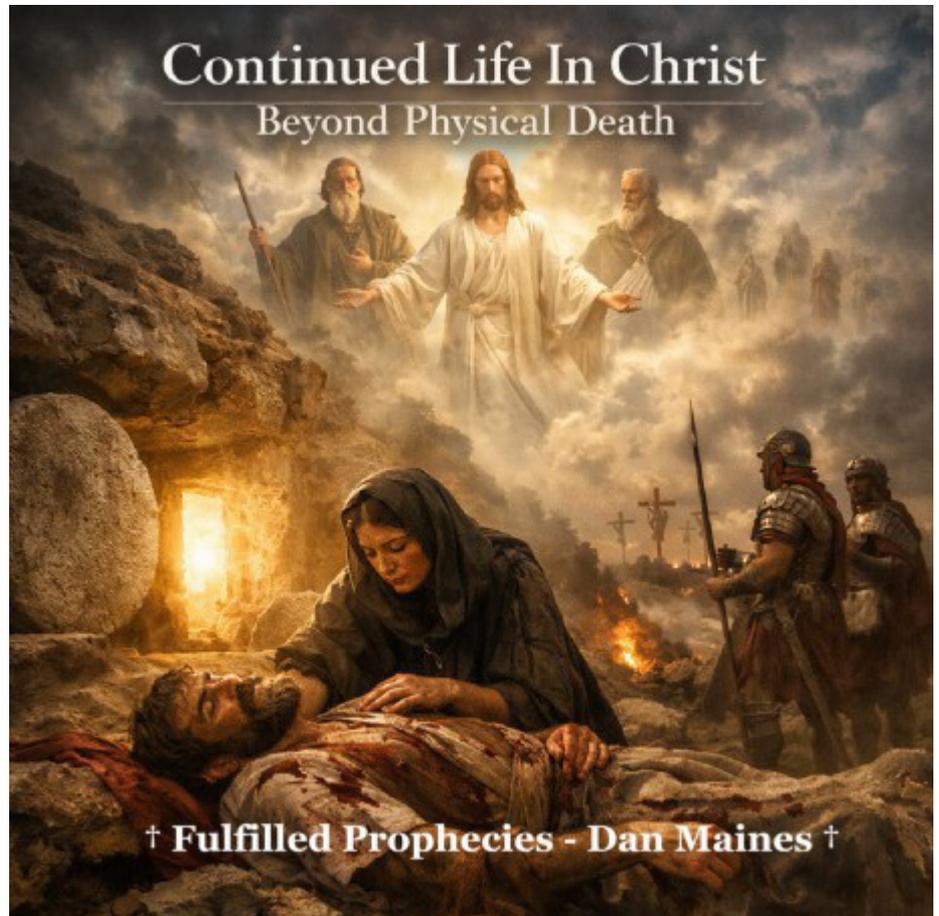


# Fulfilled Prophecies

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## Death - Continued Life In Christ Beyond Physical Death



By Dan Maines

## Continued Life In Christ Beyond Physical Death

### Introduction

† According to Scripture, a believer continues life in Christ when he dies physically.

† Here's why I say that, and where Scripture actually points.

† Scripture presents life in Christ as a present possession, not something activated by physical death (John 11:25-26).

† From the fulfilled perspective, eternal life begins in union with Christ and continues uninterrupted by physical death

(Colossians 3:3-4).

### **Matthew 22:32**

I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He is not the God of the dead but of the living.

† Jesus said, God is not the God of the dead but of the living (Luke 20:38).

† Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were physically dead, yet Jesus says they are living to God (Exodus 3:6).

† This establishes that covenant life with God isn't ended by physical death (John 5:24).

† Life is defined by relationship to God, not by physical condition (Romans 14:8).

### **2 Corinthians 5:8**

we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

† Paul said, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (Philippians 1:21).

† He doesn't describe non existence, unconsciousness, or suspension (Luke 23:43).

† He describes continued fellowship with Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

† Paul's confidence rests in union with Christ, not in the preservation of the physical body (Galatians 2:20).

### **Philippians 1:23**

But I am hard pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

† Paul also said, my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better (2 Corinthians 5:1).

† That only makes sense if departing the body results in continued conscious life with Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

† Paul contrasts remaining in the flesh with departing, not life

with non life (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

† His expectation is immediate fellowship, not delay or suspension (Luke 16:22).

### **Revelation 6:9-10**

When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?

† John saw souls who had been slain crying out to God (Hebrews 12:22-24).

† They are aware, they speak, they recognize injustice, and they communicate with God (Genesis 4:10).

† This confirms conscious existence after physical death (Luke 16:23).

† These souls are active participants in God's purposes, not absent or asleep (Revelation 7:15).

### **John 11:25-26**

Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?

† Jesus defines life as present union with Himself, not as a future state triggered by death (John 5:24).

† Physical death is acknowledged, but it doesn't interrupt life already possessed in Christ (Colossians 3:3).

† Resurrection life is identified with Christ Himself, not an event separated from Him (1 Corinthians 15:45).

### **1 John 5:11-13**

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

† Eternal life is stated as a present possession, not a post death reward (John 3:36).

† Life is located in Christ, not in the physical body (Galatians 2:20).

† Death doesn't grant life, it can't remove what Christ has already given (Romans 8:10).

† So yes, I believe that when a believer dies physically, he continues life in Christ in a spiritual state (John 17:3).

† That life isn't initiated by death, it isn't earned by death, and it isn't superior to union with Christ now (Ephesians 2:5-6).

† It's simply the continuation of the same life already possessed in Him (1 John 5:11-13).

† At the same time, Scripture never tells us to obsess over the mechanics of that state (Deuteronomy 29:29).

† It affirms continuity, awareness, and fellowship, but keeps the focus on Christ as our life, not death as our doorway (Colossians 1:27).

## **Historical References**

† Justin Martyr wrote that the souls of the righteous remain alive with God and aren't extinguished by death.

† Irenaeus taught that life granted by God continues beyond physical death in conscious existence.

† Tertullian affirmed that the soul persists after death in awareness before God.

† Clement of Alexandria described believers as living unto God after departing the body.

† Eusebius recorded the consistent early Christian understanding of continued life after death.

† Josephus documented the Jewish belief that the righteous live on after death in conscious awareness.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† This truth removes fear by grounding our hope in Christ, not in survival of the body (Hebrews 2:14-15).

† It assures believers that physical death can't sever union with Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

† It keeps our focus on faithful living now, not speculation about the afterlife (Philippians 1:21).

† It anchors confidence in Christ as our life both now and beyond physical death (Colossians 3:4).

† It reinforces the fulfilled perspective that life is realized in Christ, not postponed to the grave (John 5:24).

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** Does the Bible teach soul sleep for believers?

**A** No. Scripture presents believers as conscious and present with the Lord after physical death (2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 6:9-10).

**Q** Is eternal life something believers receive only after death?

**A** No. Eternal life is possessed now in Christ and continues beyond physical death (John 5:24; 1 John 5:11-13).

**Q** Does physical death improve a believer's standing with God?

**A** No. Believers are already seated with Christ and fully alive in Him (Ephesians 2:5-6).

**Q** Should believers focus on what happens after death?

**A** Scripture directs believers to focus on Christ as our life now, trusting Him with what follows physical death (Colossians 3:1-4).

**Q** What about passages that say the dead know nothing?

**A** Those passages describe physical death from an earthly perspective, not the believer's life in Christ (Ecclesiastes 9:5; John 11:25).

**Q** So is this Heaven after we physically die?

**A** Scripture describes being present with the Lord after physical death, not as a separate hope from Christ, but as continued fellowship with Him (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23).

**Q** In the spiritual realm will we have eyes to continue to see God's beautiful creation?

**A** Scripture affirms awareness and perception in the spiritual state, describing seeing, knowing, and recognizing in God's presence (Revelation 6:9-10; 1 Corinthians 13:12).

**Q** Will we still recognize those we loved in Christ after physical death?

**A** Scripture indicates recognition and continued relational awareness in God's presence, as seen in those who speak, remember, and identify one another beyond physical death (Matthew 17:3; Luke 16:23).

**Q** Will our relationship with Christ feel more distant or more present after physical death?

**A** Scripture presents being present with the Lord as deeper fellowship, not separation, describing nearness, comfort, and communion with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23).

**Q** Will worship continue in the spiritual realm?

**A** Scripture portrays conscious praise and worship in God's presence, with voices lifted and awareness of God's holiness and justice (Revelation 7:9-10; Revelation 15:3).

**Q** Will we still be ourselves, or do we lose our identity?

**A** Scripture shows personal identity retained beyond physical death, with individuals remembering, speaking, and being

known in God's presence (Luke 16:22-25; Revelation 6:9).

**Q** Will there be peace and rest, or waiting and uncertainty?

**A** Scripture describes rest, comfort, and assurance in God's presence, not confusion or anxiety (Hebrews 4:9; Revelation 14:13).

**Q** Will we be aware of God's justice and goodness?

**A** Scripture shows awareness of God's righteous purposes, with understanding and trust expressed by those in His presence (Revelation 6:10; Revelation 15:4).

**Q** Will our life with Christ end at death and restart later?

**A** Scripture presents life in Christ as continuous and unbroken, with no interruption between present faith and continued fellowship (John 11:25-26; Romans 8:38-39).

**Q** Will love and relationship still matter in the spiritual realm?

**A** Scripture describes ongoing love, communion, and shared presence with God and His people beyond physical death (1 Corinthians 13:12-13; Hebrews 12:22-24).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† Matthew 22:32; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; Revelation 6:9-10; John 11:25-26; 1 John 5:11-13

† Justin Martyr; Irenaeus; Tertullian; Clement of Alexandria; Eusebius; Josephus

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