



AWAKENINGS!

Coming Alive to that Other Realm

THE FIRST EASTER

Luke 23:55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Luke 24:1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, **they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.** ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, **“Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen!** Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” ⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

Q – What are some important implications of Jesus being raised from the dead? _____

Q – Do you know anyone who claims to have had a Near-Death Experience or an Out-of-Body Experience? _____

Core Elements of the NDE Experience

1. Out-of-body experience: separation of consciousness from the physical body (75.4%)
2. Heightened senses (74.4%)
3. Intense and generally positive emotions or feelings (76.2%)
4. Passing into or through a tunnel (33.8%)
5. Encountering a mystical or brilliant light (64.6%)
6. Encountering other beings, either mystical beings or deceased relatives or friends (57.3%)
7. A sense of alteration of time or space (60.5%)
8. Life review (22.2%)
9. Encountering unworldly realms (52.2%)
10. Encountering or learning special knowledge (56%)
11. Encountering a boundary or barrier (31%)
12. A return to the body (58.5%)

Q – Which of the Core NDE elements hold the most fascination for you? _____

Q – What strikes you most about these NDE accounts? _____

JESUS' OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE

1Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ **through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison** ²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

1. Jesus died to atone for **SINS**... but not His own.
2. He didn't **DESERVE** His death sentence... He was a Righteous Man.
3. His death was actually atoning for the sins of **OTHERS**... unrighteous people like you and me.
4. His death made a way for unrighteous humans to be **RECONCILED** with God their Creator, Who is also totally Righteous.
5. The death of this One Righteous Man was **ENOUGH** "once for all"
6. Because of Jesus' atoning death on the cross people can be **RESCUED** from God's judgment, just like the Ark in Noah's day.
7. Jesus can **SAVE** people today and clear their conscience before God.
8. *Jesus had an Out-Of-Body experience!*

Q – What do you think motivated Jesus to suffer and die to atone for our sins? _____

Q – Had you ever heard The Apostles' Creed before? _____

THE BIBLE... AND NOW SCIENCE

- This life is not all there is.
- There are other realms outside of this one.
- The most desirable realm, the one meant for humans, is more real, more beautiful, brighter and more colorful and filled with more beautiful scenery and music and Life, Love, and Light, than anything ever experienced in this world.
- Physical death is not the end, but instead a doorway into that realm.

Q – Do you know for sure where you are headed after you die?

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

1Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

Galatians. 2:16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:4 But because of her great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Response:

- I have complete confidence of where I'm headed after I die.*
- I can't honestly say I'm sure about that, but I'd like to get there.*
- I'm not really a Jesus person at this point, but I am intrigued by what I've heard. I plan to research this more.*
- I'm interested enough to come back next Sunday.*

Resources

Life After Life, Raymond Moody. 13 million copies sold. Interviewed 150 people who experienced NDE's.

Beyond Death: Exploring the Evidence for Immortality, Dr. Gary Habermas with J.P. Moreland

Evidence of the Afterlife: The Science of Near-Death Experiences, Dr. Jeffrey Long MD with Paul Perry.

The Case for Heaven: A Journalist Investigates Evidence for Life After Death, Lee Strobel

Imagine Heaven and What's After Life? John Burke, Pastor of Gateway Church in Austin, TX

AFTER: A Doctor Explores What Near Death Experiences Reveal about Life and Beyond, Bruce Greyson, M.D.

After the Light: What I Discovered on the Other Side of Life that Can Change Your Life, Kimberly Clark Sharp