**What is salvation and how is life after death understood?**

**The Old Testament**

**Exodus 3.7-8**

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, **8**and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

*What is salvation in this text?*

**Isaiah 11.6-9**

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
    the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
    and a little child shall lead them.  
**7**The cow and the bear shall graze,  
    their young shall lie down together;  
    and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
**8**The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
    and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.  
**9**They will not hurt or destroy  
    on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
    as the waters cover the sea

*What does this text look forward to? Does it expect this day to come on this earth?*

**Psalm 6.4-5**

Turn, O Lord, save my life;  
    deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.  
**5**For in death there is no remembrance of you;  
    in Sheol who can give you praise?

[Sheol is a transliteration of the Hebrew. It literally means the grave – the place of the dead.]

*What does this text say about life after death?*

**Psalm 49.13-15**

Such is the fate of the foolhardy,  
    the end of those[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+49&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-14662d)] who are pleased with their lot.  
**14**Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;  
    Death shall be their shepherd;  
straight to the grave they descend,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+49&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-14663e)]  
    and their form shall waste away;  
    Sheol shall be their home.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+49&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-14663f)]  
**15**But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,  
    for he will receive me.

*How does this text understand salvation?*

**Ecclesiastes 5.18**

This is what I have seen to be good: it is fitting to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of the life God gives us; for this is our lot.

*Does this text suggest there is anything after death?*

**Daniel 12.9-13**

He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are to remain secret and sealed until the time of the end. **10**Many shall be purified, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked shall continue to act wickedly. None of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. **11**From the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that desolates is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred ninety days. **12**Happy are those who persevere and attain the thousand three hundred thirty-five days. **13**But you, go your way,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+12&version=NRSV" \l "fen-NRSV-22095e" \o "See footnote e)] and rest; you shall rise for your reward at the end of the days.”

*How does this text understand life after death?*

**What is salvation and how is life after death understood?**

**The Apocrypha**

**Tobit 3.6**

So now deal with me as you will; command my spirit to be taken from me, so that I may be released from the face of the earth and become dust. For it is better for me to die than to live, because I have had to listen to undeserved insults, and great is the sorrow within me. Command, O Lord, that I be released from this distress; release me to go to the eternal home, and do not, O Lord, turn your face away from me. For it is better for me to die than to see so much distress in my life and to listen to insults.”

*What do we think Tobit means by his eternal home?*

**Wisdom 3.1-4**

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment will ever touch them.  
**2**In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,  
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,  
**3**and their going from us to be their destruction;  
but they are at peace.  
**4**For though in the sight of others they were punished,  
their hope is full of immortality.

*What lives on beyond death in this passage?*

**2 Maccabees 7.14**

**14**When he was near death, he said, “One cannot but choose to die at the hands of mortals and to cherish the hope God gives of being raised again by him. But for you there will be no resurrection to life!”

*How does this text understand life after death?*

**What is salvation and how is life after death understood?**

**The New Testament**

**John 17.3**

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

*How is eternal life understood in this passage?*

**John 20.26-29**

**26**A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27**Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28**Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29**Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

*In what way is Jesus’ resurrection body like and dislike his old body?*

**1 Thessalonians 4.16-17**

For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17**Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

*What does this text imply happens to us immediately after death?*

**1 Corinthians 15.50-53**

What I am saying, brothers and sisters,[[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+cor+15&version=NRSV" \l "fen-NRSV-28753l" \o "See footnote l)] is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51**Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die,[[m](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+cor+15&version=NRSV" \l "fen-NRSV-28754m" \o "See footnote m)]but we will all be changed, **52**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53**For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

*What does this text say about our resurrection body?*

**Phil 1.21-24**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. **22**If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. **23**I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; **24**but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

*What does this text suggest happens immediately after death?*

**2 Peter 1.4**

Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature.

*How does this text view life after death?*

**Rev 21.3-4**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2**And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rev+21&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-31041a)] of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rev+21&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-31041b)] with them;  
they will be his peoples,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rev+21&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-31041c)]  
and God himself will be with them;[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rev+21&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-31041d)]  
**4**he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

*What does this text say about the new heavens and new earth?*