

# Why Is There Death?

Death is an integral part of life. It's inevitability is known to all who are old enough to understand. Sometimes our first moments becoming acquainted with death is when a pet dies, or sometimes it's not until the end of another person's life. Either way, death is a concept which is learned early in life. It can be a painful experience filled with hurt and questions.

"Why did death happen?"

"Why did God allow this death?"

"Why is God punishing us?"

"What happens after death?"

These are all very important questions that are difficult to answer, but can be done so if we examine the contents of God's Word. The Biblical text puts the word "death" meaning a separation; a separation from this life, but initially this wasn't the case.

In the text of Genesis, God creates. He creates. We read about Him creating the heavens, the earth, the sun and moon, the stars, the plants, the animals, the birds, and He created man. He created earth in such a way that man had no real want. He has his choice among the plants to eat, except one, and his job was to take care of garden which God had put him, and to be fruitful and multiply in Genesis 1:28-30.

Most folks stop there and skip to the deception of the devil and man eating of the fruit of knowledge, but what about the specific tree? There were actually two notable trees in the garden, the first was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which God forbade man to eat in Genesis 2:17, but there was another tree which was exclusively in the garden described in Genesis 3:22, which was the tree of life.

We know this to be a literal plant which was good to eat based on the context that it had fruit, and God directly says that man could eat from it. We also know that man was not forbidden to eat from it as the prohibition was only for the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

God did not intend for death to occur in the first place. God created man in his place, the earth. This was a place which man could live and be fruitful in a paradise as the height of God's creation.

The devil himself put sin in the world by his deception of mankind, and what had been done, could not be undone. Death happens because sin is in the world, and not the place God intended for mankind. God is not punishing us, but He's saving us from a world which is ruled by the devil (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

So, why doesn't He just wisk us all away? Take us all up and let the old devil have this world, and leave it behind? Well, there is the little problem of the sin. We're tainted by sin, and cannot enter the kingdom of God not of this world (heaven) because of it (Revelation 22:14).

That's why God quickly formed a plan, and a marvelous one which no human mind could think up. He knew right away what He would do (Genesis 3:15), and He brought that salvation through Jesus Christ.

Death happens to us all. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 gives us a list of things which happen. There's a time, which has been put in place for all things. It's not that God is punishing anyone, but instead the loss of someone we love is a reminder that sin is all around us. It's a reminder that we have to find a place beyond this land of death and sin. We need God.

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