

The Old Testament Hope



SABBATH—OCTOBER 15

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Job 19:25–27; Psalm 49; Psalm 71; Isaiah 26:14, 19; Daniel 12.



When God spoke,
His word made life happen
from nothing.

MEMORY VERSE: “God tested [gave a test to] Abraham’s faith. God told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice [burnt offering]. Abraham obeyed because he had faith. He already had the promises from God. And God had already said to him, ‘It is through [from the family line of] Isaac that your descendants [future family members] will come.’ But Abraham was ready to offer his only son. He did this because he had faith. He believed that God could raise [wake up] people from death. And really, when God stopped Abraham from killing Isaac, it was as if he got him back from death” (Hebrews 11:17–19, ERV).

THE OLD TESTAMENT teaches us about the resurrection. The resurrection is the time when God will wake up His dead followers at the Second Coming. This teaching fills us with hope. Our hope in the resurrection does not come from Greek ideas that the spirit continues to live after the body dies. No, our hope in the resurrection comes from the Bible.

But how does the resurrection happen? How can a body that is burned to ashes or that rots in the grave come alive again? How can someone who has been dead for thousands of years wake up? When God spoke, His word made life happen from nothing (Genesis 1; Psalm 33:6, 9). So, why should we not believe that He can make life new again?

This week, we look at what some Old Testament writers say about the final resurrection.

“ I WILL SEE GOD’ ” (Job 19:26, NLV)

Read what Job says about death in Job 19:25–27. Compare Job’s words with John 1:18 and 1 Timothy 6:16. When did Job expect to “see God” (Job 19:26, 27, ERV)?

Life isn’t fair. Often, good people suffer while evil people get rich and succeed (read Psalm 73:12–17; Malachi 3:14–18). Look at poor Job. Job “was a good, honest man. He respected God and refused to do evil” (Job 1:1, ERV). But God allowed Satan to cause Job to suffer in several terrible ways. Satan gave Job painful sores all over his body (Job 2:1–8). Most of Job’s farm animals and servants died (Job 1:13–17). Job’s children also died (Job 1:18, 19). Job’s friends thought God was angry with Job (Job 4:1–Job 5:27; Job 8:1–22; Job 11:1–20, and so on). Job’s own wife said to her husband, “ ‘Are you still holding on to your faith? Why don’t you just curse God and die!’ ” (Job 2:9, ERV).

Job doesn’t know that he is in the middle of the worldwide war between God and Satan. Job’s suffering is terrible. Job wishes he never was born (Job 3:1–26). But Job refuses to stop trusting in God. We see Job’s strong faith when he says, “ ‘I will continue to trust God even if he kills me’ ” (Job 13:15, ERV). Job believes his life is going to end soon. But Job believes that he will see God with his own eyes some day (Job 19:25–27). “These verses show us proof that Job believes in the resurrection. That is, Job believes that God will wake him up from the dead.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 3, page 549, adapted.

The belief in the resurrection gives Job hope in his suffering. Job is sick and in pain. He has lost so much of his stuff and also his children. Job’s friends think the worst about him. Job’s heart is broken. But Job doesn’t give up hope that God will save him. On that day, Job will look into the face of his beloved Savior. Job’s heart is filled with the same hope that fills Martha’s heart thousands of years later when she says to Jesus: “ ‘I know he [Lazarus, Martha’s brother] will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day’ ” (John 11:24, NIV). Soon Jesus will give Martha powerful proof for her belief. But Job must hold on to God’s promise by faith.

How can we learn to trust God when life isn’t fair?



Satan gave Job painful sores all over his body.

“FROM THE POWER OF THE GRAVE” (Psalm 49:12, NLV)

Read Psalm 49. Why is the writer of Psalm 49 so sure that God will resurrect him or wake him up from the dead at the Second Coming? Compare this psalm writer’s faith to the people who die without any hope that they will live again. How are they different from each other?



The wise man looks beyond the grave. He sees the reward that God promises him.

Psalm 49 talks about the fools who “trust in their money. They brag about their riches” (Psalm 49:6, ICB). They also name their “lands after themselves [their own names]” Psalm 49:11, NlrV). They live only to get rich and be praised. They behave as if their houses and their own glory will continue forever (Psalm 49:11, 17, 18).

But the fools forget that praise and life will end. These people will die the same as animals do (Psalm 49:12).

“Like [just the same as] sheep, they must die. And death will be their shepherd. Honest people will rule [have success] over them in the morning. Their bodies will rot in a grave far from home” (Psalm 49:14, ICB).

Hundreds of years earlier, Job said the same thing: “ ‘I was naked [wearing no clothes] when I was born. And I will be naked when I die’ ” (Job 1:21, ICB; 1 Timothy 6:7). The writer of Psalm 49 says that both the fool and the wise man die, and other people get their riches (Psalm 49:10).

But there is a big difference between the foolish man and the wise man. The fool dies, but he has no hope. He lived for this life only. He tried to find his self-worth in his riches and his success. The wise man looks beyond the grave. He sees the reward that God promises him (1 Peter 1:4). That is why the writer of Psalm 49 says, “But God will pay the price to save me from the grave. He will take me to be with him” (Psalm 49:15, ERV).

The writer of Psalm 49 is not saying that when he dies his spirit will fly to heaven right away. The writer is saying that he will not stay in the grave forever. A time will come when God will save him from death. Then God will take him to heaven. Psalm 49 gives us hope in the resurrection. That is the time when God will wake up His people from the dead. At that time, the wise will get a better reward than the foolish got during this short life.

In what ways do you see the mistakes of people who trust in riches and success? How can keeping your eyes on the cross protect you from making this same mistake?

“FROM THIS PIT OF DEATH!” (Psalm 71:20, ERV)

Read Psalm 71. What does Psalm 71 teach us when we read: “lift me up from this pit of death!” (Psalm 71:20, ERV)?

The man in Psalm 71 seeks safety and hope with God. Enemies and accusers crowd him. They lie to him. They say God has left him alone forever (Psalm 71:10, 11).

The man in Psalm 71 feels comfort and peace when he thinks about how God cared for him in the past. First, the man knows that God took care of him since he was born (Psalm 71:6). Then the man says that God is his Teacher. God taught him since he was a youth.

The man in Psalm 71 knows that God is his strength and keeps him safe. That is why the man says, “Be my place of safety where I can always come. Give the command to save me. You are my rock and my strong, walled city” (Psalm 71:3, ICB). And he writes “Do not reject me when I am old. Do not leave me when my strength is gone” (Psalm 71:9, ICB). He also adds, “God, don’t leave me! My God, hurry and help me!” (Psalm 71:12, ERV). And the writer of the psalm says, “You have let me see troubles and hard times, but you will give me new life; you will lift me up from this pit of death!” (Psalm 71:20, ERV).

What does “you will lift me up from this pit of death” really mean? Is the man in Psalm 71 talking about the resurrection? The resurrection happens when God will wake him up from the dead. The psalm writer uses this word picture to show us his feelings. He feels very sad. He compares his feelings to falling into a deep pit (compare with Psalm 88:6 and Psalm 130:1). So, we can say that “‘this pit of death’ is a word picture. But the word picture also suggests the idea of the resurrection or waking up from the dead.”—*Andrews Study Bible*, note on Psalm 71:20, p. 726, adapted.

Psalm 71 teaches us that God cares for us. Psalm 71 also teaches us that we don’t find our hope in this life. We find it in the life to come. That hope is everlasting life. Jesus will give us this life after He resurrects us or wakes us up from the dead at the Second Coming.

How has the Lord been with you in the past? Why do we need to remember how God takes care of us? How can those memories help you to trust in Him when life is hard?



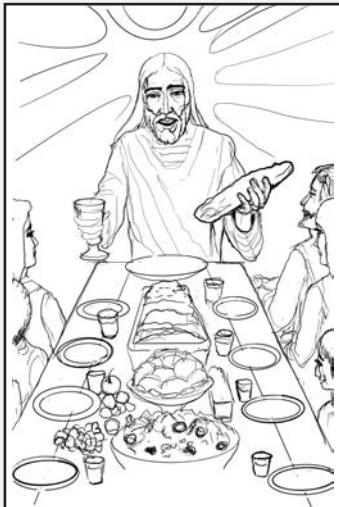
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“YOUR DEAD WILL LIVE” (Isaiah 26:19, NIV)

Compare Isaiah 26:14 with Isaiah 26:19. Isaiah talks about the people who will stay dead forever and the ones who will get everlasting life. How are these two groups of people different? (Read also Malachi 4:1).

Isaiah 26 talks about what will happen in the future. The evil people will stay dead after the “second death” (Revelation 21:8, ERV). The second death happens after the 1,000 years in heaven, which start after the Second Coming. When the 1,000 years end, Jesus and His people will come back to the earth with the Holy City. Then Jesus will wake up the dead evil people. The evil ones will be destroyed forever: “Those dead lords will not come to life. Those ghosts will not rise from death. You decided to destroy them, and you destroyed everything that makes us think about them” (Isaiah 26:14, ERV). This verse supports the Bible teaching that there are no spirits that stay alive after death. Later, the Lord tells His special messenger Malachi the same thing: “ ‘That time of judgment [the day when God will judge the living and the dead] is coming. It [the day when God judges] will be like [the same as] a hot furnace [very hot oven]. All the proud people will be punished. All the evil people will burn like straw. At that time [on that future day] they will be like a bush burning in the fire, and there will not be a branch or root left.’ This is what the LORD All-Powerful said” (Malachi 4:1, ERV).

At the Second Coming of Christ, the people who died in Jesus will wake up from the dead. God will give them their reward: everlasting life. Isaiah 25 tells us, “God will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away every tear from every face. God will take away the shame of his people from the earth. The Lord has spoken [promised]” (Isaiah 25:8, ICB). In Isaiah 26, we read: “LORD, your people who have died will live again. Their bodies will rise from the dead. Let those [people] who lie in the grave wake up and shout for joy. You give life, LORD, like the dew of the morning. So the earth will give up its dead people” (Isaiah 26:19, NIV). Then the people who wake up from the dead will sit down to a feast with the Lord (Isaiah 25:6). All the people saved by Jesus from every age will sit down together. That includes your loved ones who died in Jesus.



The people who wake up from the dead will sit down to a feast with the Lord.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT (Daniel 12)

Read Daniel 12. What hope do we find in this chapter about the resurrection? As we already saw, the resurrection is the time when Jesus will wake up the dead at the Second Coming.

Daniel 12:1 talks about Michael. Michael is “ ‘the great [powerful] prince’ ” (Daniel 12:1, ERV). Many people don’t know who Michael is. But the book of Daniel gives us a big hint. In this book, all of Daniel’s dreams about the future end with Jesus and His kingdom. So, we understand that chapter 12 will talk about Jesus and heaven, too. Also, in other verses in Daniel, we read about many different names for the Lord. The Lord also is named “the commander of heaven’s armies” (Daniel 8:11, ICB). Other names for the Lord in the book of Daniel include: “the Prince of Princes” (Daniel 8:25, ERV), “ ‘the chosen king’ ” (Daniel 9:25, ERV), and finally, “ ‘Michael, the great [powerful] prince’ ” (Daniel 12:1, ICB). So, we should see that Michael is another name for Jesus.

So far this week, we have looked at these Old Testament verses: Job 19:25–27; Psalm 49:15; Psalm 71:20; and Isaiah 26:19. All of these verses talk about the resurrection of saved people. That is, they talk about the time when Jesus will wake up His people from the dead. But Daniel 12 talks about a time when Jesus will resurrect or wake up all saved people and several evil people at the same time. When will that be? When “ ‘Michael will stand up. Michael is in charge of [leads] your people’ ” (Daniel 12:1, ERV). When Michael stands up, He shows us that His work as Judge in heaven is finished. At that time, Gabriel says: “ ‘There will be a time of much trouble, the worst time since nations have been on earth. But Daniel, at that time every one of your people whose name is found written in the book of life will be saved’ ” (Daniel 12:1, ERV). Then “ ‘many people who have already died will live again. Some of them will wake up to have life forever. But some [people] will wake up to find shame and disgrace forever’ ” (Daniel 12:2, ICB).

Many people believe that Daniel 12:2 is talking about a special group of evil people that God will wake up from the dead at the Second Coming. This group will wake up with all the saved people who ever lived. (Read Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, page 637; see also Friday’s study.)



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ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Read Ellen G. White, “Visions of Future Glory,” pages 722–733, in *Prophets and Kings*.



“Graves open. ‘Many people who have already died will live again. . . .’ Daniel 12:2, [ICB]”

“Graves open. ‘Many people who have already died will live again. Some of them will wake up to have life forever. But some [people] will wake up to find shame and disgrace forever.’ Daniel 12:2, [ICB]. Everyone who died believing in the Third Angel’s Message will wake up. These people will come out of the grave with a new body that is full of glory. This body will never die. The ones who wake up from the dead will hear God’s promise of peace. God makes this promise to everyone who kept His law. Another group of people wakes up from the dead, too, at this time: ‘Everyone will see him, even those who stabbed him’ (Revelation 1:7, [ICB]). This group includes the men who made fun of Jesus while He hung dying on the cross. God also will wake up the people who fought the most against His commandments and hurt His people. God will wake up these evil people so that they can see Jesus in His glory. They will see that God honors the people who were loyal and obedient to Him.” —Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, page 637, adapted.

“God is the One who gives life. As the Life-giver, the Lord will wake up from the dead the ones He saved. This time is known as the first resurrection. At that time, God shall blow the trumpet, and everyone who died in Jesus shall wake up. Until that time, God will keep every sleeping saint safe. God will protect His sleeping saints the same as precious jewels. God knows each of His sleeping saints by name. When they lived, the Savior lived in them. They became holy as Jesus is holy. Because they became holy, God will wake them up from the dead.”—Ellen G. White Comments, *The SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 4, page 1143, adapted.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① There are many billions of stars. Some of these stars have planets that circle around them. God made all these stars and planets. God keeps them all going and knows them all by name (Psalm 147:4)! Wow! Our God is very powerful! How can thinking about what God made help us believe in resurrection?
- ② Hebrews 11 talks about the “heroes of faith” in the Old Testament. How can this chapter help us better understand the hope that people in the Old Testament had before Jesus came to this earth, died, and then woke up from the dead?

SHARING LIVING WATER

Antonio Maldonado was a guest at a dinner at the White House. He was with a group of miners from Peru. Antonio watched as a waiter served whiskey to the guests. The guests were about to lift their glasses and take a sip in honor of the president of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson. Antonio wanted to honor the president, too. But first, he wanted to switch his whiskey for water. Antonio did not speak much English. So, he told someone who spoke English and Spanish what he wanted. Then that person, the interpreter, told the waiter.

Everyone at the special dinner held a glass of whiskey. Antonio didn't want to embarrass anyone from his country sitting at the table. These leaders came to talk with the president about trading with Peru. Antonio didn't want to ruin their trade talks with the United States! When Antonio was a young man, he made a special promise to God. Antonio promised never to drink after seeing how alcohol destroyed many families.

While Antonio whispered to the White House waiter, a man watched him. The man watched the waiter bring Antonio a glass of water. The man watched as Antonio accepted the glass.

Then the man said, "Waiter, stop! What did this man from Peru ask you to do?"

The waiter said, "This guest wanted me to change his glass of whiskey for a glass of water, Mr. President."

Lyndon Johnson, the man who watched Antonio, held out his own glass of whiskey to the waiter. "Please bring me a glass of water, too," he said.

After the toast, the president approached Antonio and asked quietly, "Why don't you drink alcohol as the other guests do?"

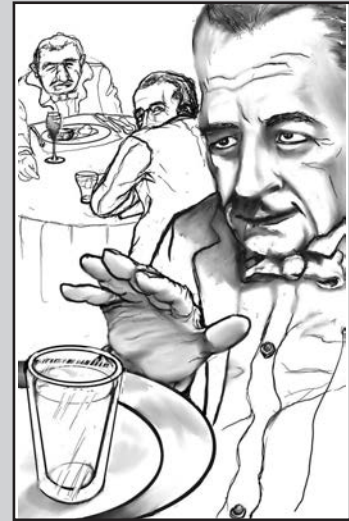
With the interpreter's help, Antonio happily answered. "When I was young, I promised myself I would never drink. Many years later I made that promise again to God," he said.

The president shook Antonio's hand. "Thank you for being an excellent example. I also am a man of faith. God bless you." Antonio's decision never to drink alcohol had led him to have a meeting that he never expected with one of the most powerful men on earth. Antonio was filled with joy that he had shared his faith at the White House.

Today, Antonio tries to share Jesus every day with people where he lives in Concepción, Peru, with his wife, Enma. Antonio is 99, and his wife is 90. Their lives show the important Bible rule: "So if you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything to honor God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, NLV).

This story shows Spiritual Growth Task Number 5: "We will help people and families live more Spirit-filled lives." Read more at IWillGo2020.org.

INSIDE *Story* by DAVID MALDONADO



"Please bring me a glass of water, too," the President said.

