

## Death and the Threat of Death

### Commentary for April 1, 2020 — Are Shared Experiences

Briefly, the article for April 2020 is “The Laws of God,” introduced by the [“April 2020 News-letter.”](#) Now let us go to the subject of this Commentary.

Several events are common to every human. Birth, a period of life, and death are shared experiences by every descendant of Adam and Eve. The periods and lengths of life vary greatly.

For some newborn babies life is very short. God allows such tragedies (and it is horrible for parents and relatives) for some unknown reasons which we will learn when God sees fit to tell us. Such children will be resurrected in the future Great White Throne judgment. Their judgment will be quick, for they have committed no sin and will have no punishment. They will meet their parents, grow to adulthood and live a full life, receive accurate teaching about God and Christ’s role in their salvation, and will know love from most people. Their experience will be unique and challenging, just as your life is unique and challenging.

Likewise, every child who dies young will have an easy judgment. Their experiences also will be easy and fruitful. Yet they will have challenges growing up in a post-Millennium time.

As I wrote in my October 2013 Commentary, most people after the flood lived, as Thomas Hobbes described in his book *Leviathan*, lives that were [“Nasty, Brutish, and Short.”](#)<sup>1</sup> Most post-flood people lived hand to mouth. Even the rich shared experiences with the poor when wars, famines, droughts, and plagues occurred. From the time of David to the 1860s, life expectancy was very short, at times declining to around 30 to 40 years of age. Better sanitation improved life expectancy, steadily increasing to 70+ for industrialized nations today.

### **When Death Threatens**

The threat of death focuses the minds of people. Such events bring most people together because the threat is shared among many. Earthquakes (which I have experienced), floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis, famines, plagues, and of course wars — all can be mass-victim events — are shared by survivors. Everyone has a story to tell. Many around the world are focused on the extent of the current worldwide Coronavirus (CV-19) health crisis. There have been many plagues in the past; more will be in the future after this one has run its course.

Going through such a crisis forces people to think about its effects on themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors, communities, and even their nation. God’s purpose is to focus everyone’s minds on death, and ultimately to think about their Creator God, along with food, clothing, shelter, hygiene, preventive healthcare, and the purpose of life.

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<sup>1</sup> People prior to the flood had lives that were nasty, brutish, and long. Their lives were shortened by wickedness and evil (Genesis 6:5–7); vicious, large animals; and natural events, and then by a flood.

## God Shall Wipe Away All Tears

In the future, a “**new Jerusalem**” will transition from the old heaven to descend down to “**a new earth**.” It will inaugurate the great white throne judgment. Note an early verse describing that coming awesome event. No one will doubt God exists.

**“I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,**

**‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.’”**

• **Revelation 21:1–4**

The apostle John wrote of the vision God had placed in his mind. The voice he heard told of God wiping away all tears, a quote from Isaiah 25:8 where it applies to Israel alone, as does Revelation 7:17. But Revelation 21:1–4 is universal in scope and will not be limited to Israel. Read the full context beginning from Revelation 20:17 to 21:4. All humanity will be raised from Adam to the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ.

This also will be a shared experience by physical human beings, witnessed by those glorified at Christ’s coming. What a moment that will be! It begins the Great White Throne judgment lasting for another eon, also of 1,000 years duration (“[Doctrine of the Eons in the Bible](#)”) — the final process of Christ instructing every person about God). As the apostle Paul wrote:

**“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order:**

- 1. Christ the firstfruits;**
- 2. afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**
- 3. Then comes the end** [made alive, resurrected to glory],  
**when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father;**  
**when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.**

**For he must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet.**

**The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”**

• **1 Corinthians 15:22–26**

The salvation and glorification of all mankind will take place when 1 Corinthians 15:28 occurs when God our Father (YHWH) becomes “**all in all**.” It will be an experience shared by you, by me, and all of Adam. We shall know everything, we will have no pain, death will be behind us, and we will be like Christ (1 John 3:2). In the meantime, as John admonishes us: “**And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure**” (1 John 3:3).