate with the living?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

6. When do God's people receive immortality?

7. Why is there a future resurrection?

8. What do I believe happens when Jesus returns?

Where Did My Beliefs Come From?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Scripture | ☐ My church |
| ☐ My family | ☐ A pastor or religious teacher |
| ☐ Christian tradition | ☐ Personal experience |
| ☐ Dreams or supernatural experiences | ☐ Movies or television |
| ☐ Books | ☐ Social media |
| ☐ Popular culture | ☐ I have never seriously studied the question |

Which of these should have the final authority?

CHAPTER 1

HOW DID HUMAN LIFE BEGIN?

Understanding the Biblical Formula for Life

KEY QUESTION

Before we can understand death, what must we understand about life?

Read the Word

BIBLE TRUTH

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

- Genesis 2:7, KJV

Bible Investigation

What did God form man from?

What did God breathe into man's nostrils?

What did man then become?

COMPLETE THE FORMULA

Dust of the ground + _____ = Living soul

Observe the Wording

- ☐ God placed a living soul inside Adam.
- ☐ Adam's immortal soul entered his body.
- ☐ Adam received a soul that could live independently of his body.
- ☐ Man became a living soul.

Write the exact phrase from Genesis 2:7 describing what man became:

Think It Through

What is the difference between saying “Adam received a soul” and “Adam became a living soul”?

Bible Conclusion

Based only upon Genesis 2:7, what elements were involved in producing a living human being?

In my own words, a “living soul” is:

Spiritual Application

Human life originates with God. Life is therefore not merely a biological possession that belongs independently to us. We are creatures whose existence depends upon the Creator.

What would change if I consciously viewed every day of life as something entrusted to me by God?

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Body: _____

Breath of life: _____

Result: _____

One truth I want to remember: _____

CHAPTER 2

GOD SAID / THE SERPENT SAID

The First Controversy Concerning Death

KEY QUESTION

What were the first two competing statements concerning human death?

BIBLE TRUTH

“...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
- Genesis 2:17, KJV

What consequence did God attach to disobedience?

BIBLE TRUTH

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.”
- Genesis 3:4, KJV

GOD SAID	THE SERPENT SAID
“Thou shalt surely _____.”	“Ye shall _____ surely die.”

Can both statements be correct in the same sense?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Who Was the Serpent?

☐ Read Revelation 12:9

☐ Read Revelation 20:2

☐ Read John 8:44

☐ Read Hebrews 6:18

According to these passages, how is the serpent identified?

How does Jesus describe the devil?

What does Scripture say concerning God's ability to lie?

EVIDENCE CHECK

Who said “Thou shalt surely die”? _____

Who said “Ye shall not surely die”? _____

Why is the question of death more than merely an academic theological issue?

CHAPTER 3

WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH?

Understanding the Reversal of Life

KEY QUESTION

What happens to the components involved in human life when a person dies?

BIBLE TRUTH

“...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”
- Genesis 3:19, KJV

Where does the body return?

BIBLE TRUTH

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
- Ecclesiastes 12:7, KJV

What returns to the earth?

What returns to God?

BIBLE TRUTH

“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;”
- Job 27:3, KJV

Job closely associates the language of breath and spirit with the life God sustains. We should still be careful not to make Ecclesiastes 12:7 say more than it actually says.

Does Ecclesiastes 12:7 explicitly say that the “spirit” returning to God is a conscious disembodied personality?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ The verse does not say

Why is that distinction important?

COMPLETE THE SEQUENCE

CREATION: Dust + Breath of Life → _____

DEATH: Body → _____

Spirit → _____

How does death reverse the creation process?

CHAPTER 4

WHAT IS A SOUL?

Letting Scripture Define Its Own Terms

KEY QUESTION

Does the Bible use “soul” only for an invisible entity inside a person - or can it refer to the person himself?

Scripture Search

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Genesis 12:5 | ☐ Genesis 46:27 |
| ☐ Exodus 1:5 | ☐ 1 Peter 3:20 |
| ☐ Ezekiel 18:4 | ☐ Ezekiel 18:20 |

BIBLE TRUTH

“And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls...”
- Exodus 1:5, KJV

What are these “souls” describing?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ☐ Disembodied spirits | ☐ Ghosts |
| ☐ People | ☐ Angels |

BIBLE TRUTH

“...the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”
- Ezekiel 18:4, KJV

Complete Ezekiel 18:20: “The soul that sinneth, it shall _____.”

EVIDENCE TABLE

Genesis 2:7 - Man became a _____.
Exodus 1:5 - People are called _____.
Ezekiel 18:4 - The soul can _____.

Does this evidence support the assumption that every human soul is inherently incapable of death?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I need more evidence

Explain your answer:

Before / After

Before this chapter, when I heard the word “soul,” I pictured:

After examining these passages, I would define the biblical term more carefully as:

CHAPTER 5

WHAT DO THE DEAD KNOW?

Examining Consciousness in Death

KEY QUESTION

How does Scripture describe the condition of the dead?

BIBLE TRUTH

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing...”
- Ecclesiastes 9:5, KJV

Complete the sentence: “The dead know not _____.”

BIBLE TRUTH

“...there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”
- Ecclesiastes 9:10, KJV

Write the four things the verse says are absent in the grave:

BIBLE TRUTH

“The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.”
- Psalm 115:17, KJV

Are the dead described as actively praising God?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Bible Investigation

PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?
Ecclesiastes 9:5	
Ecclesiastes 9:6	
Ecclesiastes 9:10	

PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT SAY?
Psalm 115:17	
Psalm 146:4	
Job 14:10-12	

Based on these passages, I would describe the condition of the dead as:

WHY DOES THE BIBLE CALL DEATH “SLEEP”?

Death, Sleep & the Awakening

KEY QUESTION

Why does Scripture repeatedly use sleep as a description of death?

BIBLE TRUTH

“Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.”
- John 11:11, KJV

BIBLE TRUTH

“Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.”
- John 11:14, KJV

What did Jesus mean by “sleep”?

Follow the Word Through Scripture

- ☐ Job 14:12
- ☐ Daniel 12:2
- ☐ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16

Daniel 12:2 - Where are those who “sleep” described as being?

What eventually happens to them?

1 Thessalonians 4 - What event awakens the dead in Christ?

Think It Through

Sleep is temporary. How does this point toward resurrection?

Sleep is followed by awakening. What is the biblical “awakening” from death?

How does the imagery of sleep harmonize with Ecclesiastes 9?

RESURRECTION CONNECTION

Life → Death → _____ → Resurrection

CHAPTER 7

WHERE IS DAVID?

Testing the Doctrine With a Biblical Example

KEY QUESTION

What did Peter say about David approximately a thousand years after David died?

BIBLE TRUTH

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.”

- Acts 2:29, KJV

BIBLE TRUTH

“For David is not ascended into the heavens...”

- Acts 2:34, KJV

Peter says David was:

☐ Dead

☐ Buried

☐ Resurrected

☐ Living bodily in heaven

Complete Peter's statement: “For David is _____ ascended into the heavens.”

Evidence Check

What does Peter say about David's body/grave?

What does Peter say about David ascending into heaven?

If David had already received the final promised reward immediately at death, how would you reconcile that idea with Peter's statements?

STUDY PRINCIPLE

A doctrine should be able to withstand specific biblical examples, not merely broad assumptions.

My conclusion from David's example:

CHAPTER 8

CAN THE DEAD COMMUNICATE WITH US?

The Bible and Spiritualism

KEY QUESTION

If the dead are unconscious awaiting resurrection, how should we understand apparent communication from deceased persons?

For this workbook, spiritualism refers to attempts or claims involving communication with spirits believed to be deceased human beings. The issue is not whether supernatural experiences can seem convincing. The question is what God's Word says.

Read the Word

☐ Leviticus 19:31

☐ Deuteronomy 18:10-13

☐ Isaiah 8:19-20

Leviticus 19:31 - What does God tell His people not to seek?

Deuteronomy 18:10-13 - List the prohibited practices you find:

BIBLE TRUTH

“Should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?”
- Isaiah 8:19, KJV

BIBLE TRUTH

“To the law and to the testimony...”
- Isaiah 8:20, KJV

Discernment Scenario

Someone tells you: “Your deceased loved one appeared to me and gave me a message for you.”

- ☐ Accept it because the person knew private details.
- ☐ Accept it because the experience seemed supernatural.
- ☐ Accept it because it was comforting.
- ☐ Test the claim by Scripture.

Why?

Practical Discernment

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Séances | ☐ Mediums |
| ☐ Necromancy | ☐ Attempts to summon deceased relatives |
| ☐ Psychics claiming communication with the dead | ☐ Prayer to God |
| ☐ Bible study | |

Heart Check

Have I ever wanted so badly to hear from someone who died that I might have been tempted to accept an experience without testing it biblically?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable

What should I do instead?

CHAPTER 9

SAUL AND THE MEDIUM

A Biblical Case Study

KEY QUESTION

What happens when someone seeks supernatural guidance outside the means God has authorized?

Read 1 Samuel 28

What was Saul's spiritual condition?

Why was Saul afraid?

What guidance was he seeking?

Whom did he seek?

BIBLE TRUTH

“So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD... and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; And inquired not of the LORD...”
 - 1 Chronicles 10:13-14, KJV

Why does Scripture say Saul died?

What forbidden source did he consult?

Whom did he fail to seek?

IMPORTANT INTERPRETIVE POINT

Christians differ over exactly how every detail of 1 Samuel 28 should be interpreted. This workbook does not need to make the passage say more than Scripture establishes. One conclusion is explicit: God condemned Saul's decision to seek counsel through a familiar spirit.

Case-Study Application

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Grief | ☐ Fear |
| ☐ Uncertainty | ☐ Desire to know the future |
| ☐ Desperation | ☐ Curiosity |
| ☐ Loss | ☐ Spiritual confusion |

When I am afraid or desperate, where should I seek counsel?

DIFFICULT BIBLE PASSAGES

Testing Our Conclusions Against the Whole Bible

KEY QUESTION

What should we do with passages that appear, at first reading, to point in another direction?

INTERPRETIVE METHOD

For each passage ask: (1) What does the text actually say? (2) What is the immediate context? (3) What is the writer's main subject? (4) What related Scriptures address the same subject? (5) Which interpretation harmonizes with the broader biblical evidence?

Case 1 - The Thief on the Cross

BIBLE TRUTH

“Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”
- Luke 23:42, KJV

What future event was the thief looking toward?

BIBLE TRUTH

“Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”
- Luke 23:43, KJV

BIBLE TRUTH

“I am not yet ascended to my Father...”
- John 20:17, KJV

Had Jesus ascended to His Father before Sunday morning according to John 20:17?

☐ Yes

☐ No

How does that information affect your reading of Luke 23:43?

PUNCTUATION NOTE

The earliest Greek manuscripts did not contain the modern punctuation used in English translations. Because

punctuation affects where the reader places the pause, Luke 23:43 should be interpreted in harmony with the broader biblical evidence and Jesus' statement in John 20:17.

Case 2 - The Rich Man and Lazarus

Read Luke 16:19-31. What larger themes occur in the surrounding chapter?

What warning is given to those who refuse Moses and the prophets?

Should a narrative containing imagery be used to overturn direct biblical statements concerning death without first examining its purpose and context?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Why?

Case 3 - "To Depart, and to Be With Christ"

Read Philippians 1:21-23. What does Paul desire?

Compare 2 Timothy 4:6-8. When does Paul associate the crown with Christ's appearing?

Case 4 - "Absent From the Body"

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-8. What is Paul's larger subject?

What does Paul say he wants mortality to be "swallowed up of"?

Compare 1 Corinthians 15:53-54. What event does Paul connect with mortality being swallowed up?

Case 5 - Souls Under the Altar

Read Revelation 6:9-11. What symbolic elements occur in this passage?

Compare Genesis 4:10. Was Abel's literal blood consciously speaking, or is the language a cry for justice?

What might the imagery in Revelation 6 therefore communicate?

INTERPRETATION RULE

Never build an entire doctrine upon an isolated expression while ignoring the broader testimony of Scripture.

CHAPTER 11

WHEN DO WE RECEIVE IMMORTALITY?

Mortality, Resurrection & Transformation

KEY QUESTION

Does Scripture describe human beings as naturally possessing immortality - or receiving immortality?

BIBLE TRUTH

“Who only hath immortality...”
- 1 Timothy 6:16, KJV

Who possesses immortality inherently in this passage?

Read Romans 2:7

What are faithful people described as seeking?

If immortality were already an inherent possession of every human being, why would Scripture describe people as seeking it?

BIBLE TRUTH

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:53, KJV

When does this transformation occur?

- ☐ At birth
 ☐ At death
☐ At the resurrection when the trumpet sounds
 ☐ The passage does not say

BUILD THE SEQUENCE

Mortal

↓

Christ returns / trumpet sounds

↓

Resurrection and transformation

↓

Mortal puts on _____

BIBLE TRUTH

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:54, KJV

What does this say about the Christian view of death?

THE RESURRECTION HOPE

Christ Returns and the Dead in Christ Rise

KEY QUESTION

Where does Scripture place the Christian's ultimate hope concerning death?

THE DIRECTION OF THE WORKBOOK

Not toward death. Not toward the grave. Not toward spiritualism. Toward Jesus Christ.

BIBLE TRUTH

“I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”
- John 14:3, KJV

What did Jesus promise to do?

Why would He return?

BIBLE TRUTH

“...the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth...”
- John 5:28-29, KJV

Where does Jesus describe these people as being?

What happens when they hear His voice?

BIBLE TRUTH

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout... and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16, KJV

What happens first?

What happens to living believers?

What happens to all of God's people together?

Build the Second-Coming Timeline

- ___ The dead in Christ rise.
- ___ The Lord descends from heaven.
- ___ God's people are caught up together.
- ___ The trumpet of God sounds.
- ___ Mortality puts on immortality.
- ___ God's people are forever with the Lord.

The Christian Hope

BIBLE TRUTH
“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” - 1 Thessalonians 4:18, KJV

What “words” immediately precede this statement?

What, therefore, is the comfort Paul gives grieving Christians?

THE BIBLICAL DEATH-AND-RESURRECTION TIMELINE

Fill in the missing steps.

CREATION

Dust + Breath of Life



LIVING SOUL

The person lives.



DEATH

Body returns to _____.

Life-giving breath/spirit returns to _____.



SLEEP / GRAVE

Scripture repeatedly describes death using the imagery of sleep.



SECOND COMING

“The Lord himself shall descend...”



RESURRECTION

The dead in Christ rise.



TRANSFORMATION

“This mortal must put on _____.”



REUNION

God's people are caught up _____.



FOREVER WITH THE LORD

The Christian hope reaches its fulfillment in Christ.

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT TEST

How Will I Evaluate Supernatural Claims?

1. Does it agree with the clear teaching of Scripture?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

2. Does it require me to disregard something God has plainly revealed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

3. Does it involve a practice Scripture forbids?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

4. Am I accepting it primarily because it comforts me emotionally?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

5. Am I allowing experience to interpret Scripture - or Scripture to judge experience?

6. Would I believe the claim if the supernatural experience had never occurred?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

7. Does it direct me toward God and His Word - or toward another spiritual source?

MY DISCERNMENT PRINCIPLE

No experience, apparition, dream, voice, manifestation, tradition, teacher, or emotion has authority to overturn the written Word of God.

A situation in which I need greater biblical discernment:

My next step:

FINAL BIBLE STUDY ASSESSMENT

What Do I Believe Now?

Answer the opening questions again without looking at your original answers. Then compare the two assessments honestly.

1. What happens when a person dies?

2. What is a soul?

3. Is every human soul naturally immortal? Explain from Scripture:

4. Are the dead conscious? Which passage most influenced my answer?

5. Can the dead communicate with the living? Why?

6. When do believers put on immortality?

7. Why is the resurrection necessary?

8. What happens when Jesus returns?

Compare Your Results

Which belief changed the most?

Which belief remained the same but became stronger?

Which Scripture had the greatest impact on me?

What question do I still need to study?

What assumption did I discover that I had never actually tested from Scripture?

MY PERSONAL BIBLE CONCLUSION

Without simply repeating this workbook, summarize what you now believe Scripture teaches concerning death.

LIFE

DEATH

THE SOUL

THE GRAVE

SPIRITUALISM

THE RESURRECTION

IMMORTALITY

MY HOPE IN CHRIST

MY PERSONAL DECISION

Truth is not merely information. Truth calls for a response.

- ☐ I choose Scripture as my final standard of truth.
- ☐ I will test religious traditions by the Word of God.
- ☐ I will compare Scripture with Scripture before reaching doctrinal conclusions.
- ☐ I will not seek communication with the dead.
- ☐ I will test supernatural claims by Scripture.
- ☐ I place my hope in Jesus Christ rather than human speculation about death.
- ☐ I believe Jesus Christ will return.
- ☐ I look forward to the resurrection promised in Scripture.
- ☐ I want to be prepared to meet Christ when He comes.

Based upon what I have studied, I believe:

My Prayer

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the gift of life and for the hope You have given us in Jesus Christ. Help me to place Your Word above tradition, emotion, assumption, and experience. Give me wisdom to recognize deception, courage to follow truth, and faith to trust Your promises. Comfort those who grieve. Keep my hope fixed upon Jesus Christ, His return, and the resurrection unto life. Prepare me to meet You in peace. Amen.

Name: _____ Date: _____

FINAL THOUGHT

DEATH DOES NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD

Death hurts. Separation hurts. Grief is real. The Bible does not ask Christians to pretend otherwise. But neither does Scripture leave us without hope.

BIBLE TRUTH

“I am the resurrection, and the life...”
- John 11:25, KJV

BIBLE TRUTH

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout... and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16, KJV

BIBLE TRUTH

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:54, KJV

THAT IS THE CHRISTIAN HOPE

JESUS CHRIST DIED.
JESUS CHRIST ROSE.
JESUS CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN.
THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE.
MORTALITY WILL PUT ON IMMORTALITY.
GOD'S PEOPLE WILL BE REUNITED.
AND THEY WILL BE FOREVER WITH THE LORD.

BIBLE TRUTH

“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18, KJV