

Life, Death, Life

Commentary for September 1, 2023 – The Shared Experiences Of All Human Beings

“Life, Death, Life” is the sequence of existence for most every human being. It was the sequence for Christ Jesus also. Created by God His Father (and our Father). He **“is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature”** (Colossians 1:15–20). All was created through Him (verse 16). See also Revelation 3:14.

He was alive when He humbled (or emptied) Himself (Philippians 2:6–8) to be born to Mary (Matthew 1:16). He grew to adulthood, began His ministry until He was crucified unto death: **“... in the body of his flesh through death”** (Colossians 1:22, and read Philippians 2:8). He was brought back to life with even greater glory than before:

“Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

- **That at the name of Jesus EVERY knee should bow, of**

[1] **things in heaven, and**

[2] **things in earth, and**

[3] **things under the earth; And**

- **that EVERY tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

• ***Philippians 2:9–11***

He was created, He was the “prime contractor” of all creation, He became flesh, lived, died, and was resurrected to life. This is the pattern of creation from God our Father, through Christ, to and through you, me, and every human being: we also were created, we will die, and God will bring us back to life. (Read September 2023 article “Thoughts About Death” after you read the “[September 2023 Newsletter](#).”)

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

• ***Hebrews 9:27–28***¹

Jesus had no negative judgments against his behavior or His actions in His life. He received only rewards. He was sinless. Even more, He was righteous in all His actions. As the only begotten Son of God, the Messiah (= Christ, both terms mean “anointed”), the prophesied son of David and King of Israel, chief King of all the nations (Psalm 89:27), and Melchizedek, a priest before YHWH, He went before the judgment seat of God on our behalf.

“But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ

¹ A tiny remnant will not die, but will be saved alive to glory when Christ returns (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18). So far as Scripture tells us, this will be unique in history.

died for us. Much more then, being **NOW justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life.**"

• **Romans 5:8–10**

He is now seated at the right hand of God. Angels, authorities, and powers are subject to Him (1 Peter 3:22). He is **"being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they"** (Hebrews 1:4). How far will His power and authority extend?

"Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and [above] EVERY NAME that is named, not only in this world [eon, in Greek], but also in that which is to come:

And has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church [ekklesia], Which is His body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all."

• **Ephesians 1:21–23**

The risen Christ is referred to as God in the prophecy of Psalm 82:8, **"Arise, O God** [Elohim in Hebrew], **judge the earth: for You shall inherit all nations.**" In that verse "Elohim" is governed by two singular verbs indicating that the reference is to a single individual who will inherit all the nations. Who will do that? Learn from Psalm 2:8, 22:38, and especially Revelation 11:15:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ [Messiah]; and he shall reign for ever and ever [for the eons of the eons].'"

The full impact of Christ's **"life, death, and life"** will also be ours. When our current experience of life ends, we will experience decline toward death,² then (without any passage of time) our future resurrected life of immortality and glory will have no end. But we must experience the rest of our life now, experience our dying, before we will be given the life and glory promised to all believers. Eventually that glory will extend to every human being. As I wrote at the beginning of my article **"Your Resurrection"**:

"YOU are the object of God's creation. All creation was made for YOU. Christ died for YOU.

Every son and daughter of Adam — every human being — will become a mature child of God, completing God's declaration to make man in His image. You live because God wills you to live, moment to moment, heartbeat by heartbeat, breath upon breath.

Days or years from now your heart will stop, your breathing will cease, you will lose consciousness. You will die. Your cells quickly decay. Your soul ceases to exist, your spirit returns to God, until you are resurrected from the dead."

Rest with the knowledge that God is in full control.

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² Remember, **once we are dead** there is no "experience" of any sensation, memory, or consciousness **until** God makes us live again. DWS