

Waking Up from the Dust

But your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. (Isaiah 26:19)

Life after death? People make a couple common mistakes when thinking about life after death. Some say: "When you're dead, you're dead." Meaning: There's nothing after the grave. But I wonder how they know this. Why are they so certain? Then there are those, typically Christians, who think of life after death as being a disembodied spirit floating about on the clouds of heaven. Both ideas, if you take the Bible seriously, aren't what the Bible teaches. Let's take a closer look at what it says.

To better understand life after death, I will. . .

1. Consider what happens to my _____.

But your dead will live, Lord; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. (Isaiah 26:19)

- 1) The resurrection of the body is mentioned _____ in the Old Testament.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2)

- 2) The resurrection of the body is explained _____ in the New Testament.
 - My resurrection is _____ because of Christ's resurrection.

22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come (1 Corinthians 15:22-24)

- My resurrection signals the _____ of death. *(1 Corinthians 15:26)*
- My resurrection marks the _____ of my existence.
 - I will experience continuity of my _____. *(1 Corinthians 15:36-38)*
 - I will experience transformation of my _____. *(1 Corinthians 15:42-44)*
- My resurrection is a participation in the _____. *(1 Corinthians 15:48,49)*

2. Consider what happens to my _____.

6 In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven's Armies will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat. 7 There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. 8 He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears. He will remove forever all insults and mockery against his land and people. The Lord has spoken! 9 In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the Lord, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!" *(Isaiah 25:6-9)*

- 1) From then on, I will be thoroughly _____. *(Isaiah 25:7)*
- 2) From then on, I will be without _____.
 - I will never again know _____ suffering. *(Isaiah 25:8)*
 - I will never again know _____ pain. *(Isaiah 25:8)*
- 3) From then on, I will be totally _____ with God. *(Isaiah 25:9)*

3. Consider what happens to our _____.

"Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore." (Isaiah 65:17)

- 1) Our place will be a place of _____. *(Isaiah 65:19)*
- 2) Our place will be a place of _____. *(Isaiah 65:20)*
- 3) Our place will be a place of _____. *(Isaiah 65:21)*
- 4) Our place will be a place of _____. *(Isaiah 65:22)*
- 5) Our place will be a place of _____. *(Isaiah 65:23,24)*
- 6) Our place will be a place of _____. *(Isaiah 65:25)*

I admit. When I am immersed in the harsh realities of life, sometimes it's hard to believe that a whole new experience awaits me. Sometimes, I am very short-sighted. Note what Jesus says in John 14:1-4. Then in verse 6 he adds: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."*

I won't let any of the enticements or disappointments of this world prevent me from experiencing the glories of the next. I have put my faith in Jesus and trust that he will get me home safely.