

## Is There Life After Death?

John 20:1-10, 24-31

*Today we celebrate Resurrection glory! The Lord is risen!*

[1] Adam: Death is just, and it certainly looks final.

- "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)
  - People die due to God's justice towards human sin.
  
- Our human experience is simple: when someone dies, they stay dead, unable to do anything. See Eccles 9:10; Ps 6:5, 115:17; etc.

[2] Abel: Death is sometimes unjust, and God allows it.

- "Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him." (Genesis 4:8)
  - People sometimes die due to injustice. God allows it. Martyrs are real.

[3] Moses: Even the best of men die due to breaking God's laws.

- "So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab... and he [the Lord] buried him." (Deut 34:5-6)
  - Even the great Moses cannot enter the Promised Land, but must die because of his sin.

[4] Elijah: Wait... is death really the final word?

- Raised a dead boy to life! (1 Kings 17:17-22)
  
- Elijah didn't die! He was taken up to heaven. (2 Kings 2; see also Enoch in Gen 5:24)
  - Wait... what does this *mean*? What does this say about life after death?

[5] Daniel: Saved from certain death!

- God can save His people from evil powers. (Daniel 6, see Daniel 3 as well)

Jesus: What did He have to say about life after death?

- "He is not the God of the dead but the living!" (Mark 12:27)
  - It's actually simple: God won't let his friends *stay dead*.
  
- Resurrection on Easter morning! (John 20:1-10, 24-31)
  - Not a mere resuscitation, but a massive life upgrade unto eternal life.
  
  - The Old Testament passages above pointed to Him!  
Examples:
    - Abel's death: a righteous martyr dies
    - Moses' death: a new covenant with final forgiveness is needed
    - Daniel's near death: Jesus was saved from death, too (on Easter)
    - Also: Isaac's near death, the sacrificial system, and much more in the Old Testament!

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31)

### Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. From our human experience, why does death look so final to us? What does this prove, if anything, about life after death?
2. Look up all the passages noted in the outline above. Some questions:
  - a. How does the death of Abel teach us one thing that is also true about Jesus' death?
  - b. How does the near death of Daniel teach us about Jesus' rescue on Easter morning?
3. How does knowing about life after death change... everything? Give some examples.
  - a. How will you live differently because of it?