

# **The Path to Happiness**

## **Divine Principle Lecture Series**

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### **Lecture 15**

#### **The Biblical Concept of Life and Death and the Meaning of Resurrection**

##### **SLIDE 1**

Welcome to our session on the meaning of resurrection. I'm your host, Dr. Tyler Hendricks. In the last session, we learned that John the Baptist's ignorance and disbelief in Jesus brought about so much suffering for Jesus and all humanity. We can't blame John or the people of his times; it is not easy to recognize the Messiah.

##### **SLIDE 2**

How I can recognize his return? To answer this, let's start with what happened right after the cross, that is,  
→ resurrection. When we think of resurrection, we usually think about  
→ returning from the dead, physical resurrection.

##### **SLIDE 3**

Interestingly, 'physical resurrection' was

→ not a traditional Jewish teaching. At the time of the Old Testament writing, the Jews were under the control of Persia,  
→ which followed Zoroastrianism.

##### **SLIDE 4**

Zoroastrianism had a great impact in formation of Judaism.

→ The concepts of evil spirits, Satan, angels, physical resurrection, the final judgment, heaven and hell came from Zoroastrianism. Some Jews accepted these; others did not.  
→ "Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and questioned him." (Mark 12:18).  
→ "For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both." (Acts 23:6-9)

##### **SLIDE 5**

For us as well, the idea of resurrection tests our commitment to science. If we are to interpret the Bible literally,

→ when Jesus resurrects, the bodies of the saints buried under the soil  
→ will take their original form. (1 Thess 4:16; Matt 27:52).  
→ This makes no sense to a modern person, so how can a reasonable person believe in this religion?

##### **SLIDE 6**

→ The Unification Principle sorts this out by careful reading of the Bible based on the Principle.  
→ Resurrection means to come back to life again, so let us begin by analyzing what we mean by "life" and by "death" as presented in the Bible.

## **SLIDE 7**

To come back to life implies that one had died, so we point out that

→ the Bible has two different concepts of death.

→ In Luke 9:60, when a follower asks Jesus for permission to go and bury his dead father,

→ Jesus says "Let the dead bury their own dead."

→ The "dead" who is being buried is physically dead, and that's one meaning of death. In regards to this nature of death, life simply means biological functioning of the body.

## **SLIDE 8**

The "dead" who are doing the burying are obviously not physically dead. Then why did Jesus call them "dead"?

## **SLIDE 9**

In the Book of Revelation 3:1, Jesus said to the unfaithful church in Sardis, "I know your works, and you have the name of being alive and you are dead." From this, we can infer that "dead" refers to

→ those who have rejected Jesus,

→ those who have departed from God's love and are living under the influence of Satan.

## **SLIDE 10**

It means they are spiritually dead.

→ The 'living' from this point of view are those who are in the love of God through Jesus.

→ As it says in Gospel of John 11:25, "The ones who believes in me will live, even when they die."

## **SLIDE 11**

Then we can ask, what is the meaning of the death brought about by the fall of Adam and Eve?

## **SLIDE 12**

God created humans physically as part of the natural world,

→ hence to grow old and die. So the death of Adam at age 930 was not a result of the fall.

→ The physical body is like clothes for the spiritual body,

→ as we take off our clothes when they get dirty, the body sheds itself when it is old while the spirit takes off and continues to live eternally in the spirit world.

## **SLIDE 13**

So

→ if the death brought about by the fall was not physical death, we cannot but conclude that

→ it is spiritual death, separation from God and cleaving to Satan.

## **SLIDE 14**

In Genesis 2:17, God told Adam they would die on the day they ate the fruit of the tree of Knowledge.

→ The death brought about by the fall does was not the physical death of the body, which came almost a thousand years later and is natural, but spiritual death, the loss of God's love and captivity under Satan.

## **SLIDE 15**

→ The first Epistle of St. John 3:4 mentions that the ones who do not love are living in death. When talking about God's love, if you do not know how to love your neighbor, no matter however good your life on earth is, you are dead.

→ It is illustrated in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life," and in

→ Romans 8:6, "For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace."

#### **SLIDE 16**

On the other hand, even while one's physical life has ended,

→ if his spiritual body is alive in the realm of God's love in heaven, he is alive. When Jesus said the one with faith will live even though he die (John 11:25), it meant that

→ the ones who live in faith under the sovereignty of God, when they die and their body perishes in the dust, their spirit will always live within the realm of God.

#### **SLIDE 17**

Therefore, to resurrect does not mean the physical body will return.

→ Even Jesus, whose return to earth was a special case, completely within the principle, as we will discuss later, still only stayed on earth forty days.

→ Resurrection is a bigger concept, in which people who are spiritually dead due to the Fall transition to God's realm and restore themselves. You will restore much as you repent your sins, and be a better person than yesterday.

→ John 5:24 states, "He who hears my word and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life, he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." This explains the meaning of resurrection.

#### **SLIDE 18**

Many have believed that physical death is not natural, but came from the original sin.

→ And since the Bible defines resurrection as coming back to life from death,

→ believers thought that resurrection means the saints who were dead would come back to physical life.

#### **SLIDE 19**

However, we see the Bible actually teaches that physical death is natural, and that

→ resurrection means to separate from Satan's realm,

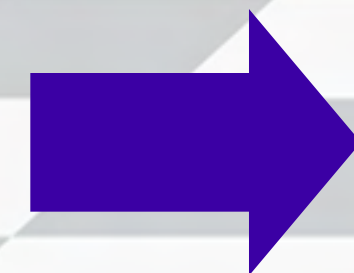
→ be reborn as God's child and

→ develop your spirit through good spiritual practices; this is the process of resurrection. But what about those who departed to spirit world already? Is there a process of rebirth and resurrection for them? And what does that have to do with life on earth for us? Our next session unpacks these important questions. Thank you for listening, and God bless you.

The Biblical Concept of  
Life and Death  
and the Meaning of  
Resurrection



Resurrection



Physical return



Resurrection



Not in Jewish tradition

Zoroastrian origin

# Persian Empire - Zoroastrianism

Introduced the knowledge of evil spirits, Satan, angels, physical resurrection, final judgment, heaven and hell.

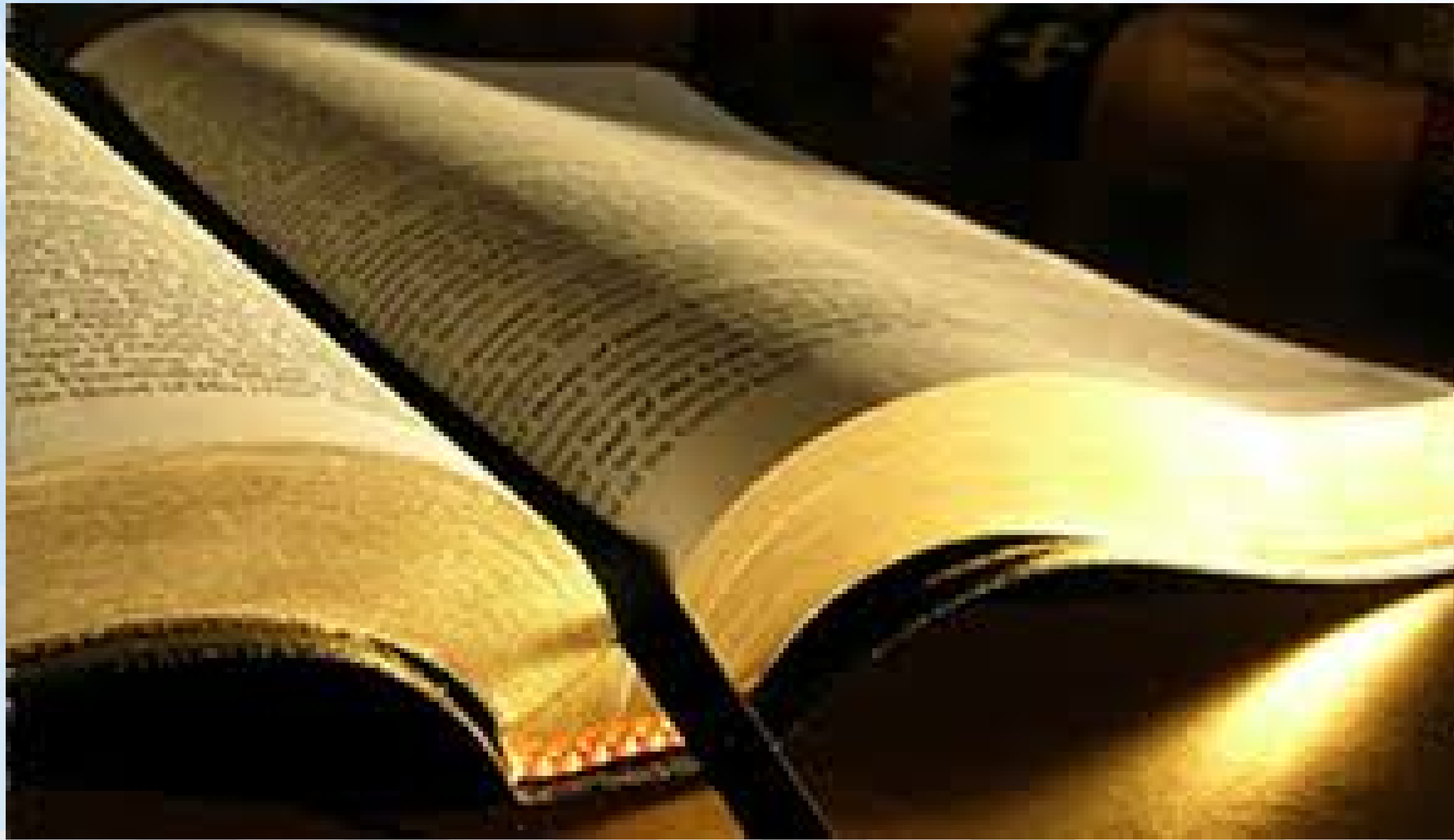
Judaism

Sadducees

No physical resurrection

Pharisees

Confessed to physical resurrection



Makes no sense to  
a modern person





Unification  
Principle

Careful reading of  
the Bible  
Biblical meaning of  
“life” and “death”



has two biblical meanings



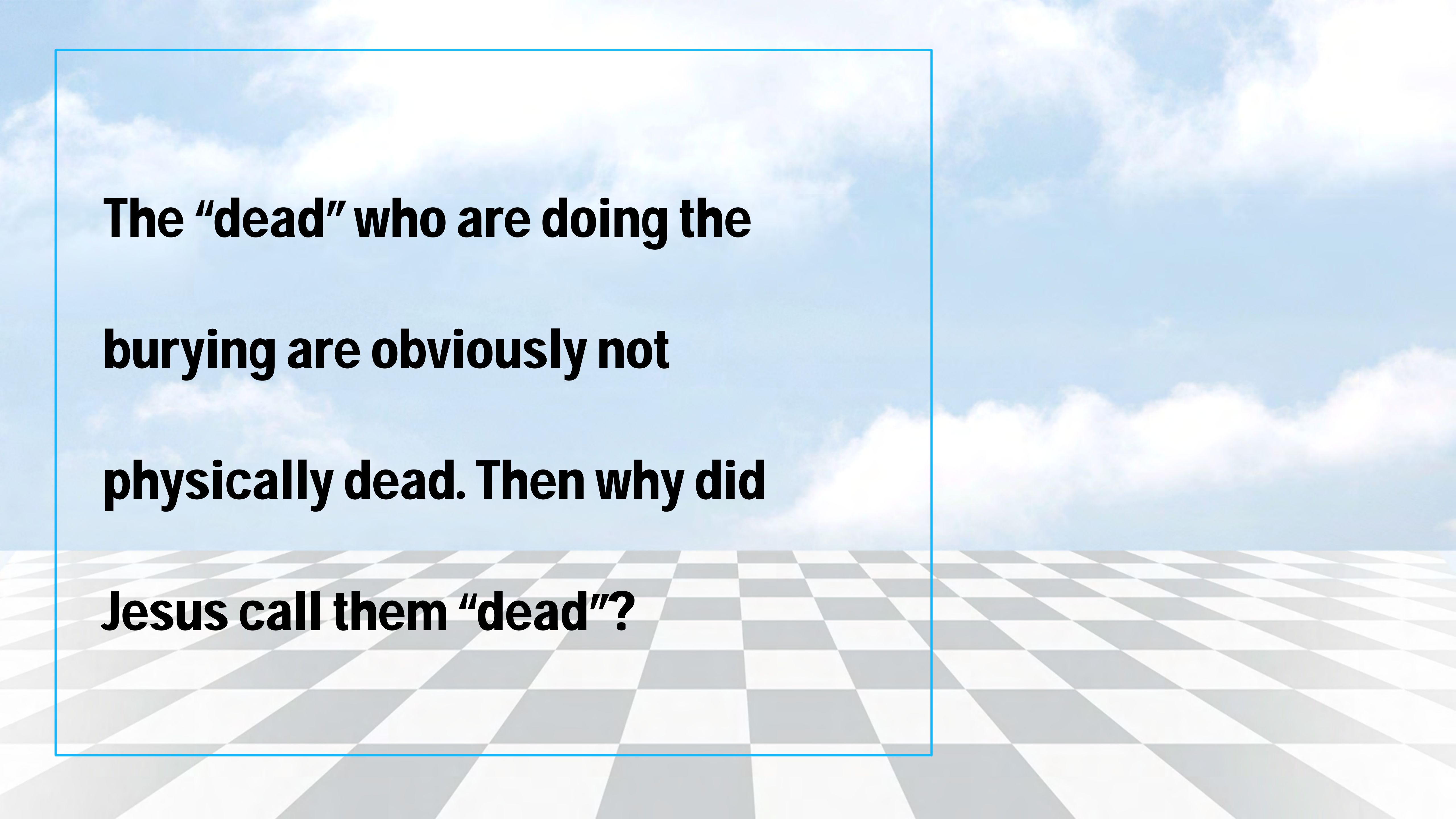
Jesus' words: "Let the dead bury their own dead." Luke 9:60

First meaning

Those doing the burying

Second meaning,

The one being buried



The “dead” who are doing the burying are obviously not physically dead. Then why did Jesus call them “dead”?

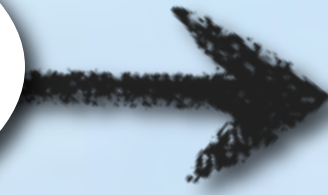
I know your works, and you have the name of being alive and you are **dead**. Revelation 3:1

The dead

Those who have rejected Jesus

Those who have departed from God's love

The dead



Spiritually dead

The living



Those who live in God's love.

The one who believes in me  
will live, even when they die.

John 11:25




What is the meaning of the death brought about by the Fall?



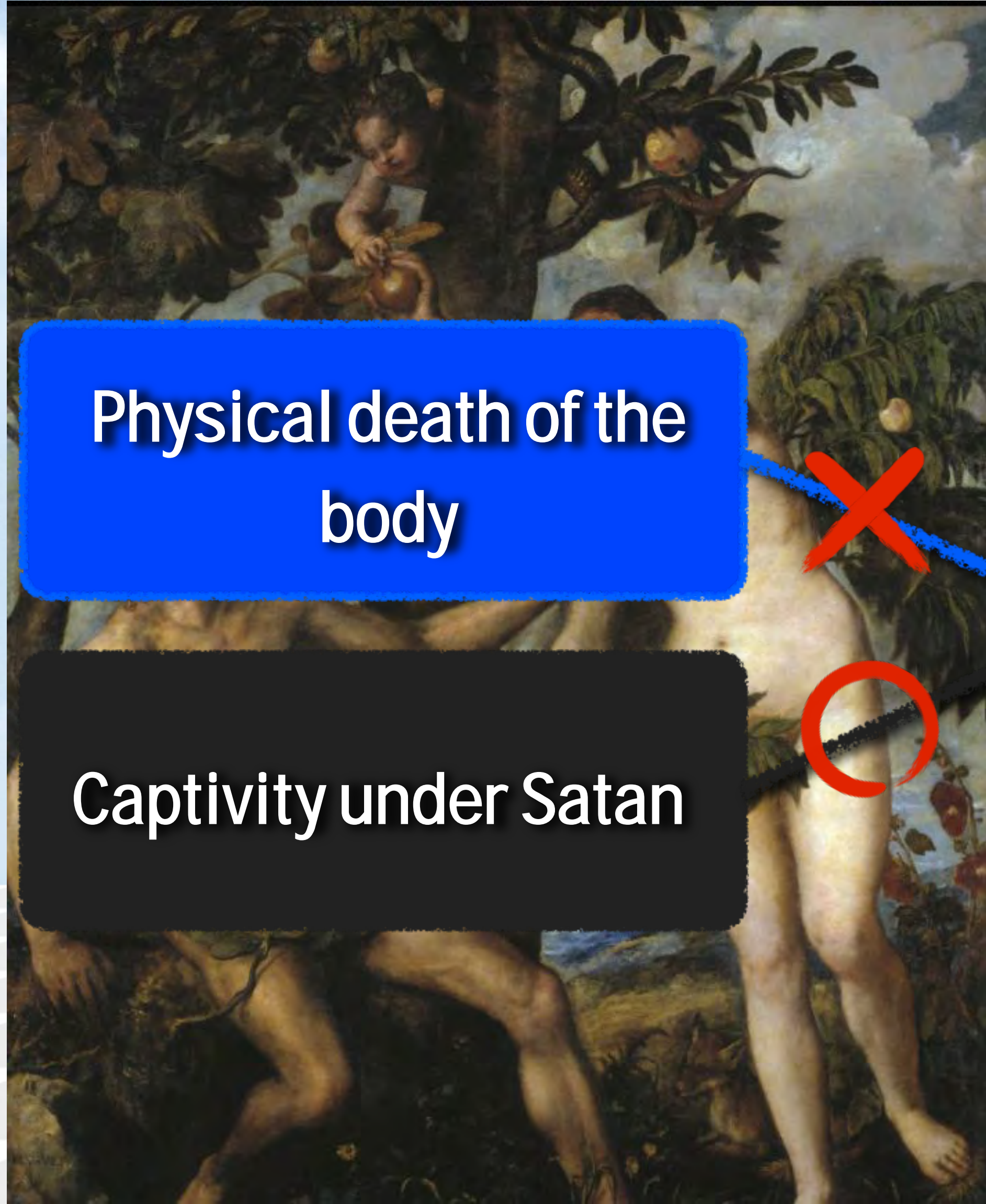
God created us to grow old and die. Adam's death was not a result of the fall..

The physical body is like clothes for the spirit.

The spirit takes it off and continues to live in the spirit world.



Human beings are part of the natural world.



Physical death of the  
body

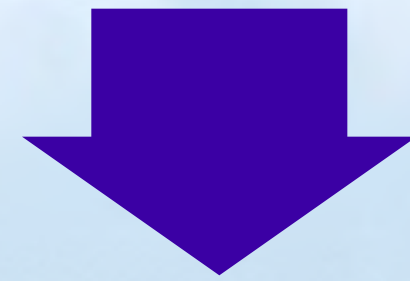
Captivity under Satan

Death caused by  
the Fall





Adam and Eve lived for almost a thousand years, in the biblical record.



Their death on that day was spiritual, the loss of God's love, captivity to Satan.

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it** you shall die.” Genesis 2:17



**Those who do not love are living in death.**

1 John 3:4

**For the wages of sin is death...**

Romans 6:23

**For the mind of the flesh is death...**

Roman 8:6



**“He who hears my word and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life, he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” John 5:24**

Jesus' resurrection was a special case, within the Principle, lasting only 40 days.

Resurrection means that spiritually dead people transition to God's realm.

Even when the body returns to dust, their spirit will always live within the realm of God.



**“He who hears my word and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life, he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” John 5:24**

Physical  
Death

Physical death not  
natural,  
caused by the Fall

Since the Bible defines  
resurrection as coming  
from death to life...

Believers thought  
resurrection is physical.



To separate from Satan



To be re-born as God's child within  
God's dominion

To develop our spirits as God's  
children