

God's Mercy in Death

by Hugh Ross

God judges people in two categories: 1) the righteous (those submitted to God)—all evil deeds are erased and forgotten and their reward is based on good deeds alone; 2) the wicked (those who are rebellious)—all good deeds are erased and forgotten and their torment is based on evil deeds alone.

Background references on death

Genesis 2:16-17

Genesis 3:22

Genesis 6:3

Proverbs 16:4

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4

Ecclesiastes 8:8

Ecclesiastes 9:2-6

Isaiah 65:19-25

Ezekiel 18:20-32

John 16:5-11

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

Hebrews 9:27

Revelation 20:11-15

The righteous sometimes die young

—to protect from future torment

—to protect heavenly reward

—as an instrument for good

1 Kings 14:6-13

2 Kings 20:1-21:16

2 Chronicles 32:22-33:6

Isaiah 36-39

Psalms 23:4

Isaiah 57:1-2

Acts 4:32-5:11

Acts 7:54-8:4

Acts 9

The righteous sometimes die old

—to maximize heavenly reward

—to protect a spiritual heritage

—to provide an opportunity to achieve an ignored priority

Psalms 116:15

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

Philippians 1:21-26

Ephesians 2:10

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Revelation 14:13

The wicked sometimes die young

—lack of wisdom

—led astray by folly

—to stop the spread of wickedness

Genesis 38:6-19

Job 20:4-11

Psalms 55:15

—to limit judgment on the wicked

—to limit grief of relatives

—to transfer wealth to the righteous

Proverbs 5:21-23

Proverbs 29:16

Ecclesiastes 2:26

The wicked sometimes die old

—To give them time to turn from their evil ways

Ezekiel 18:23

1 Timothy 2:4

2 Peter 3:9

Revelation 2:21