

# ***On Death, Dying, and the Future Hope***

## ***The New Testament Hope***

Lesson #8 for November 19, 2022

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:12-19,51-55; John 14:1-3; 6:26-51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 5:11-12.

1. First John 5:11-12 sets forth the challenge in trying to understand who will be saved at the end of time.

**1 John 5:11-12:** <sup>11</sup>The testimony is this: God has given us eternal life, and this life has its source in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has this life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.—American Bible Society. (1992). *The Holy Bible: The Good News Translation\** (2nd ed., 1 John 5:11-12). New York: American Bible Society [abbreviated as *Good News Bible*].<sup>‡</sup>

2. Is it true that only those who are “in Christ” will have eternal life? (1 John 5:11-12) That immediately disproves the idea that we have natural immortality. Only those who are believers in Christ will experience immortality at the second coming. (See John 17:3.)
3. It is clear that the idea of the soul departing from the body at the time of death was a Greek pagan idea. Nothing of that sort appears anywhere in the Hebrew Scriptures. The New Testament writers and the apostles support the idea that a future hope is dependent upon a resurrection from the dead or translation from the living when Jesus comes back the second time.
4. ***Why do you think that pagan idea has become so widely believed in our day? Satan has been promoting that idea since the days of Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:4) People like to think that those who have died are not really gone.***
5. This idea of a resurrection through God was not new.

**John 8:56:** [Jesus said:] “Your father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see the time of my coming; he saw it and was glad.”—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*‡</sup>

**Jude 14-15:** <sup>14</sup> It was Enoch, the seventh direct descendant from Adam, who long ago prophesied this about them: “The Lord will come with many thousands of his holy angels <sup>15</sup>to bring judgement on all, to condemn them all for the godless deeds they have performed and for all the terrible words that godless sinners have spoken against him!”—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*</sup>

**Hebrews 11:39-40:** <sup>39</sup> **What a record all of these have won by their faith! Yet they did not receive what God had promised,** <sup>40</sup>**because God had decided on an even better plan for us. His purpose was that only in company with us would they be made perfect.**—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*†</sup>

6. If only those who have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ have eternal life, then there is no such thing as an immortal soul possessed by every person. Five hundred years before Christ, the Greek historian Herodotus spoke about a tribe who at a birth began a period of mourning because they believed each infant would suffer if it lived to adulthood!
7. Close to our day, an advertising agency in America early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century posted in advertisements: “**Why live, if you can be buried for ten dollars?**”

[From the Bible study guide=BSG:] More than one secular writer has commented on the meaninglessness of human existence, since we all not only die, but we all also live with the realization that we are going to die. And this realization is what makes the whole project of human life, which is often hard and sorrowful in and of itself, seemingly null and void. One thinker referred to humans as nothing but “hunks of spoiling flesh on disintegrating bones.” Rather macabre, but, again, it’s hard to argue with the logic.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\** for Sunday, November 13.‡

8. ***If one accepts the ideas of evolution, that idea must be the truth. What other options does the evolutionist have? Are you happy to be a “hunk of spoiling flesh on disintegrating bones”? Is that what you think of yourself?***

9. This is all nonsense to those who understand and believe in Jesus Christ. Just as He rose from the dead in His own power, He certainly has the power to resurrect those who trust Him at the second coming.

**1 Corinthians 15:12-19:** <sup>12</sup> Now, since our message is that Christ has been raised from death, how can some of you say that the dead will not be raised to life? <sup>13</sup>**If that is true, it means that Christ was not raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe.** <sup>15</sup>More than that, we are shown to be lying about God, because we said that he raised Christ from death—but if it is true that the dead are not raised to life, then he did not raise Christ. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. <sup>17</sup>**And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins.** <sup>18</sup>It would also mean that the believers in Christ who have died are lost. <sup>19</sup>**If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world.**—*Good News Bible.\*†*

10. ***Is it true that living a Christian life right now is a pitiful existence? Or, is living a Christian life the best way to live on this earth right now? Contrast the life which Paul lived. Why are so many people in our day rejecting Christianity?***

**1 Corinthians 15:32:** If I have, as it were, fought “wild beasts” here in Ephesus simply from human motives, what have I gained? But if the dead are not raised to life, then, as the saying goes, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we will die.”—*Good News Bible.\**

[BSG:] If our present existence as carbon-based protoplasm is all there is, and our “threescore and ten years” (if we are fortunate; more if we don’t smoke or eat too many hamburgers) are all that we get—ever—we’re in pretty tough shape. No wonder Ellen G. White adds, “Heaven is worth everything to us, and if we lose heaven we lose all.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 349.6.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\** for Sunday, November 13.‡§

11. Thus, it is fair to say that **the light and the hope of the Christian are in the statement that Jesus made repeatedly, “I will come again.”**

**John 14:1-3:** <sup>1</sup> “Do not be worried and upset,” Jesus told them. “Believe in God and believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and

I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. <sup>3</sup>And after I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to myself**, so that you will be where I am.”—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*†</sup>

12. **Suppose that you were a news reporter and that you had been assigned to cover the life of Jesus. At what point would you have been convinced that He was more than human? What happened at His birth? Does the fact that 2000 years have passed since that time make you think that the promise of John 14:1-3 is not true? Jesus repeated that promise to John in the book of Revelation four times.**

**Revelation 3:11:** [This message came from “the one who is holy and true:”] **“I am coming soon.** Keep safe what you have, so that no one will rob you of your victory prize.”—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*†‡</sup>

**Revelation 22:7,12,20:** <sup>7</sup> “Listen!” says Jesus. **“I am coming soon!** Happy are those who obey the prophetic words in this book!”...

<sup>12</sup> “Listen!” says Jesus. **“I am coming soon!** I will bring my rewards with me, to give to each one according to what he has done....”

<sup>20</sup> He who gives his testimony to all this says, **“Yes indeed! I am coming soon!”**—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*†</sup>

13. **Why did Jesus repeatedly say that His coming would be soon? Does it seem like soon to you? Would 2000 years have seemed “soon” to the apostles?**

**2 Peter 3:3-4,9:** <sup>3</sup>They will mock you <sup>4</sup>and will ask, “He promised to come, didn’t he? Where is he? Our ancestors have already died, but everything is still the same as it was since the creation of the world!”...

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to do what he has promised, as some think. Instead, he is patient with you, because **he does not want anyone to be destroyed**, but wants all to turn away from their sins.—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*†</sup>

14. **Are you glad that Jesus did not return before you were born? How will God know that everyone who is going to respond has responded? Is that what He is waiting for? What will cause the close of probation?**

15. In light of the history of the great controversy and the history of the entire universe, our lives are infinitesimally short. We know that if we are faithful and if we close our eyes in death, the next thing we will know and see is the second coming of Jesus. (See Psalm 90:10; Ecclesiastes 9:5,10; Hebrews 9:27.) Only the prophecies directly connected to the second coming are still to be fulfilled.

16. **Do you see evidence in the world today that the final events of this world’s history are happening around us?**

17. Read **John 6:15-59**. The story in John 6 of Jesus feeding 5000 men—not counting women and children—is a familiar one. It led to an enormous swell of emotion from the people in Galilee who were determined to make Him king of the Jews right then.

18. **What do you think the little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus said to his mother when he got home that night? If such a thing as that miracle ever happened in our day, how do you think it will be reported by the news media?**

19. **What did the people of Galilee who heard that speech from Jesus think of His statement: “I will raise him [the believer] up on the last day”?<sup>‡</sup> Were they aware of the raising of Jairus’s daughter? Or, of the son of the widow of Nain? How might that have affected their understanding?**
20. **What did Jesus mean when He said that His flesh was the bread that came down from heaven? How is He going to give us His flesh to eat and His blood to drink? How does that give us eternal life?**
21. The Israelites had been strictly forbidden from eating blood. (Leviticus 17:11-12) Why did Jesus tell them that they must drink His blood?

[From the writings of Ellen G. White=EGW:] The question comes home to us today, Are we eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God? **It is by beholding the love of Christ, by drinking it in, by dwelling upon it, that we eat his flesh and drink his blood, becoming partakers of the divine nature.**—Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald*,\* May 17, 1892, par. 3.<sup>†‡</sup>

22. In John 6:26-51, Jesus repeatedly stated that those who ate His flesh and drank His blood would have eternal life because He would raise them to life on the last day.

[BSG:] In His sermon, Jesus highlighted three basic concepts in regard to eternal life. **First**, He identified Himself as “ ‘the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world’ ” (*John 6:33, 58, NIV*). By declaring that “ ‘I am [Greek *egō eimi*] the bread of life’ ” (*John 6:35, 48*), Jesus presented Himself as the Great “I AM” of the Old Testament (*Exod. 3:14*). **Second**, Jesus explained that everlasting life can be secured in Him: “ ‘he who comes to Me’ ” and “ ‘he who believes in Me’ ” will have this blessing (*John 6:35, NKJV*). And **finally**, Jesus linked the gift of immortality with the final resurrection, assuring His audience three times, “ ‘and I will raise him up at the last day’ ” (*John 6:40, 44, 54, NKJV*).—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*\* for Tuesday, November 15.<sup>†‡§</sup> [Brackets and content in brackets in the introduction are added; brackets and content in brackets in the paragraph are in the Bible study guide.]<sup>‡</sup>

23. **After looking at these passages, there should not be any question that without Christ one cannot have eternal life.**
24. **Is it true that we can have eternal life right now? Is there any way to tell if one has “eternal life” right now?**
25. **What exactly happens at the second coming when the trumpet sounds? Do we understand the sequences?**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:** <sup>13</sup> Our brothers and sisters, we want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>**We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him.**

<sup>15</sup> What we are teaching you now is the Lord’s teaching: we who are alive on the day the Lord comes will not go ahead of those who have died.

<sup>16</sup>**There will be the shout of command, the archangel’s voice, the**

**sound of God's trumpet, and the Lord himself will come down from heaven. Those who have died believing in Christ will rise to life first; <sup>17</sup>then we who are living at that time will be gathered up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>So then, encourage one another with these words.—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*†</sup>**

26. Many people who choose to believe that the spirit or the soul goes to heaven read the *King James Version* of 1 Thessalonians 4:14 and believe that Jesus will bring those souls or spirits with Him from heaven. This idea is completely out of agreement with all of the rest of Scripture. Look at these words from a non-Adventist theologian regarding this verse.

[BSG:] “The reason why the Thessalonian Christians can have hope as they grieve for the dead members of their church is that **God ‘will bring’ them, that is, he will resurrect these deceased believers and cause them to be present at Christ’s return, such that they will be ‘with him.’** The implication is that these deceased believers will not be at some kind of disadvantage at the parousia [*sic*] of Christ but will be ‘with him’ in such a way that they share equally with living believers in the glory associated with his return.”—Jeffrey A. D. Weima, *1–2 Thessalonians*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014), p. 319.—[as quoted in *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\** for Wednesday, November 16].<sup>†‡§</sup>

27. It should be obvious that when Paul spoke about *the righteous*, he was not talking about souls in heaven; he was talking about “those who sleep in Jesus.”

**1 Corinthians 15:51-55:** <sup>51-52</sup> Listen to this secret truth: we shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the blinking of an eye. For **when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed.** <sup>53</sup>For what is mortal must be changed into what is immortal; what will die must be changed into what cannot die. <sup>54</sup>So when this takes place, and the mortal has been changed into the immortal, then the scripture will come true: “Death is destroyed; victory is complete!”

<sup>55</sup> “Where, Death, is your victory?

Where, Death, is your power to hurt?”—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*†</sup>

[BSG:] Some popular preachers suggest that this “mystery” (*1 Cor. 15:51*) is the “**secret rapture**” of the church, which [they claim] will occur seven years prior to Christ’s glorious second coming. In this “secret rapture” faithful Christians are suddenly, quietly, and secretly whisked off to heaven while everyone else remains here wondering what happened to them. People might suddenly find themselves in a driverless car, because the driver was raptured to heaven, and all that “remains is their clothes.” **The 16-volume best-selling *Left Behind* series, turned into four movies, promoted this false teaching, exposing millions to it.**

Of course, no biblical passage endorses such an artificial distinction between the rapture and the Second Coming. The “mystery” Paul is

referring to is simply the transformation of the living righteous to join the resurrected righteous at Christ's second coming. This is the "rapture." **There is no "secret rapture" because the Second Coming will be visible to all living human beings (Rev. 1:7), and both the resurrection of the dead and the transformation of the living ones will occur at the sound of the trumpet at Christ's return (1 Cor. 15:51, 52).**—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\** for Thursday, November 17.<sup>†‡§</sup>

**Revelation 1:7: Look, he is coming on the clouds! Everyone will see him, including those who pierced him.** All peoples on earth will mourn over him. So shall it be!—*Good News Bible*.<sup>\*†</sup>

28. ***There is nothing secret about the second coming of Jesus or of the resurrection of the righteous dead and the translation of the righteous living.***
29. ***Nothing like the second coming of Jesus Christ has ever happened on this earth. Can we even imagine the scene? People who have been dead will be popping out of the ground and ascending into the air while others, still alive, will be translated and rise at the same time to meet the Lord in the air!***
30. The idea which Christians have believed from the days of Jesus that we will rise at His second coming has been laughed at by many through the prior centuries.

[BSG:] "The Romans," writes Stephen Cave, "were well aware of the Christians' belief that they would one day rise bodily from the grave and did everything they could to mock and hinder those hopes. A report of a persecution in Gaul in 177 CE records that the martyrs were first executed, then their corpses left to rot unburied for six days before being burned and the ashes thrown into the river Rhône—'Now let us see whether they will rise again,' the Romans are reported to have said."—*Immortality: The Quest to Live Forever and How It Drives Civilization* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2012), pp. 104, 105.

This little object lesson in theological skepticism, however dramatic, is beside the point; it proved nothing about the biblical promise of the resurrection. **The Power who raised Jesus from the dead can do the same for us, as well, regardless of the state of our body.** After all, **if that same Power created and upholds the entire cosmos, He certainly could translate the living and resurrect the dead.**—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\** for Friday, November 18.<sup>†‡§</sup>

[EGW:] "Even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him," [1 Thessalonians 4:14] Paul wrote. Many interpret this passage to mean that the sleeping ones will be brought with Christ from heaven; but Paul meant that as Christ was raised from the dead, so God will call the sleeping saints from their graves and take them with Him to heaven. Precious consolation! glorious hope! not only to the church of Thessalonica, but to all Christians wherever they may be.—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles\** 259.3.<sup>‡</sup>

31. Obviously, people have gotten carried away trying to figure out how God will put back exactly the same little pieces of matter to form each human body. That is not necessary.

God has a perfect copy of everything in our brains and He can place that “software” and those “data files” into any kind of new body that He chooses to give us, “**downloading from the cloud.**” Try to imagine what it would be like to have a perfect, new body which will never grow old or deteriorate in any way! Are you looking forward to that experience?

32. ***Have you ever discussed the second coming with someone who believes in the secret rapture? What would you say to them that might raise questions about their belief? Ask them why they believe that idea and if they know of anyone who has been raptured? Does that mean that anyone who dies has missed out on the secret rapture?***

33. First Corinthians 15:12-19 would make no sense if human beings in some form such as a soul or spirit go to heaven at death. We can trust that Jesus rose from the dead in His own power, and we can know that He has the power to raise us at the second coming.

34. Look at the summaries of the key passages that we have explored in this lesson and consider what they say about the state of the dead, as quoted from page 106 of the *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*\* but with the Bible quotations added here.

- [BSG:] *Hebrews 11:39, 40*: Heroes of faith do not receive their heavenly reward until we receive ours.

**Hebrews 11:39-40:** <sup>39</sup> What a record all of these have won by their faith! Yet they did not receive what God had promised, <sup>40</sup>because God had decided on an even better plan for us. **His purpose was that only in company with us would they be made perfect.**—*Good News Bible*.\*†

- [BSG:] *1 John 5:11, 12*: This text teaches that only those who are in Christ have eternal life. Therefore, the implications are clear: we are not endowed with immortal “souls” because only those who choose Christ will receive eternal life.

**1 John 5:11-12:** <sup>11</sup>The testimony is this: God has given us eternal life, and this life has its source in his Son. <sup>12</sup>**Whoever has the Son has this life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.**—*Good News Bible*.\*†

- [BSG:] *1 Corinthians 15:12–19*: Our hope of eternal life and resurrection come from the resurrection of Jesus. If we don’t rise at that time, it means that Christ did not rise. If that is true, then we all die and stay dead forever.

**1 Corinthians 15:12-19:** See item #9 above.

- [BSG:] *John 14:1–3*: Jesus promised to prepare a place for us and come back to get us. This promise would be unnecessary if we already were in heaven.

**John 14:1-3:** <sup>1</sup> [Jesus said:] “Do not be worried and upset,” Jesus told them. “Believe in God and believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>There are many rooms in my Father’s house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. <sup>3</sup>And **after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.**”—*Good News Bible*.\*††

- [BSG:] *John 6:35–54*: Jesus says four times that He will raise him (humans) up in the last day. If humans will be raised up, then they need to come back to life after death, which precludes living somewhere else as souls/spirits.

**John 6:35-54:** <sup>35</sup> [Jesus said:] “I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>Now, I told you that you have seen me but will not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everyone whom my Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me, <sup>38</sup>because I have come down from heaven to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And it is the will of him who sent me that I should not lose any of all those he has given me, but that **I should raise them all to life on the last day.** <sup>40</sup>For what my Father wants is that all who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life. And **I will raise them to life on the last day.**”

<sup>41</sup> The people started grumbling about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>So they said, “This man is Jesus son of Joseph, isn’t he? We know his father and mother. How, then, does he now say he came down from heaven?”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him to me; and **I will raise him to life on the last day.** <sup>45</sup>The prophets wrote, ‘Everyone will be taught by God.’ Anyone who hears the Father and learns from him comes to me. <sup>46</sup>This does not mean that anyone has seen the Father; he who is from God is the only one who has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>**I am telling you the truth: he who believes has eternal life.** <sup>48</sup>**I am the bread of life.** <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died. <sup>50</sup>But the bread that comes down from heaven is of such a kind that whoever eats it will not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live for ever. [*sic*] The bread that I will give him is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live.”

<sup>52</sup> This started an angry argument among them. “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” they asked.

<sup>53</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am telling you the truth: if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and **I will raise them to life on the last day.**”—*Good News Bible*.\*†‡

- [BSG:] *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*: God will resurrect the deceased believers, and they will be met by those who are alive at that time. The final resurrection wouldn’t matter if souls already were in heaven.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:** See item #25 above.

- [BSG:] *1 Corinthians 15:51–55*: The “mystery” is the transformation of the righteous living at the Second Coming. The resurrection of the dead and transformation of the living righteous happen at the same time.—[All of this item above is from *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*\* page 106 except the Bible quotations which have been added.]†§

**1 Corinthians 15:51-55:** See item #27 above.

35. Consider **some additional information about death and the condition of the dead.**

**Revelation 21:4:** [The loud voice speaking from God’s throne said:] “He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared.”—*Good News Bible*.\*‡

[Let us not make the mistake of implying from this verse that we will inherently have immortality.]‡

[BSG:] “The absence of death does not mean that human life will be independent of God, who alone possesses unborrowed, inherent immortality (1 Tim. 6:16). Glorified humans will continue to depend on the Creator for their life-support.”—Roy E. Gane, “At-one-ment Forever in God’s New Heaven and New Earth,” *Salvation: Contours of Adventist Soteriology*, edited by Martin F. Hanna, Darius W. Jankiewicz, and John W. Reeve (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2018), p. 254.—[as quoted in *Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*\* 107].‡§

**1 Timothy 6:16:** He alone is immortal; he lives in the light that no one can approach. No one has ever seen him; no one can ever see him. To him be honour and eternal dominion! Amen.—*Good News Bible*.\*

[BSG:] The river of life and the tree of life, mentioned in Revelation 22, demonstrate that humans will always be dependent on *the* Source of life: God. He also will be their light (*Rev. 22:5*), although that doesn’t mean that the sun and moon will not be there. **The fact that humans will be eating fruit from the tree and drinking water from the river demonstrates that humans will be resurrected with corporeal forms and not simply be disembodied spirits.** Humans will be resurrected “to live forever in bodily form, not with the present natural/unspiritual (Greek *psuchikos*) body (*soma*) that decays and dies, but with the body (*soma*) that is immortal because it is spiritual (*pneumatikos*; 1 Cor. 15:44; cf. the context in vv. 42–43, 45–54). The body is changed (v. 52), but the person does not become a disembodied spirit.”—*Salvation: Contours of Adventist Soteriology*, p. 254....

The Greek word for “firstfruits” is *aparche* and means, **first and foremost**, “firstfruits,” **second**, a “proportionate gift” from earnings (a thank offering), or **third**, it could mean “an offering.” The Israelites would present the “firstfruits,” the first sheaf of the harvest in the temple, and a priest would wave it before the Lord. **All these actions happened on Nisan 16 and were a reminder of a pledge of a full harvest.**

**Fascinatingly, Jesus was resurrected on Nisan 16. Therefore, He served as the pledge, the first sheaf, the firstfruits, of the full harvest of all the believers who will be resurrected one day, as well.** But it’s important to notice that the harvest appears only “when he comes” again. So, **there is no harvest that already is physically in heaven, except for those whom we are told were resurrected or taken straight to heaven, such as Enoch, Elijah, Moses, and those who were raised from the dead during Christ’s resurrection (*Matt. 27:52*).** Jesus’ “newness of life”

(Rom. 6:4) points to the new life and resurrection of all the believers.—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\** 107-108.†‡§

**Matthew 27:52:** [At the death of Jesus,] **The graves broke open, and many of God's people who had died were raised to life** [at the resurrection of Jesus].—*Good News Bible*.\*†‡

**Romans 6:4:** By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life.—*Good News Bible*.\*

36. Romans 2:5-12; Ephesians 5:6 and 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 make it very clear that those who will be resurrected at the second coming of Christ are those who are “in Christ.”
37. At that time, Satan and all his evil companions will be confined to this earth for a thousand years. (Revelation 20)
38. To those who question how the righteous who die will be able to come forth in a different kind of form with a different body, Paul used the example of a seed cast into the soil. It is buried in the ground out of sight; but, then, it responds to the natural forces that God gives it, and it produces a brand-new plant.

[BSG:] At this point, Paul highlights four differences that can be anticipated with the resurrection of the righteous dead. **First**, the body on earth is perishable—subject to disease and death—but it will be made imperishable. **Second**, from dishonor we will go to a glorified body—dishonor because we are sinful, but the resurrected body will bear no limitations of sin; it will be perfect. **Third**, our bodies are weak, because sin affects everything, including our ability to resist sin; but our bodies will be raised in power instead. **Last**, a natural body will be changed into a spiritual body.—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide\** 108-109.†‡

39. ***In these discussions about the future resurrection of the righteous to eternal life, what is most appealing to you? What gives you the greatest hope?***
40. At the second coming, what will you be looking forward to most of all? Are you looking forward to seeing Jesus? Seeing family and friends who previously have passed away? Or, possibly learning more details about many Bible stories and other events from history? Learning more about the great controversy? How our mortal bodies will be changed into immortal bodies which will be imperishable?

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