

The End of Death

Isaiah 25:6-9

The End of Death

Introduction

The End of Death Introduction

- Death is a harsh ugly reality that invades a world full of life.
- It steals hopes and dreams and too often comes too soon.

The End of Death Introduction

In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.

– Benjamin Franklin
(1706 – 1790)



The End of Death Introduction

- Few things unite all people everywhere.
- Death is one of them.
- We may not enjoy that fact, but we cannot escape it.

The End of Death Introduction

- We may grow to accept death as a reality.
- But then we may be admitting that death still wins.
- Everyone dies and there is no escape.

The End of Death Introduction

- The Bible describes death is an enemy.
- It cannot merely be accepted; it must be defeated.
- In [Isaiah 25](#), the prophet Isaiah tells us that in the end, God wins and death loses.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- 25:6, 7 On this mountain (2x)
- Isaiah is speaking of Mount Zion and Jerusalem – continuing from 24:23.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- 25:6 for all peoples a feast
- When all is said and done, The Lord is planning to celebrate, not only with Israel, but with all the nations of the earth.
- This is the fulfillment of his promise to Abraham.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)** Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- 25:6 for all peoples a feast
- Here in the land God showed Abraham, blessing will come to all peoples.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- 25:7 over all peoples ... over all nations
- Death is the shared curse.
- It goes back to Adam, but continues to this day.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **Romans 5:12** (ESV) 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.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **25:7** The nations all share the curse of death because they all share the problem of sin.
- So death covers the earth like a veil – like a shroud or sheet spread over all the people of the earth.

The End of Death Introduction

Death, pictured as a shroud and a sheet, the covering placed over a dead body, will be swallowed up or done away with. This will mean that tears of grief caused by the separation of the dead from the living also will be a thing of the past.

*– John A. Martin,
Perkins School of Theology*



The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **25:7-8a** God promises to swallow up the shroud.
- This is an early hint of just how powerful the blessing God brings through Abraham is going to be.
- Interestingly, this was not and is not any big part of Jewish belief.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9



These words hint at belief in the victory of life over death and the possibility of resurrection for the just. The Israelite faith tended to assume that there was no life after death. But the prophets, the Pharisees and finally Jesus and those who bore witness to his resurrection worked hard to change this outlook.

*– Edouard Kitoko Nsiku,
South African Theological Seminary*

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- 25:7-8a As a rabbi friend of mine told me,
“We have no concept of heaven as a destination after death so Judaism is focused on here and now.”

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **25:7-8a** God is making promises in this passage that the ordinary Jew is hesitant to believe to this day.
- And he is promising it not just to the Jewish people, but to all the peoples of the earth.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **25:8-9** He will wipe away the tears of mourning.
- There will be no hurt or sadness in the new creation.
- All that makes this world a broken place will be a thing of the past – a bad memory that will make the bliss we experience that much sweeter.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **Revelation 7:17** (ESV) For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **Revelation 21:4-5** (ESV) ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
- ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- **25:9** This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
- Salvation = *yeshua*
- It means “safety, rescue, i.e., to be in a state of freedom from danger” (Swanson)
- It is also the Hebrew name of Jesus.

The End of Death Isaiah 25:6-9

- 25:9 When the “safety, rescue, ... state of freedom from danger” eventually comes, it comes as a person.
- It comes as Jesus.
- We get not only safety; we get a Savior.

The End of Death The Gospel

The End of Death The Gospel

- How is death defeated?
- Paul explains it in **1 Corinthians 15**.

The End of Death The Gospel

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (ESV)** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

The End of Death The Gospel

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (ESV)** ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

The End of Death The Gospel

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (ESV)** ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

The End of Death The Gospel

- Paul continues, explaining that through Christ's death and resurrection, God defeats death once and for all.
- Therefore, belief in the resurrection is one of the key doctrines of the Christian faith.

The End of Death The Gospel

- **1 Corinthians 15:19-26** (ESV) ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.
- ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The End of Death The Gospel

- **1 Corinthians 15:19-26 (ESV)** ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

The End of Death The Gospel

- **1 Corinthians 15:19-26** (ESV) ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

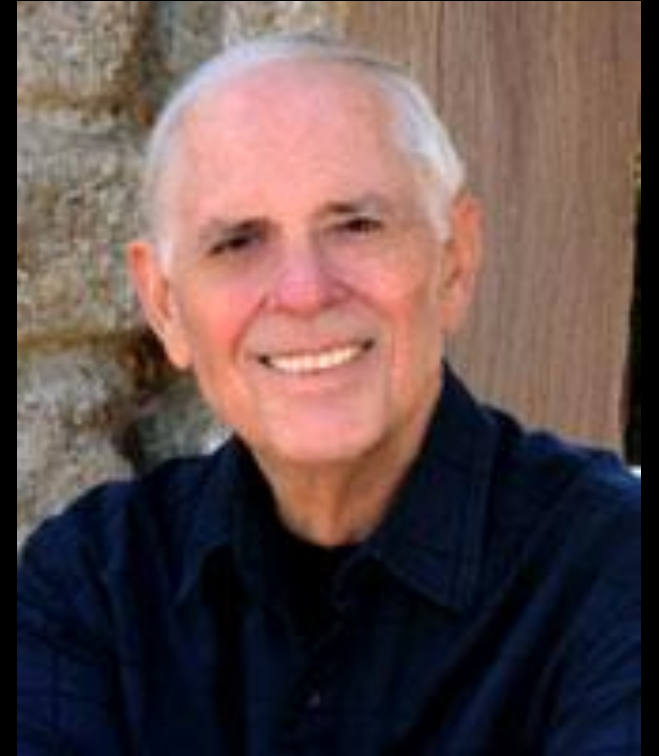
The End of Death The Gospel

- Through his death, Jesus – the Jewish Messiah – secures victory over death for all the nations of the earth.

The End of Death The Gospel

The Son pays the price of their redemption from bondage. In his resurrection he broke the power of demonic sin, guilt, and death, leaving Satan broken, though continuing to rage in history. Where sin and death had reigned, righteousness and life now reign.

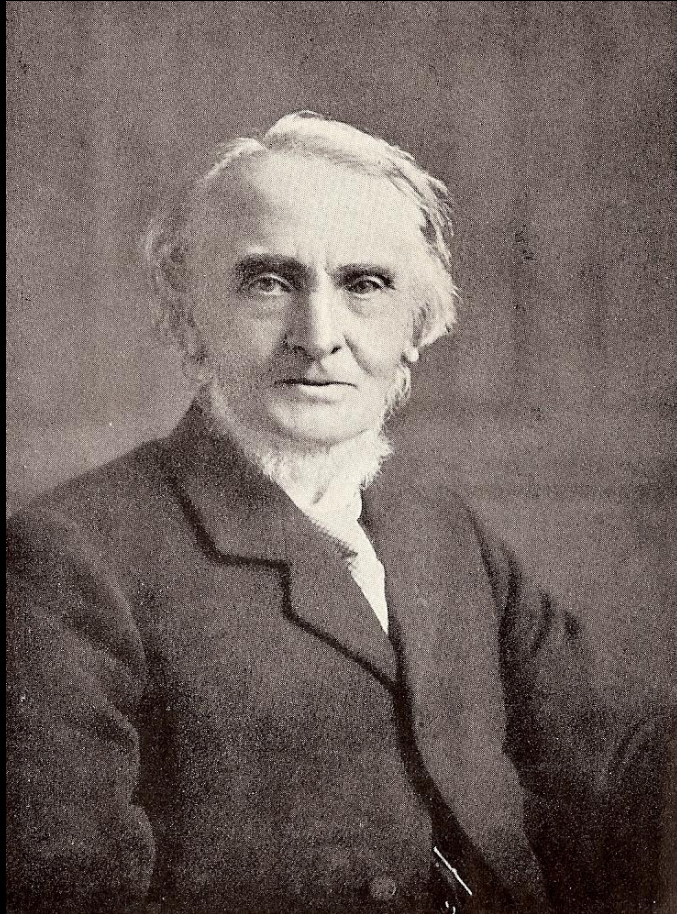
– Thomas Oden, in Classic Christianity



The End of Death The Gospel

- It is now just left to us to receive or accept the benefits of Christ's sacrifice.
- Christ has done all the work of defeating death for us.

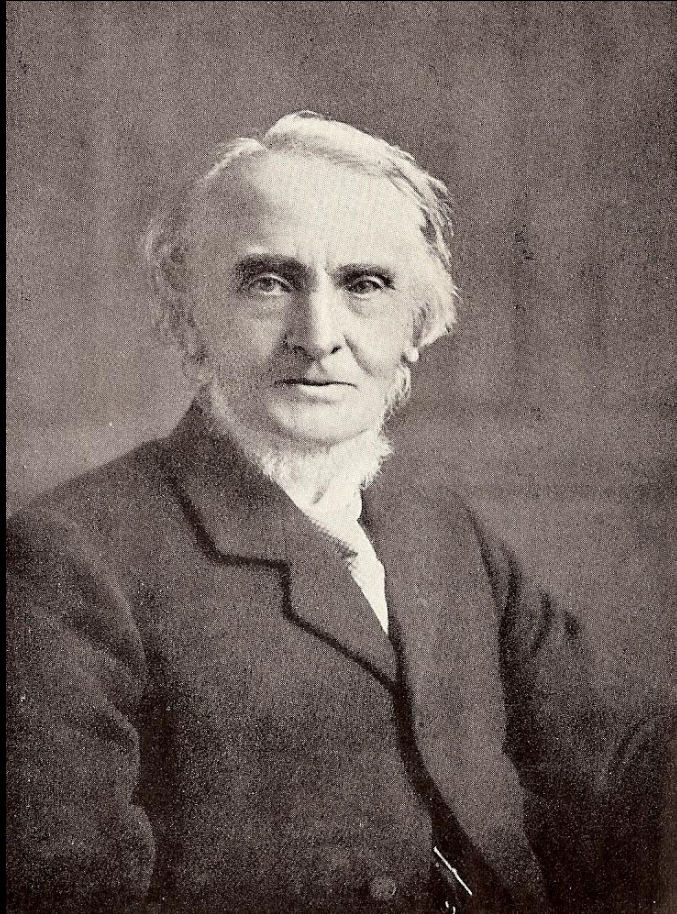
The End of Death The Gospel



By his death Christ has so altered that grim fact, which awaits us all, that to those who will trust their souls to Him it ceases to be death, even though the physical fact remains unaltered.

– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)

The End of Death The Gospel



Jesus Christ who died that we might never die, lives that we may always live. For His immortal life will give to each of us, if we join ourselves to Him by simple faith and lowly obedience, an immortal life that shall persist through, and be increased by, the article of bodily death.

– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)

The End of Death The Gospel

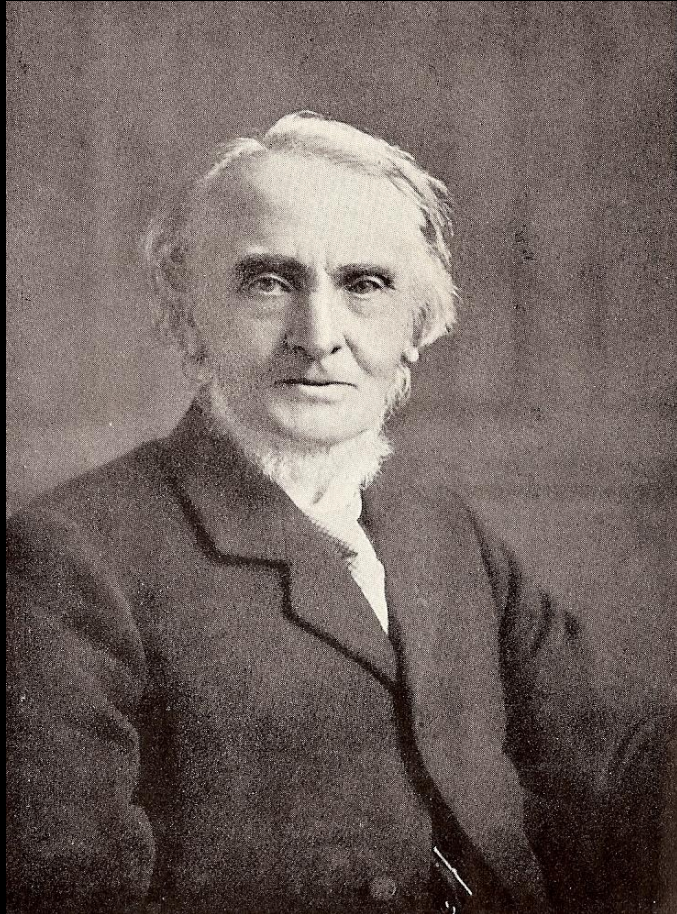
- For the Christian, death is the full entrance into eternal life.
- We now have just a taste of it.
- The banquet is yet to come.

The End of Death Conclusions

The End of Death Conclusions

- Isaiah begins this prophecy by speaking of an enormous feast that God has prepared for the nations.
- The table is set; the feast is prepared. Will we come?

The End of Death Conclusions

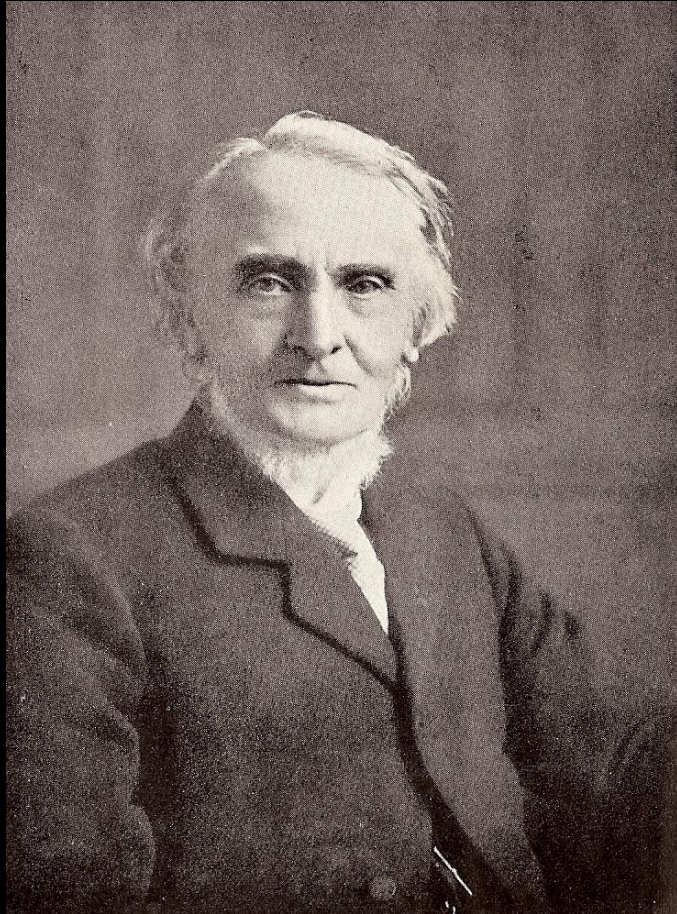


The sacrifice must be incorporated within us. It is not enough that it be offered, it must also be partaken of.

Now the true sacrifice is eaten by faith, and by occupation with it of each part of our being ... through love, obedience, hope, desire, we all may feed on Jesus.

– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)

The End of Death Conclusions



The Lord's Supper presents the same thoughts under similar symbols, as Isaiah expressed in his prophecy. Symbolically, we feast on the sacrifice when we eat the Bread ... But the true eating of the true sacrifice is by faith.

– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)

The End of Death Conclusions



“Crede et manducasti”

Believe, and you have eaten.

*– Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430 A.D.),
North African Church Father*

The End of Death Conclusions

- When death meets its end, life is eternal.
- **John 6:40** (ESV) ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
- **John 6:47** (ESV) ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.

The End of Death Conclusions

Final Prayers:

- **First Prayer:** To acknowledge that we receive the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.
- **Second Prayer:** Of Repentance before we share in the Lord's Supper: **Psalm 51**