

## A Misguided Hope

Reincarnation is the belief that the souls of the dead are reborn into new earthly forms or bodies. Many people claim to have lived before and are now living in new bodies and conducting new lives. Some even claim to have spoken to Jesus, and have written books telling of their experiences in the land beyond. What does the Word of God have to say about such claims?

- “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27; cf. 2 Cor 5:10; Matt 25:31ff).
- To the Christian Paul said, “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor 5:1).
- “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it” (Ecc 12:7).
- “Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun ... Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (Ecc 9:9-10).

Solomon emphasized that we have one life in which to enjoy the virtues of marriage and the rewards of honest labor. Following that one life, Solomon, too, warned of a judgment to come. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all; for God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecc 12:13-14).

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.