



The Keys of Death

Have you ever lost some keys? It can be quite frustrating to try to find them. Jesus has some very important keys. But unlike us, He will never lose them.



In the last lesson, we learned that Jesus has “the keys of Hades and of Death” (Revelation 1:18). How did He get them? What does He do with them? Let’s find out.

Have you ever seen an animal or a person who has died? Is there anything you can do to make it alive again? No. And that makes us feel very sad and helpless. We can’t do anything to give life back to someone or something that has died.

But can someone who has died become alive again?

- 1** What happened to Jesus on the third day after He had died? What did an angel tell the women who went to His tomb to take care of His body?
Matthew 28:6 “He is _____ here; for He is _____.”

Jesus was alive again! And He told His friends, “Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19). Jesus is “the firstborn from the dead” (Revelation 1:5); and He has power to give life (resurrect) people who have died.

Many people who have loved and served Jesus have died. But someday soon, when He comes back in the clouds of heaven, He will resurrect them and give them life again. (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.)

- 2** Many have died from diseases. Will they still be sick when they wake up?
1 Corinthians 15:51, 52 “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised _____, and we shall be changed.”



Incorruptible: Everlasting; will never die or decay

- 3** What about the need for medicines, wheelchairs, or crutches?
Revelation 21:4 “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor _____, nor crying. There shall be no more _____, for the former things have passed away.”



No more diseases; no more pain. Our resurrected bodies will be even better than brand new!

What about the people who are alive when Jesus comes back? Will we have to keep our old bodies? Oh, no! We just read in 1 Corinthians 15:52 that we will be changed. And that change will happen “in the twinkling of an eye”—faster than you can blink your eye.

Together with those whom Jesus resurrected, all the people who have loved and obeyed Jesus will rise into the sky to meet Him. Together we will all go to heaven to be with Him forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.)

- 4** What happens to the dead before they are raised back to life? What is it like to be dead? Let’s get some clues from the story of Lazarus.
John 11:1 “Now a certain man was sick, _____ of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.”
John 11:3 “Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, ‘Lord, behold, he whom You love is _____.’”
John 11:6 “So, when He heard that he was sick, He _____ two more days in the place where He was.”



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Lazarus was a friend of Jesus. Jesus found great comfort in the home of Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha.

One day Lazarus got very sick. His sisters were afraid he might die, so they sent a messenger to ask Jesus to come. But Jesus didn’t go right away. And when He finally got there, Lazarus had already died.

Can you imagine how you would have felt if you were Mary and Martha? They must have been so confused. “Why,” they must have wondered, “did Jesus let our dear brother die?”

- 5** Why did Jesus let Lazarus die?
John 11:15 “And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may _____.”

The sisters didn’t know yet that by waiting and allowing Lazarus to die, Jesus would have an opportunity to do His greatest miracle. Then everyone could see that He really was exactly who He claimed to be—the Son of God. And that would help people choose to believe in Him and be saved.

- 6** What did Jesus do after Lazarus had been dead for four days?
John 11:43, 44 “Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud _____, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died _____ bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’”

Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead because He holds the keys of death and the grave.

- 7** Before Jesus raised Lazarus back to life, how did Jesus tell His disciples that Lazarus was dead?
John 11:11 “He said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus _____, but I go that I may _____ him up.’”



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Why did Jesus call death a “sleep?” Because that’s the word the Bible uses to describe death. Both David and Daniel called death a sleep. (Psalm 13:3; Daniel 12:2.) But why does the Bible say that death is just like a sleep?

- 8** How did Solomon describe death?
Ecclesiastes 9:5 “For the living know that they will die; but the _____ know _____.”



What is it like to die? What did it feel like to sleep last night? If you slept soundly, you didn’t know anything until you were awakened in the morning. That is how death is. It’s just like a sound, dreamless sleep.

- 9** What is life?
Genesis 2:7 “And the Lord God formed man of the _____ of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the _____ of life; and man became a _____ being.”

Dust + Breath = Living Person (soul)

- 10** What is death?
Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then the _____ will return to the earth as it was, and the _____ will return to God who gave it.”

Living Person - Spirit (breath) = Dust (dead person)

So where did we get the false idea that the dead don’t rest in the grave, but go straight to heaven or hell? Jesus didn’t call Satan the father of lies for no reason. This wrong idea was an invention of Satan. And it was the very first lie he told Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden.

- 11** What did God say would happen if Adam and Eve disobeyed and ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
Genesis 2:17 “In the day that you eat of it you shall surely _____.”



- 12** What did Satan say would happen if Eve ate that fruit?
Genesis 3:4 “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will _____ surely _____.’”

God said they **would** die. Satan lied and said they **would not** die. Sadly, Satan has been trying to make people believe that lie ever since.

Saul, the first king of Israel, believed that lie. How do we know that? Because he went to the witch of Endor and asked her bring up God's prophet Samuel from the dead so he could get some advice from him.

13 What had God said about mediums and witches?
Leviticus 19:31; 20:6, 27

- a. Do not seek mediums; they will defile you.
- b. Get rid of the mediums in your country.
- c. I will set My face against the one who seeks mediums.
- d. All of the above



God did not bring Samuel up from the grave. (1 Samuel 28:6.) But someone did appear. Then who was it? Just like Satan changed himself to look like a snake in the garden, he made himself look like Samuel that night.

What should you do if you see someone you know has died? Remember what the Word of God says: "The dead know **nothing**" (Ecclesiastes 9:5). You can trust the Bible and be sure that what you see isn't your loved one. It is Satan or one of his many demons. Remember, Satan can transform himself to look like anything, even an angel from heaven. (2 Corinthians 11:14.) Repeat God's



We have a caring God to whom we can quickly pray if we are ever in this situation. Jesus is much stronger than Satan, and Jesus will make that demon leave.

14 What special promise do we read in the Bible?
Proverbs 18:10 "The _____ of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are _____."

You can just say, "In Jesus' name, leave!"

Some people think that the thief on the cross went straight to heaven when he died. But did he really? When the Bible was translated into our language, the translators had to add punctuation marks since there were no commas in the original language. Notice how the meaning of Jesus' words change when the comma is put in a different place.

Luke 23:43 "And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to **you, today** you will be with Me in Paradise.'"

Luke 23:43 "And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to **you today**, you will be with Me in Paradise.'"

Did Jesus go to paradise on the day He died? No.

15 What did Jesus tell Mary on the day He was resurrected?
John 20:17 "Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have _____ ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

Jesus did not lie to the thief. On the day He died, He promised that the repentant thief would be raised with the righteous when Jesus comes back

to set up His kingdom. This is exactly what the thief wanted. He said, "Lord, remember me when you come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42).

If we belong to Jesus, we don't need to be afraid of death.

16 What special promises does Jesus give us?
Revelation 2:10 "Be _____ until death, and I will give you the crown of _____."
John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall _____."

But not everyone will receive that special crown of eternal life. Sadly, there are many people who choose not to love and obey Jesus.

17 What will happen to all these wicked people?
2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent _____; both the earth and the works that are in it will be _____ up."



Someday the wicked will be burned up, because God will be getting rid of sin. Anyone who doesn't let go of sin will be burned up with it.

God gives plenty of warnings to let go of sin. Why?

18 Does God want anyone to perish with their sins?
2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is ... longsuffering toward us, _____ willing that _____ should perish but that _____ should come to repentance."

God is very patient and longsuffering. But eventually, sin must be destroyed.

Will God let the wicked suffer through all eternity? No! An eternally burning hell is another of Satan's lies. God is kind, just, and loving—not mean nor vengeful.

19 What word does the Bible use to describe the fate of the wicked?
Matthew 25:46 "everlasting _____"

The Bible clearly teaches that the wicked will have an everlasting **punishment**. That means the results will be eternal. Once the punishment is finished, the wicked will be dead; and they will never, ever live again. They will not burn for the countless years of eternity in a place called hell. That would not be fair.

Satan told Eve, "You won't surely die." If a wicked person burns in hell forever and ever, without any end, then what Satan said is true. The sinner lives forever—in a very miserable way. But Satan is a liar.

20 What does God say about unrepentant sinners?
Ezekiel 18:20 "The soul who sins _____."

Some honest people get confused by a few verses that appear to say the wicked will burn forever. They get mixed up with the difference between eternal *punishment* and eternal *punishing*.

21 What good example does the Bible give about this?
Jude 7 "Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an _____, suffering the vengeance of _____ fire."



22 Are the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah still smoking and burning today? **Yes / No**

23 What does God say will happen when the wicked are all burned up?
Malachi 4:3 " 'You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be _____ under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,' says the Lord of hosts."



Eternal fire means that the wicked will have an eternal, or permanent, consequence. They will be burned up and turned to ashes.

Isn't God merciful to put an end to sin, suffering, and death?

The Bible says, "The last enemy that will be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:26.) Someday, Satan, his evil angels, and the wicked people won't be around anymore to tempt us or torment us. And that's very good news!

24 What will our world be like when God puts a final end to sin and death?
Isaiah 35:10 "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall _____."

When Jesus comes, He will wake up His faithful friends who are sleeping in death. They will jump out of their graves with energy and excitement. They will shout "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

25 Are you thankful that Jesus holds the keys of death? _____

26 Do you want to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes again, whether you are alive or sleeping in the grave? _____

Why not ask Him, right now, to help **you** be ready for His soon coming?



Answers

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. not / risen | 7. sleeps / wake | 13. d | 20. shall die |
| 2. incorruptible | 8. dead / nothing | 14. name / safe | 21. example / eternal |
| 3. sorrow / pain | 9. dust / breath / living | 15. not yet | 22. no |
| 4. Lazarus / sick / stayed | 10. dust / spirit | 16. faithful / life / live | 23. ashes |
| 5. believe | 11. die | 17. heat / burned | 24. flee away |
| 6. voice / came out | 12. not / die | 18. not / any / all | |
| | | 19. punishment | |

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