

Genesis 23
Dealing with Death
October 15, 2017 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Introduction

We all know what happened in Las Vegas two weeks ago. 59 dead; over 500 injured. In the face of evil there were also tremendous acts of love and bravery.

Taylor Winston: A 29-year-old Iraq War veteran. In the midst of all the shooting he stole a pickup truck and used it to transport 30 to hospitals.

Heather Gooze: She stayed behind during the shooting just to hold the hand of a dying stranger.

Taylor Benge said, *"I can't speak for everyone, but I was agnostic going into that concert, but I'm a firm believer in God now."*

Quote: "Everybody has got to die, but I've always believed an exception would be made in my case." - *Author William Saroyan*

Hebrews 9:27 - It's appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

1 Thess. 4:13 - Concerning those who sleep in death... don't grieve as others who have no hope.

Jeremiah 32:9 - So I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him *seventeen shekels of silver*.

2 Samuel 24:24 - David replied, "No, I insist on paying you for it..." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid *fifty shekels of silver* for them.

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Genesis 12:7 - "To your descendants I'll give this land."

1. What's the hope that we have concerning death?

"Nature doesn't know extinction; all it knows is transformation. Everything science has taught me, and continues to teach me, strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace." - *Scientist Werner von Braun*

Von Braun concluded:

"If God applies that fundamental principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of the universe, doesn't it make sense to assume that He applies it to the masterpiece of His creation--the human soul?"

1 Cor. 15:50-51 - Flesh and blood can't inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We won't all sleep, but we will *all be changed*.

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2. Why do people die?

Romans 5:12 - Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

3. Is there a way to escape?

Hebrews 2:9 - But we see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

John 5:24 - "Whoever hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

4. What happens when we die?

Mt. 25:46 - "Then they'll go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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2 Cor. 5:8 - To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

Phil. 3:21 - The Lord Jesus Christ will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.

Phil. 1:21, 23 - For me to live is Christ and to die is *gain*... I have a desire to depart and be with Christ which is *far better*.

5. Where will you go when you die?

1 John 5:13 - These things I've written to you who *believe* on the name of the Son of God, that you may *know* that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:12 - He who has the Son has life, he who doesn't have the Son of God doesn't have life.
