

Does reincarnation exist?

By

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Reincarnation does not exist. One Bible verse lays the issue to rest: “It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

Cyclical time vs linear time

The thought of reincarnation belongs to religions and world views where everything goes round in cycles. Nothing ever really changes, the world is not really going anywhere. What was, is, and will ever be.

The Bible gives us a totally different view on life and on the world. God created the world, and created man in His image . Man rebelled against God, but He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to this world to suffer and die for our sins. One day, Jesus Christ will come back to this world to judge the living and the dead, and to create a new earth. So according to the Bible, there is a straight line from beginning (creation) to end (the second coming of Jesus Christ).

Eternal soul instead of reincarnation

Every human was purposefully created by God (see e.g. Psalm 139: 13-16). As a consequence of sin, we are mortal. But even when we die, we don't cease to exist. Every human has an eternal soul that is of eternal significance. After physical death, our souls continue to live — either with God in heaven, or apart from Him in hell. So, at the individual level, there is a straight line from conception / birth to physical death, and then we continue to live forever in the afterlife. Our souls don't return to earth in a new body to start a new life cycle here on earth.

All the dead in Christ shall rise

The Bible clearly teaches that at the end of this world, the dead will be raised (see e.g. 1 Corinthians 15:12-24). This is impossible to reconcile with reincarnation. For if the soul of people already has been reincarnated in another human, what would be raised from the dead? But it makes perfect sense when you realize the biblical teaching is that every human being has a unique soul and will have to give account to God.

The teaching about the resurrection of the dead also helps to have a sound view of our own identity as humans. We are not just our souls . Our bodies are very much part of who we are. Therefore a believer's body and soul will be reunited in God's new world — though the renewed body will be immensely more glorious than the one we have now (see 1 Corinthians 15:35-49).

Live your life for Jesus Christ

We have just one life. It is this life that will decide where we will spend eternity. It is this life when we have the opportunity to bear fruit for all eternity. The biblical teaching that “it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27) gives enormous importance to our lives. Live it to the fullest, by giving glory to God through the enjoyment of His presence and through sharing the good news of salvation for sinners in Jesus Christ.

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