

Called Home, Which is Far Better

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 2.1-18.

As we who are Christians face the future there are two possibilities. The first is that we shall be called home to Glory, into the immediate presence of the Lord, which the apostle Paul contemplated with relish, and the second is that there will be some who do not taste death; but whichever way we go, it is for those who have established their faith in the Christ of Calvary and have their hope firmly fixed in Jesus, the coming King.

FIRST, This is a Picture of a Christian Called Home to Glory which views the spiritual reality, behind the physical event. *"I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account."* Philippians 1.23&24

It Really is a Matter of Absent From the Body - Present With the Lord.

This Passage dispels the myths of unbelievers. Note: Death does not end it all, there is life to come.

Reincarnation is a myth, there is one life, one death and then eternity. Death is not a 'soul sleep', we are taken immediately into the presence of the Lord. Evolution is a soporific, to anaesthetize men against the absolute necessity of moral judgment and awful reality of eternal damnation. For the Christian, to step out of this life is to step into the presence of the Lord. We must live with this in mind.

Every Servant of God Will Be Called

Home to Give Account. Hebrews 9.27 is true for the Christian, just as the man of the world. We must all die, and we must all give an account of ourselves before God. Those who have refused God's Saviour will be judged for their sins, and those who are His servants to answer for their stewardship. See also 1 Corinthians 3.9-15. The significant difference of Christ's judgment of his enemies and stewards is illustrated in Luke 19.11-27. We must live with this in mind.

The Detail of Our Home Going is in the Hand of God. We share the confidence of King David in Psalm 31.14&15, *"I trust in thee, O LORD, I say, 'Thou art my God.' My times are in thy hand . . ."*

God's Servants Come and Go, but the Work Goes On. The mantle which fell from the shoulder of Elijah, Elisha picked up. The incumbent was changed, but the Power of God remains, as is demonstrated by the smiting of the waters. It is the same today, God

empowers all He calls, according to the need of that call, without exception. See, Acts 2.38&39.

SECOND, This is a Picture of Jesus Coming For His Saints. Maybe you will not die. Maybe you will be one of those who have their lamps trimmed and burning and are eager for your eye to see Him coming in the clouds with great glory; for, *"Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the Archangel's call, and with the sound of the Trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord."* 1 Thessalonians 4.16&17

Jesus Told Us That He would Come Again Also that He would take us to be with Him. Read John 14.2&3.

The Angels Told Us That Jesus Would Come Again and that He will come in the clouds at the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Read Acts 1.9-11.

The Apostle John Tells us that Jesus is Coming Again and also that when He comes that we shall be changed to be like Him Read 1 John 3.1-3.

The Apostle Peter Tells Us that Jesus is Coming Again and that He would do so in a day when men scoff in derision at the idea, but that His

appearance would herald the day of Judgment and the earth would be purged with fire. Read 2 Peter 3.3-7
The Apostle Paul Tells Us that Jesus Is coming Again. Read not only 2 Thessalonians 4.16&17, but also 1 Corinthians 15.51-57, and He tells us that for those who are caught up to meet and then be with the Lord forever, the power of sin and death will be broken for ever.

What kind of people should we be then as we have this hope to hold us firm, that Jesus is coming to gather into His Kingdom all who are His own, just as in the demonstration of Elijah which Elisha saw

Are You Looking For The Coming Again of Jesus Christ?

Please read this verse from Hebrews 9.28, *"So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."*

It tells us that when Jesus came the first time 2000 years ago, He died upon the Cross in our place to bring us to God. When we accept that death as God's sin offering on our behalf, our sins are forgiven, whatever they are, and we become one of His children. When He comes again we will be amongst those who, like Elijah, rise to meet Him, and are changed to be just like Him.

Welcome Glen Park Gospel Church
Lower Road, Eltham North
Sundays 10.30 am

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