

Emmaus Essentials

The London Baptist Confession of 1689

Chapter 31: Of the State of Man After Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

Chapter 32: Of the Last Judgment

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Chapter 31: Of the State of Man After Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

I. The immediate results of death (Personal Eschatology)

Para 1 - The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous being then made perfect in holiness, are received into paradise, where they are with Christ, and behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell; where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day; besides these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

(Genesis 3:19; Acts 13:36; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6,8; Philippians 1:23; Hebrews 12:23; Jude 6, 7; 1 Peter 3:19; Luke 16:23, 24)

A. A general statement

1. Men's bodies return to dust and see corruption
2. Their souls are immortal
 - a) They do not "die"
 - (1) They do not "die" (exterminated - against Soccinians)
 - (2) Bodily death does not mean soul death
 - b) They do not "sleep"
 - (1) They do not "sleep" between death a resurrection (against continental anabaptists)
3. They immediately return to God

B. The souls of the righteous

1. Are made perfect in holiness
2. Are received into paradise
 - a) They are with Christ
 - b) They behold the face of God
3. They wait for the final resurrection

C. The souls of the wicked

1. Are cast into hell
2. Remain in torment and utter darkness awaiting the judgment day

D. The scripture teaches no other place for souls separated from bodies

Support Texts

"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19, ESV)

"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption," (Acts 13:36, ESV)

"and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes 12:7, ESV)

"And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'" (Luke 23:43, ESV)

“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens... So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord... Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:1, 6, 8 ESV)

“I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.” (Philippians 1:23, ESV)

“and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,” (Hebrews 12:23, ESV)

“And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.” (Jude 6–7, ESV)

“in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,” (1 Peter 3:19, ESV)

“and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’” (Luke 16:23–24, ESV)

II. The Saints at the Last Day

Para 2 - At the last day, such of the saints as are found alive, shall not sleep, but be changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies, and none other; although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever.

(1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Job 19:26, 27; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 43)

- A. Those who are alive
 - 1. Shall not die
 - 2. Shall be changed
- B. All the dead will be raised
 - 1. With their own bodies
 - 2. Not with any other
 - 3. They will have differing qualities
- C. Their souls and resurrected bodies shall be united forever

Support Texts

“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,” (1 Corinthians 15:51, ESV)

“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:52, ESV)

“Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:17, ESV)

“And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!” (Job 19:26–27, ESV)

“So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.” (1 Corinthians 15:42–43, ESV)

III. The Eternal State of Human Bodies

Para 3 - The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour; the bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honour, and be made conformable to his own glorious body. (Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29; Philippians 3:21)

- A. The unjust are raised to dishonor
- B. The just are raised to honor
- C. The just are made conformable to Christ

Support Texts

“having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.” (Acts 24:15, ESV)

“Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.” (John 5:28–29, ESV)

“who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” (Philippians 3:21, ESV)

Chapter 32: Of the Last Judgment

I. The Divinely Appointed Day

Para 1 - God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ; to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; in which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon the earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

(Acts 17:31; John 5:22, 27; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Jude 6; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:10, 12; Matthew 25:32-46)

- A. God has appointed a day of judgment
 - 1. It is according to righteousness
 - 2. It is by Jesus Christ, who has received all power from the Father
- B. The subjects of judgment on this day
 - 1. Apostate angels
 - 2. All persons
- C. The acts of this day
 - 1. The subjects will give an account of their thoughts words and deeds
 - 2. They will receive their just rewards

Support Texts

“because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:31, ESV)

“The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,” (John 5:22, ESV)

“And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.” (John 5:27, ESV)

“Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!” (1 Corinthians 6:3, ESV)

“And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—” (Jude 6, ESV)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (2 Corinthians 5:10, ESV)

“For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:14, ESV)

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,” (Matthew 12:36, ESV)

“Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;” (Romans 14:10, ESV)

“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12, ESV)

“Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:32–46, ESV)

II. The Purpose of this Day

Para 2 - The end of God's appointing this day, is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of his justice, in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient; for then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fulness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards, in the presence of the Lord; but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast aside into everlasting torments, and punished with everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

(Romans 9:22, 23; Matthew 25:21, 34; 2 Timothy 4:8; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

- A. The Manifestation of His glory and justice
 1. In The eternal salvation of the elect
 2. In the eternal damnation of the reprobate

- a) Their condition - they are wicked
 - b) Their acts - they are disobedient
- B. The bestowal of blessings on the elect
 - 1. They shall receive everlasting life
 - 2. Fullness of joy
 - 3. Glory
 - 4. Everlasting reward in the presence of God
- C. The damnation of the wicked
 - 1. Their character
 - a) They do not know God
 - b) They do not obey the gospel of Christ
 - 2. The act
 - a) They shall be cast into eternal torments
 - b) They shall be punished with everlasting destruction
 - c) They shall be cast out of the presence of the Lord
 - d) They shall not know the glory of his power

Support Texts

“What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,” (Romans 9:22, ESV)

“in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—” (Romans 9:23, ESV)

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” (Matthew 25:21, ESV)

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” (Matthew 25:34, ESV)

“Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8, ESV)

“And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:46, ESV)

“‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’” (Mark 9:48, ESV)

“and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.” (2 Thessalonians 1:7–10, ESV)

III. Christ's purposes for this day

Para 3 - As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity, so will he have the day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and may ever be prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen.
(2 Corinthians 5:10, 11; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-40; Revelation 22:20)

- A. We should be certainly persuaded that this day is coming
 - 1. To deter men from sin
 - 2. For the consolation of the Godly in their adversity
- B. We do not know the timing of this day's arrival
 - 1. So that men shake off carnal security
 - 2. To be always watchful
 - a) Because we do not know the hour of the Lord's return
 - b) So we might say, "Come Lord Jesus, Come Quickly, Amen."

Support Texts

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience." (2 Corinthians 5:10–11, ESV)

"This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels" (2 Thessalonians 1:5–7, ESV)

"Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake." (Mark 13:35–37, ESV)

"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Luke 12:35–40, ESV)

"He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20, ESV)