

# Session 1

## FACING THE GREAT UNKNOWN



Sunday Bible Class: April 5, 2020

**Opening Prayer:** Lord God, most people prefer not to think of death, especially their own. Yet there are times I am confronted with the reality that one day I too must die. Guide me as I study what You have told us about death, that I may have hope and confidence when I face that dark hour, knowing You will be with me all the way. I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

- What was your first experience with death?

### Watch the Video: Session 1

God never intended for death to be a part of His creation.

- Describe what it would be like to live in a world unstained by sin and death.
- What problems would arise with an ever-expanding human population and no death?
- How might God have dealt with these problems?



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In the last century we have found many ways to insulate ourselves from death to some extent. Still death finds a way of breaking through the walls we raise against it.

- What things have brought home to you the fact that one day you will die?
- What difference does the awareness of your mortality make in how you live?
- What part of dying makes you most uneasy?



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People have many different ideas about what happens when we die.

- What do your friends think?
- Why might someone want to have their body “frozen” for decades or even centuries until medical advancements can cure them?
- What is the attraction of reincarnation?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, the Eastern religions which first developed reincarnation saw it as an endless cycle of suffering and pain in this world and presented ways for a person to escape it.



## The Roots of Reincarnation

Hebrews 9:27-28 very clearly tells us, “Just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 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.”

This passage not only exposes reincarnation as a false hope, it also reminds us of the judgment each of us will face at the moment of our death. Paul speaks about this judgment—and God’s plan to save us from it in Romans 5.

### Read Romans 5:6-21.



- <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—through perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—
- <sup>8</sup> but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God.
- <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.
- <sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
- <sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.
- <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.
- <sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.
- <sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.
- <sup>17</sup> For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.
- <sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.
- <sup>19</sup> For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.
- <sup>20</sup> Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
- <sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul first explains how death came into our world through Adam’s sin. All of us inherited our first parents’ sinful nature, and their death as well. But in undeserved grace, God sent His Son to become human. By His perfect life of obedience, Jesus earned heaven for us; by His suffering and death He paid the penalty for our sin, and by His resurrection He conquered death for us. For His sake we have forgiveness and the promise that Jesus will return on the Last Day to raise all people and share eternal life with all who trust in Him.

- As we age through life and recognize death’s power all around us, what encouragement can we get when we remember Jesus’ resurrection and His miracles of raising people from the dead?

- How does Jesus' promise to return on Judgment Day to remove death and sin change our perspective on aging and death?

**Closing Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank You for entering our world of death and suffering to die in our place on the cross. By Your victory over sin, death and hell, You have won a brilliant future for me. Strengthen my faith in You. May the Holy Spirit grant me complete trust in You when on the Last Day You will raise me and all believers to new life with You in heaven. Amen.



Additional links and resources available at [lhm.org/death](https://lhm.org/death)

[Dancing with Death](#)

[Thinking about Your Funeral](#)