



# A TIME TO DIE

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'A Time to Die'  
by  
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# A TIME TO DIE

Do you ever wonder when you will die? Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 says – *‘For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: <sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die.’* You can read this verse thinking it means that God set in stone in advance exactly when they would be born and when they will die. But what the passage really means is that there are times in life when these things will happen – there was a time when you were born and there will be a time when you will die, if Jesus doesn’t return first, but that time isn’t determined in advance.

## *The Days Ordained for You*

God always knew that you would be born and has always had a plan for your life. Psalm 139:16 says – *‘In your book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there were none of them.’* Also, Psalm 31:15 says – *‘My times are in your hand.’* God’s plan for you includes how long you live, but He doesn’t force His plan on you – it can be thwarted by circumstances, by choices you and/or others make, by poor living conditions, poor nutrition or by illness or accident etc. In Jeremiah 29:11 God says – *‘For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.’* (KJV). God’s desire is that you will live all the days He has ordained for you so your death will be at the expected time.

God wants everyone to live a long fulfilling life and His plan for death isn’t a painful or violent or long drawn-out end, but simply falling asleep. Life can of course be cut short, but it isn’t God who cuts it short – it is the devil. Jesus calls him the thief in John 10:10

– *“The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.”* It is a tragedy when anyone dies before their appointed time. But when a Christian dies the devil doesn’t have the last laugh. In fact he loses big time because that person goes straight into God’s presence to live in love, peace and joy for eternity.

## *God Gives Life, He doesn’t Take It*

In Job 1:21 Job said – *“The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the LORD’s name.”* I’ve heard people quote this to ‘prove’ that it is God who ends everyone’s life. But this was spoken by Job after the devil had robbed him of everything and everyone he loved. When God spoke to him, he realised he had been wrong and said in Job 42:3 – *“I have uttered that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I didn’t know.”* Job had got it wrong – God gives good things and He doesn’t take them away. You may reject them or allow the devil to steal them, but God is a God who gives, not takes away. It is the devil who takes away. Read again what Jesus says in John 10:10 – *“The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.”*

## *An Age to Die?*

The Bible mentions a specific lifespan in two places. The first is in Genesis 6:3 before the great flood, where God said that the length of people’s lives would be – *‘one hundred and twenty years.’* But the few people who survived the flood lived for hundreds of years. God was probably saying that the flood was coming in 120 years’ time. This would mean that most of the people had 120 years left to live.

The second is in Psalm 90:10 which says – *‘The days of our years are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty years.’* This was spoken by Moses and may have applied only to the time when he was leading God’s people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. They wandered in the desert for forty years where most of them died and this could have been their average lifespan. If it was meant to be a general rule, it must have been setting a minimum as many people live beyond 70. And notice, it allows for people to live longer to at least 80 years *‘by reason of strength’*. In other words, your health and physical fitness can influence how long you live. You can be sure that God wants you to live to at least 70.

## *Satisfied with Long Life*

The Bible says that the time God wants you to die is when you have reached old age and are satisfied. In Psalm 91:14&16 God says – *‘Because he has set his love on me ... <sup>16</sup>I will satisfy him with long life.’* It is clear that God has a long satisfying life planned for everyone who loves Him. I’ve heard people say that everyone’s got to die of something, meaning that it’s inevitable that you will die of sickness or by an accident or a tragedy. But it’s not true. It can be simply falling asleep because you have fulfilled your God-ordained days, what is called dying of old-age.

Knowing that God wants you to live a long satisfying life will help you to stand against sickness. Speak this truth out loud and command the sickness to leave in Jesus’s name. James 4:7 says – *‘Be subject therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.’* Live for God in the way He wants you to live and resist the devil and all his sicknesses. (For more teaching on healing read my booklet, ‘God Wants You To Be Well’.)

God's plan for you is a peaceful simple end with no pain or stress or anxiety. If you're not satisfied with the length of life you've already lived, then know God has more in store for you.

## *Value Your Days*

Psalm 90:12 says – *'... teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.'* Numbering your days doesn't mean ticking them off on a calendar. It means making each day count. Value each day of your life whether you're busy or relaxing. Don't waste it. Live each day for God, not worrying about dying. Choose to live for life, not fear.

## *You can Lengthen Your Life*

How you live can impact the length of your life. Proverbs 3:1-2 says – *'My son, don't forget my teaching; but let your heart keep my commandments: <sup>2</sup>for length of days, and years of life, and peace, will they add to you.'* Living your life God's way will actually add years to your life.

Proverbs 3:16 says about God's wisdom – *'Length of days is in her right hand.'* Loving God and living your life based on His wisdom, instead of on what other people say or on what you think, will give you 'length of days'.

Ephesians 6:2-3 says – *"Honour your father and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise: <sup>3</sup>"that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.'* God is saying that if you respect your parents or anyone who has any sort of authority over you, you may live a long life. It doesn't mean you should obey them if they tell you to do something which is wrong. But honour them in your attitude towards them in your heart and, as far as possible, in your relationship with them.

In John 8:32 Jesus says – *‘If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’* Realising that God wants you to live a long, satisfied life sets you free. It can set you free from the fear of dying prematurely. Don’t just read God’s Word and then forget about it, or read it but presume somehow it doesn’t apply to you. Believe it for yourself personally and keep hold of it. Apply it to your life by standing on it and refusing to budge no matter what or who tries to come against it.

God will do all He can to care for you and protect you, but He won’t override your free will. If you choose to live your life with no reference to Him then you give the devil an opportunity to make all sorts of problems in your life, even to cutting it short. Decide to believe in God’s plan for your life and trust Him – He is faithful.

## *Your Perfect Father*

What good earthly father would want his child’s life cut short? God is the perfect Father so how much more will He want you to live a long happy, healthy and satisfying life. In the Old Testament before Jesus was born, God judged people by how they lived their lives. 1 Kings 3:14 says – *‘If you will walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.’* Now, living after Jesus lived on earth, God doesn’t judge people by their actions anymore, but on whether they’ve accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour or not – what the Bible calls being born-again. (To read about being born-again go to the end of the booklet.)

## *Victory Over Death*

Hebrews 2:14-15 says that Jesus died that He – ‘... *might bring to nothing him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,* <sup>15</sup>*and might deliver all of them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*’ By dying Jesus defeated death!

No-one is perfect; everyone thinks, says and does things wrong – what the Bible calls sin. God is perfect and cannot have sin in His presence and yet He longs for you to be with Him and to know and experience His love.

So He sent Jesus to earth to suffer the punishment for all sin, for all people and for all time. He took your punishment so you could walk free and come into a wonderful love relationship with God. Then the devil doesn’t have the power to work against you anymore unless you believe his lies and let him. He wants to steal, kill and destroy, but you can resist him and choose to trust God instead. Remember, Jesus said in John 10:10 – “*The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.*”

Jesus won the victory over death for you. So when you die, if you have been born-again, death is just the doorway into love, joy and peace forever with God. Revelation 21:4 says that God Himself will – ‘... *wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more.*’ A wonderful future! However, if you are not born-again, you will still live forever, but in eternal punishment.

## *Your Attitude to Death*

Are you afraid of death? Many people are and it can be a real bondage. Hebrews 2:15 describes people – ‘... *who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*’ When you die, your body will be buried or cremated, but the real you, your spirit, will live on. And so will your soul – your mind, will and emotions. When you are born-again God gives you a brand-new perfect spirit right now which will live forever. And when you die, He will renew your soul so it lines up with your perfect spirit. When Jesus returns, God will also give you a brand-new body which will never hurt or wear out or grow old. You will be perfect in your spirit, soul and body for all eternity in God’s presence, living a life full of love, joy and peace.

To lose your fear of death you need to be born-again. You can then get to the point that Paul was at in Philippians 1:21 where he said – ‘*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*’ It didn’t really matter to him anymore whether he lived or died. If he lived, he lived for Jesus and if he died, he went to live with Him.

## *A Time to Die*

God’s love for you is totally unconditional. But if you live a life which isn’t good, then you give the devil opportunity to mess it up and you’ll get hurt and probably people around you will too. God won’t force you to live a good life because He has given you free will. He wants you to choose to love Him back and live His way. But if you do ignore God’s wisdom you can put yourself outside His blessing of a long, satisfied life. However, Jesus has already won your forgiveness, so when you do mess up, He still loves you and you can receive His forgiveness and walk forward in freedom.

2 Timothy 1:10 says that Jesus – ‘... *abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the Good News.*’ And Jesus said in John 11:25 – “*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies.*” You do not need to fear death. Instead, rejoice that it is not the end, but the beginning of something far more wonderful. Praise God!

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## *Being Born-Again*

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him. Romans 10:9 says – ‘*If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*’ Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart. If you’ve done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you’ve ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you’ll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever. As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God’s love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

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The world seems full of violence  
and natural disasters and it's easy to be fearful.

But God has a plan for your life  
and it isn't for you to die young.  
He wants you to live to a good old age and die peacefully  
and then live forever with Him.  
Find out about the plans God has for you  
both here on earth and after you die.



**Katherine Hilditch** has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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