

52nd – Bible Seeds Podcast

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● **Intro Music** - “My Father Is So Good To Me”

Hi, my name is Carl Vasta and I would like to welcome you to the Bible Seeds section here, at Understanding God’s Word. This is where I get to comment on biblical readings and stories that brings the bible into what’s happening to us in our daily lives.

I’ll touch on such topics as Family Prayer or Why I Believe There Is A God. I’ll talk about what was predicted that makes these the Terrible Times In The Last Days or how to Have A Daily Meaningful Relationship With God.

Today's topic is: **Life After Death**

In our lives today, we live with an un-ending bombardment of stress. Besides the daily bad news about Covid 19, masks, vaccines, lock downs for schools and businesses, supply shortages, rising crime rates, school boards who are ready to teach your children to apologize for their skin color, and promote early sex education; all kinds!

Ah, then there is the politicians.... who cannot be trusted to speak the truth about anything but spout constant lies about everyone and everything. All this is on top of trying to make a living, pay bills, and take care of your family or yourself.

Underneath all of this is the constant **threat of dying or being killed!** There are whole industries that depends on people dying: doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, medical insurance, ambulance service, life insurance, cemetery and burial services, cremations, lawyers to settle the disbursements of wills and properties, judicial courts and agencies to regulate these industries, and at the bottom, the people who die and those who are left behind that have to pay dearly for the death of a loved one.

How much stress do you think could be taken away from our lives if we really didn't have to worry about **DEATH**. Satan doesn't want you to stop worrying about death! It's the constant pressure that dis-oriens your pursuit of happiness in this life.

If GOD, your creator would show you what is waiting for you after you die, you would probably say, ***"What am I doing on the Earth? Get me out of that place!"***

Of all the interviews with people who had a death experiences, that is a person who died for a while and came back to life after being clinically dead, mostly no one was reported as saying ***"I want to come back to this world."*** They wanted to stay where they were after they had died. There have been thousands of people who experienced this!

We live in an era like no other. We have the doctors who have studied and experienced life after death situations from people who died because of accidents, heart attacks and surgical procedures.

We have stories from patients who were born blind and died during surgery and saw all that happened and described it perfectly later. After they came back, they were still blind, but amazed at what they saw.

In a new book from Lee Strobel titled “A Case For Heaven”, “he tells of a study of 21 blind people, most of them blind since birth, who during their near death experiences, could see for the first time.”

“For instance, Vickie, [he gives her last name but I’m only going to give you her first name here] she was 26 years old, blind since birth, in a car accident – she is declared dead, and yet she later says, ‘My spirit separated from my body. I watched the resuscitation efforts. I saw people for the first time.’ She’s never even seen shadows before and says, ‘I saw people, I saw plants, I saw trees, I saw animals’ And then when her spirit returned to her body and she was revived, her eyesight disappeared again.

As one medical researcher said, ‘This is medically impossible. This can’t happen!’ And yet, Lee Strobel says, “We have multiple cases like that.”

“And of course, the most famous one involves a woman named Maria who died in the hospital of a heart attack. She says, “I was alive the whole time. I watched my resuscitation efforts but my spirit floated out of the hospital.” And when her spirit returned, it was reunited and her body was reanimated, and she said, ‘By the way, there’s a man’s tennis shoe on the third story ledge, the roof of the hospital. And it’s dark blue, it’s left footed, it’s a

man's shoe, there's some wear over the little toe and the shoelace is tucked under the heel.'

And so they go to the roof and guess what. They find it! Exactly like she described it."

God is still giving his creation the message that **"there is a place out there waiting for those who believe in Him and the promise of everlasting life that Jesus told us about is true."**

In the book of **John, Chapter 14: Verses 1-3**, Jesus tells his apostles, ***Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house, there are many places to live, enough for all who will be with the Father and me; if that were not so, would I tell you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so you may be where I am with the Father.***"

And there were those who asked, 'From those who died and came back, were there any stories of people who died and experienced **HELL?**'

Lee Strobel did mention about a professor, [***He mentions his whole name but I will give you his first name***]

His name is Howard. He was an atheist. He was a professor at a secular university, the head of the art department. He dies in the hospital, but he says, "Yeah, they were saying I'm dead, but I'm standing right next to my body, I'm still alive ... my soul is still alive!

And some guys in the hallway say, 'Come with us'. So he says "OK." So he follows them down the hallway of the hospital, down a corridor, down another corridor and finally he says, "Where are we going, we been walking forever?"

And they started to get really mean to him and started clawing him and biting him and swearing at him and he says, "literally they reduced me to road kill." His eye was gouged out, his ear was chewed off and he said, "No horror movie could capture the cruelty of what they did to me!" And then he called out to Jesus; Jesus came, rescued him" and then ultimately he is revived, comes back, his spirit is reunited with his body. He resumes consciousness.

He not only rejects his atheism, he not only becomes a Christian, he becomes an ordained pastor and to this day, he is a pastor of a tiny little church in Oklahoma.

Lee says, "Twenty four percent of these experiences are hellish experiences or negative experiences in some way." He goes on to explain that it's important to understand that people in death experiences are dead, but reversibly dead or clinically dead. [*like Lazarus.*] I don't think we can count on coming back when we are irreversibly dead! **As it says Book of Hebrews, Chapter 9: verse 27**

Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God.

In the Old Testament, **HELL** is not mentioned. But there is a place called "*Sheol*," which refers to the dwelling place of people after death. There was a place for those who lived righteously and a place for the wicked, the ones in whom evil dwells in their hearts.

Luke 16:19-31 supports this view with a story from Jesus called **Lazarus And The Rich Man**. A story about a poor beggar named Lazarus, who lived outside a rich man's house hoping to receive scraps of food from the rich man's table. They both died and went to their respective places.

It was still Sheol, and the place for the righteous was called **'Abraham's Bosom'** because Abraham was there to welcome the righteous.

From his place of torment, the rich man saw Lazarus with Abraham and asked if Lazarus 'could dip his fingers in water and cool my tongue and stop this burning!'

But Abraham told him 'Remember, my son, when your life was filled with all good things while Lazarus had a bad life and no one cared. Now Lazarus is being comforted while you are being tormented.

Also, there is a deep pit between us so anyone who would pass from here to you cannot, and no one can cross from where you are to us.'

The rich man said, "Then I beg you father Abraham, send Lazarus to my five brothers at my father's house to warn them so they will not end up here where I am being tormented!"

Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them."

The rich man answered, "That is not enough of a warning, father Abraham! But if someone were to rise from death and go to them, they would repent."

But Abraham said, "If they do not take the words of Moses and the prophets seriously, then they will not be convinced even if someone were to rise from death."

In 1st Corinthians 2:9, Paul says, ***'No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him'—***

In Revelation 21:4, The Apostle John says ***He (GOD) 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.***

We are living in an age that is rushing to the tribulation, when sin is coming to full bloom and the love in this world is growing cold.

Now is the time **to believe** that Jesus has already taken the punishment for your sins, so that you may be **raptured** and taken off this Earth before GOD's punishment of all who are stubborn in their evil, and who blatantly ignore God's invitation to everlasting life in Heaven with Him.

Back Ground Music Starts and

I would like you to know how much GOD loves you. He is ready and waiting to help you. You just need to believe that He exists and has created all things and has given ***His Son Jesus, the good shepherd*** to bring you back to him.

This is why I put together these pod casts, starting with **The Storyline Of The Bible**, 19 easy understandable pod casts that take you from Genesis, the first book of the bible- to Revelation, the last book of the bible.

And beyond that, there are **The Stories And Quotes From Jesus**, which will help you to strengthen your faith in God. And now I have just added these **Bible Seeds**: my commentary on some of these readings.

You can find all of this and print out the PDFs for **Storyline Of The Bible** and **Quotes and Stories from Jesus**. You can download the MP3s, Videos, and my original music from my website: www.carlvasta.com Everything is free and there are no sign ups. Enjoy!

Ending The Program

This is your host Carl Vasta and I thank you for tuning in to Bible Seeds at Understanding God's Word.

New podcasts are released on Sundays at 12:30PM Pacific Coast Time. God bless you and your loved ones and remember. . .