



Matthias Grünewald (1470-1528), Isenheim Altarpiece (1512-1516)

TMBS: Toward a Theology of Death

10:30 a.m. in the library and online. Led by Ken Kovacs.

Thursday Morning Bible Study resumes for a special series that explores the Bible's understanding of death. The Bible does not speak with one voice on this subject. What we find in Judaism is a gradual unfolding of insights into the nature of death, God's relationship to death (and the dying), and speculations about life after death. Many of these ideas are present in the New Testament but take on new and deeper meanings after the accounts of Jesus' resurrection. Each week, we'll study a different passage of scripture and related theological themes, supported by additional articles and reflection pieces to inform our discussions. We plan to look at the following texts and themes:

- April 11: Hades and the Second Death (Revelation 20)
- April 18: Eschatology: Endings and Beginnings (Romans 6:1-14)
- April 25: Proximate Forms of Death (Luke 1:67-80; Acts 2:22-28)
- May 2: Near-Death Experiences/Life After Death

- May 9: Harrowing of Hell/Holy Saturday (1 Peter 4:16)
- May 16: All Shall Be Well: Apocatastasis (Acts 3:11-26; Romans 8:18-39)

Bibliography

- William Barrett, *Death of the Soul: From Descartes to the Computer* (Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1986).
- Ernst Becker, *The Denial of Death* (The Free Press, 1974).
- Lucy Bregman, *Death in the Midst of Life: Perspectives on Death from Christianity and Depth Psychology* (Baker Book House, 1992).
- Atul Gawande, *Being Mortal* (Metropolitan Books, 2017).
- Kahlil Gibran, "On Death." <https://poets.org/poem/death>.
- David Bentley Hart, *That All Shall be Saved: Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation* (Yale University Press, 2019).
- C.G. Jung, "Jung on Life After Death," *The Atlantic* (December 1962).
- Paul Kalanithi, *When Breath Becomes Air* (Random House, 2016).
- Alan Lewis, *Between Cross and Resurrection: A Theology of Holy Saturday* (Eerdmans, 2003).
- C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed* (HarperOne, 2015).
- John Macquarrie, *Existentialism: An Introduction, Guide, and Assessment* (Penguin Books, 1973).
- Graham Standish, "Embracing mysticism, near-death experiences and spiritual encounters at church," *The Presbyterian Outlook*, April 10, 2024, <https://pres-outlook.org/2024/04/embracing-mysticism-near-death-experiences-and-spiritual-encounters-at-church/>
- Daniel Ott, "No Wisdom in Sheol: A Theology of Death," 21 March 2023, *The Presbyterian Outlook*. <https://pres-outlook.org/2023/03/no-wisdom-in-sheol-a-theology-of-death/>

- Judith Wolfe, "At the Threshold: Begin With the End," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtJZILpprss>.
- Phoebe Zerwick, "What Deathbed Visions Teach Us About Living," *The New York Times*, March 12, 2024.