



MAKING SENSE OF YOUR LIFE

Key Insights from the Full Bible Story

Starting Next Week

A Strong Identity: Functions

- Priest
- Unique Part
- Soldier
- Light



Making Sense of Your Life

- Why is life so hard?
- Does God know what he's doing?
- Does God see that I'm suffering?
- What does God do when I mess up?
- Is God a good father?
- How did Jesus change everything?
- How do I live as a citizen of God's Kingdom?





What's Next?

What Can We Expect after We Die?

"At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light,²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.²⁶ Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory.²⁷ And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world-- from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven....

³² "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.³³ And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!" (Mark 13:24-27, 32-33)



Is Our Future with Jesus Guaranteed?

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved." (Romans 10:9-10)



How Can We Be Free of Sin's Pollution?

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them."⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."⁶ And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life."⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. (Revelation 21:1-7)



How Can We Be Free of Our Decaying Bodies?

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

(1 Corinthians 15:51-53)



How Can We Be Free of Our Decaying Bodies?

Hint: Our resurrection bodies will be like Jesus' resurrection body.



How Can We Be Renew Relationships with Loved Ones Who Have Died?

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's
the Lord!" (John 21:7)



How Can We Receive God's Approval?

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last-- dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.¹⁶ "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more.¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more.¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.¹⁹ "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money.²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.'²¹ "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' (Matthew 25:14-21)



Judgment and Rewards for Christians

- So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him.¹⁰ For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)
- But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.¹⁴ If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.¹⁵ But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)



What Will We Be Rewarded For?

- If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. ⁴² And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." (Matthew 10:41-42)
- What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. ²³ When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. (Luke 6:22-23a)
- I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow... ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. (1 Corinthians 3:6, 8)



How Can Our Eternal Life Have Meaning?



...Wish I'd
brought a magazine.



How Can Our Eternal Life Have Meaning?

- "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." (Genesis 1:28)
- "Look, I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5)



How Can Our Eternal Life Have Meaning?

Dallas Willard via John Ortberg

“Your eternal destiny is not cosmic retirement; it is to be part of a tremendously creative project, under unimaginably splendid leadership, on an inconceivably vast scale, with ever-increasing cycles of fruitfulness and enjoyment — that is the prophetic vision which ‘eye has not seen and ear has not heard.’ ”

John Ortberg. *Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You* (p. 18).



Eternity with God Will Be Spectacularly Good

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)



Eternity with God Will Be Spectacularly Good

- Everything will be made new.
- God will restore everything sin took from us.
- We'll be reunited with loved ones.
- Pain will be gone forever.
- We'll live with God and partner with him in fascinating projects of continuing creation.
- It will last forever.



Challenge

1. Think about the future God has planned for us.
 - 1 Corinthians 15
 - Revelation 21-22
 - Revelation 7:9-17
2. Pay attention to how pondering that future makes you feel.
3. Consider how that future affects how you live now.





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