

ISRAEL  
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**SERIES: Israel**

**TITLE: Program 14 – What Man Can Live And Not See Death?**

**THURSDAY**

**OPEN**

Psalm 89:48 says, “What man can live and not see death...” (Psalm 89:48a) I’m standing on the Mount of Olives. I’m in a Jewish cemetery and all around me are the tombs of the dead, Jewish tombs. I wanna ask you a question, my friend, what happens when you die? And what’s going to happen to you after death? Will you stay in the tomb forever? Will you rot or will there be a resurrection? That’s what we’re going to talk about today.

**PART ONE**

You know, the fear of death is always a tool of the enemy to keep us from moving in the will of God. It’s a tool that causes us to be paralyzed. Because more than anything else we want to live. And yet as I said in Psalm 89, it says, “What man shall live and not see death?” We’re all going to die unless we’re here when Messiah comes, when the trumpets sound and the dead in Christ are raised, and we are alive and remain and are caught up together to

meet the Lord with them in the air. Otherwise, we're all going to die. So we have to understand, what does death hold? What am I facing when I face death? Well, as I'm teaching you, I'm in a graveyard. I'm up on the Mount of Olives. And it's significant because it's on this Mount of Olives that at the time of Jesus, tombs were made out of caves. And when Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross and "...the veil [in] the temple was torn in two from top to bottom..." it says, "...the [rock] shook and...the [graves] were opened..."(27:51-52a) And after His resurrection, listen carefully, "...after His resurrection..." many came out of the tombs and, "...they [walked into that]...city and [they] appeared to many."(27:53b) What were they saying? They were saying Jesus is the resurrection and the life. And because we can believe in Him we too can be raised from the dead. We don't have to be dead twice. We don't have to be dead in our trespasses and sins and then face the second death which is the lake of fire where the worm dies not and the fire is not quenched. What I want us to do is I want us to go to 1 Corinthians, chapter 15. And in 1 Corinthians, chapter 15, Beloved, we see what happens when there is a resurrection. And that's important for us to understand. Because believe me, God does not want you to fear death. I am so glad that I don't listen to people that say, "Oh, oh haven't you heard on the news... oh, oh you shouldn't go to Israel." Because when I come over here, it's not like it is on the news. I know where to go. I know where it's safe. I know these people live here. I know that they survive. I know that more people die in automobile accidents in Israel, than all the other people that were killed in the war. Because I don't fear death, and I don't fear death, Precious One, because I understand death. And I think maybe if I can help you understand death, then you wouldn't fear it also. You know, in Deuteronomy, chapter 32:39, God says, ["See, I am He and there is no other. I wound, I heal. I kill, I make alive. I am the Lord that does all these things." Now listen to what He says. "I kill and I make alive."] (PARAPHRASE, Deuteronomy 32:39) In 1 Corinthians, chapter 15, which is the resurrection chapter, He asks this question in verse 35 anticipating all the objections that some of these people are having to the reality of a resurrection from the

dead. Some had said, you know, “There is no resurrection from the dead.” And so what He said to them, [“if there’s no resurrection from the dead, then even Jesus Christ hasn’t been raised.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 15:16) But then he explains, [“Yes there is a resurrection from the dead and if there were no resurrection from the dead, then our belief in Christ, all of our preaching, our faith in Christ, all of that would be absolutely in vain.”] (PARAPHRASE 15:17) Now he deals with another question and this is so typical of Paul’s writings because he’ll take a question that someone has, he’ll answer that, he’ll state that question and then he’ll answer that question. So let’s look at it. In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, in verse 35 he says, “But someone will say, ‘How are the dead raised? And with what kind of [a] body do they come?’”(1 Corinthians 15:35) This is a marvelous place to be teaching this. Because the Jews believe that when Messiah comes, when He comes through that gate, that these tombs will be opened and the dead will be raised. And so the question is: How are they raised? And He says, “You fool[s]!...” Excuse me, that’s what He says. He says, “...That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies....”(15:36) Now watch the illustrations that he’s going to give. He says, “...and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be...,” In other words, you don’t sow an ear of corn. He says, “...but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or...something else.”(15:37) He says, “...God gives it a body just as He wishe[s]....”(15:38a) You take a tiny little seed, you sow it in the ground, but something else comes up out of it. It’s a different kind of body than what was sown. And He says, “All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men and another...of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.”(15:39) You know what’s so interesting is now we understand DNA. And we understand, oh yes, that’s exactly true. Because the DNA in the cell determines what kind of flesh that’s going to be, whether it’s the flesh of a bird or the flesh of an animal or whether it’s the flesh of a man or a fish. Then he goes on to say, “There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. [There’s] one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars...;” Then he says

this. "...for star[s] differ from star [to star] in glory. So also [so also] is the resurrection of the dead...."(15:40-42a) So he says, now I've told you all of this for a purpose and I want you to understand that all of this is because so also is the resurrection from the dead. He says, "...It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body...."(15:42b) These bodies, if we were to open these tombs and, God forbid if we were to open them, but if we were to open these tombs we wouldn't see that body like it was placed in the grave because it's sown a perishable body. It's going to rot. It's going to go back to dust as God created it from dust. But when it's raised, this is good news for you and me, when it's raised it's raised an imperishable body. In other words when God raises this body from the dead, this body will never ever change again. It will never perish again. He says, "It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness....," now listen, "...it is raised in power." (1 Corinthians 15:43) Precious One, listen to me carefully, you don't have to be afraid of dying if you know the One who is the Resurrection and the Life because you will be raised in power. When we die, our bodies are sown as a natural body, but it's raised as a spiritual body. You say, "But I don't want to be just a mere vapor. I don't want to be an angel." Don't worry darling, don't worry, you'll never be an angel. And that's no reflection on your character. It's simply the fact that you don't want to be an angel because there's no redemption for angels. You either chose God or you chose to go with the devil. But listen, you and I have a choice. And we have a choice as long as we live. We have the choice to choose life after death. Listen to what it says. It says, "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there['s] a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul'...."(15:44-45a) And he's talking about Adam, all the way back and we would go all the way to the east over there, to the Garden of Eden. But he's talking about the first Adam. But now listen to what he says, "So...it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."(15:45) The reason that you and I need not fear death is because Jesus Christ became a life giving spirit. And He can give life to this mortal body.

He can promise that someday that the tombs will be open. And someday, even the sea, if I die at sea or if I'm burned up, I will get a brand new body. And he says, "So...the last Adam became a life-giving spirit." (15:45b) Now what I want to do is I want to take you for a minute to 2 Corinthians. In 2 Corinthians, chapter 4, Paul is talking about this momentary light affliction that we go through when we're followers of Jesus Christ. And he says in 2 Corinthians, chapter 4, "For [our] momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen..." (2 Corinthians 4:17-18a) You and I today are looking at things which are seen. We're looking at Jerusalem. We're looking at this city, the city of God, this earthly Zion. We're looking at things that are seen. He says, ["...but the things which are not seen, the things which are not seen are eternal. The things which are seen are temporal."] (PARAPHRASE 4:18) We're looking at an earthly Zion. There is a heavenly Zion. And this is what he says. "For we know that if the earthly tent...", which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (5:1) Look at the Temple Mount and you see the Dome of the Rock. That's temporal. That's going to be replaced. Some day it's going to be replaced with God's temple, with the temple that is mentioned in the book of Ezekiel. A temple that will have to be rebuilt before Messiah ever comes. We'll talk about it when I come back in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

So what we see is temporal. And what he's saying is this earthly tent is temporal. He says, "For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, [shall] not be found naked." (5:2-3) In other words, you're not going to be just a spirit. You're not going to be just a vapor. "For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, [in order] that what is mortal may be swallowed up [in] life..."

“...Now He who [has] prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave...us the Spirit as a pledge.”(5:4-5) For instance, and I like to use a handkerchief, just to represent the Holy Spirit. All right. So the Holy Spirit, the minute that you get saved, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells inside of you. The Holy Spirit moves into you. The Holy Spirit in you is your guarantee, your pledge that someday this mortal will put on immortality. But he says, “Therefore [we are] always of good courage....”(5:6a) We’re always of good courage. We don’t have to live in fear, Beloved. We can live in courage. We can live in strength. We can live with a grip on God, knowing that He will never leave us and He will never forsake us. And, “...we [can boldly] say, ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not [fear] what...man [shall] do to me.’”(Hebrews 13:6) Why? Because Jesus holds the keys of hell and death. Because God is the one who wounds and God is the one who kills, and God is the one who makes alive. And so he says, “...[we’re] of good courage...knowing that while we are at home in the body...,” Now listen, “...we are absent from the Lord....”(2 Corinthians 5:6) We’re absent from the Lord. And you say, “Well I’m glad to be absent. I don’t want to die.” You know why you say that, Precious One? You say that because you really don’t understand that to be absent from this body and to be present with the Lord is far better. Paul says, “For...me, to live is Christ...,” He says, “...to die is gain.”(Philippians 1:21) It’s not loss, it’s gain. Well let’s go on and see what it says. He says, “...[we are] always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord--for we walk by faith [and] not by sight.”(2 Corinthians 5:6-7) “Oh don’t come, it’s constant war over there.” That’s not true. So he says, “Therefore...,” he says, “...I...prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we...have as our ambition, whether at home [in this body] or absent...,” from this body and at home with the Lord, “...to be pleasing to Him.”(5:8-9) I want to ask you a question. What is your ambition, Beloved? Is your ambition to be pleasing to the Lord? If your ambition is to be pleasing to the Lord, then you need not fear death at all. You need to know that if your ambition is to be pleasing to the Lord,

“...[you] are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, [that] God [has] before ordained [for you to] walk in....”(Ephesians 2:10, KJV) and you’re not going home until those good works are complete. Well let’s go back to 1 Corinthians, chapter 15. He says, “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [But], I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep....”(1 Corinthians 15:50-51a) All of us are not all going to die. Some of us will never see death. He says, “...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised [and imperishable] and we [shall] be changed.” (15:52) There’s a time coming when a trumpet is going to sound and those that have died in Christ will come out of the tombs and we who are alive and remain, will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. And when will that happen? In the progress of time and in the prophecy of time. That’s another lesson, so you just need to stick with me. And we’ll study the Bible precept upon precept and discover His precepts for life. But listen to what he says. “...this perishable must put on...imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written...,” Listen very carefully. ““...Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”(15:53-55) Now listen, the sting of death is sin. And you know who took the sting of death? It was Jesus when He hung on a cross and Jesus, who knew no sin, was made to be sin for you and me. He took the sting. It’s like the bee that has only one opportunity to sting and then the stinger is gone and he can never sting anybody else. Jesus took the stinger of death for us. It says, “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law....”(15:56) Jesus fulfilled the Law because He, hanging on a tree, became a curse for you and for me. He goes on to say, “...but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”(15:57) We have victory. We have victory over the grave. We have victory over death. We have victory over sin. And we have victory because we have the Victor.

And the Victor is the one that conquered sin and death. The Victor is the one who is the resurrection and the life. He says, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, know...that your toil [in the Lord] is not in vain...”(15:58) What is he saying? He’s saying this to you and to me, Precious One. That, because this is not the end and because God is over death, He wounds, He heals, He kills, He makes alive. He is the One that gives breath to all men. He is the One that withdraws that breath. And because of that you and I need to be through this life, steadfast. We need to be immovable. We need not to be falling, not to be tossed to and fro, not to be fearing the face of man. We’re not to fear man who can kill the body. Because he can’t kill the body without God’s permission. But we are to fear, to respect, to trust the One who is able to pass both body and soul into hell. Know this, precious one, that if you do not believe in Jesus Christ, the only way that you will come out of these tombs is in that final day of judgment at the great white throne judgment. And then when these graves are opened, everyone in these tombs and everyone everywhere that has ever died will be part of either the first resurrection. And it says, “Blessed and holy is [he] who has part in the first resurrection; over [him] the second death has no power....”(Revelation 20:6a) But those that are in these tombs that refused to believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, will be part of what we call the second death, which is the second resurrection. It’s a resurrection from death unto death, when death and Hades give up the dead which are in them. My question to you is this: Will you be part of the first resurrection or will you taste of a second death? There’s no need. All you have to do is believe on Jesus and you’ll have life.