

RUSSIA SEMINAR TALKS, SEEKERS TRACK
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LECTURE 7: IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?

INTRODUCTION

One of the great questions people have asked through the ages is, "What happens when I die?" Do I cease to exist, as some claim? Do I get born into another body to live on earth repeatedly? Do I move into one of two types of eternal existence - heaven or hell - which depend on what I have done in this life?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

We have suggested in previous lectures that God exists, and that he is to be identified with the infinite, personal God revealed in the Bible. What does the Bible have to say about this question?

Appointed to man once to die and after that the judgment
(Heb 9:27)
"Born again" not reincarnation! (Jn 3:3 context)

According to the Bible, at death we neither cease to exist nor come back to earth for another chance. This life is the crucial place in which we must make the choices that determine our destiny forever, whether for a life of bliss beyond imagination or for an existence of everlasting pain and regret.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF LIFE:

The Bible pictures two different kinds of existence in the age to come. (1) Life with God in the age to come is life indeed. (2) Separation from God in the age to come is so unlike even our imperfect life that it is called "the second death."

PROBLEM OF NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES AND SEANCES:

But what about all these reports of people who have experienced death or come close to it, and have come back with stories that indicate it is not so bad even if you don't believe in God?

Are the reported near-death experiences an unrepresentative selection of data? There is evidence of unpleasant near-death experiences which are apparently soon suppressed by persons experiencing them. Is there no other explanation for such reports and the messages that come in seances? If not all supernatural beings are nice guys, then how do we know near-death experiences are reality rather than fictional entertainment?