

WHICH APPOINTMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP?

Or, check the ones you dread?

() DENTIST () COLONOSCOPY () DEATH

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is **appointed unto men once to die**, but after this the judgment:

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and **to kill, and to destroy**: I am come that they might have **life**, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The scripture in Hebrews tells us that each of us has an appointment with death, **but is there any way to avoid keeping or canceling that appointment?** Well, maybe if we are alive when Christ returns as it is written in I Corinthians 15:54 *“and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”* But, since we do not know the timing of his return and that return may be beyond our typical lifespan, are we, in the meantime, doomed to keep that appointment with death?

Yes, we have had tutors and governors—particularly in the last century—that have said that there are “promising scriptures” that say it may be possible to attain immortality even before Jesus returns. (Even Enoch, in his day, obtained immortality). And, whether that happens for us or not, **we should present ourselves as candidates for immortality**. Even as Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego, when facing the fiery furnace said, *“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”*

Unfortunately, many of the tutors and governors that have taught this message have passed on and did not live to see the appointed fulfillment time: *But is under tutors and governors until the **time appointed of the father***. Well, since they didn’t make it, should we just throw up our hands and forget about it, or is our time eminent? Consider the following scripture:

Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 **Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Then the question becomes, who is waiting upon who? Certainly the Father knows the timing and outcome of events. But, if Jesus is waiting in the heavens for us to do restitution and restoration and we are just sitting on our hands just waiting for Jesus to return, it would seem an impasse exists. Who is waiting on who?

Certainly, timing is critical—particularly that of the appointed time. Have you ever wondered why Ephraim was called *“a cake not turned”*. in the scriptures? Something that is not turned is taken off the fire before the process is completed. *The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.* (Psalm 78:9). While the Bible tells little detail about what happened, the book of Jasher—referred to in Joshua and II Samuel—tells us the Ephraimites tried to leave Egypt before the completion of the 400-year span that was prophesied. God was not ready for them to leave. However, when it is time to go, it is time to go as Joshua and Caleb pleaded with the Israelites to go forward into the promised land.

So, are we getting very close to some large event that is about to happen—without trying to define exactly just what that event is?

Luke 13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, **and the third day I shall be perfected.**

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

If we define a day as one thousand years, it has been about 2000 years since Jesus' earthly ministry. He was 30 years old when he began his ministry, and some scholars say that he was actually born about six years earlier than given on our current calendar. Further, is there a transition about to take place from the New Testament ministry—casting out devils and cures--given two-thousand years ago where the Lord now brings forth another "new thing."?

Now, lets return to our discussion about the tutors and governors who saw a pathway to immortality even before the return of Jesus—but were not able to attain it because they died. What were the scriptures that they were bringing forth? Yes, it is appointed to men once to die and then the judgment, but could it be possible there are some exceptions?

Psalm 79:11 ¹¹ Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power **preserve thou those that are appointed to die;**

Well, this could possibly have been written specially for some prisoners that were being sentenced to a death penalty. But, in actuality, is not all Adamic offspring under a sentence of death until they are redeemed by the blood of Jesus? Upon the death of Lazarus, did not Jesus give hints of this to Martha when she was overwhelmed with grief?

John 11: 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

No doubt Martha was mainly interested in the resurrection part of Jesus' words but were the statements of verse 26 being overlooked, or were these words given for a later time—for a generation to come?

Psalm 102:18 **This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD.**

19 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth;

20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death;

21 To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem;

22 When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD

DOES THE WORD "GROANING" RING A BELL WITH ANY OF YOU NEW TESTAMENT READERS?

NO DOUBT IT DOES WHEN YOU REVIEW THE FOLLOWING VERSES FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS.

Romans 8: 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

ARE WE THAT GENERATION TO COME WHICH GROANS WITHIN OURSELVES TO HAVE THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODIES AND TO BE LOOSED FROM OUR APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH?