

## WHY DOES THE BIBLE TALK ABOUT DEATH AS A SLEEP?

Psalm 127.2

I spend about a third of my life in my bed which is more than in any other place - rather like you do too.

This is a long time!

So last year I spent some four months mostly 'unconscious' and of course this happens to us all to one degree or another each and every year since our birth.  
(Just as well that wasn't all at once!)

We would certainly die without our sleep and yet we usually take it for granted.

Clearly our day's activities are the realities, and if we dream then our dreams can seem like fantasies, unless something such as an occasional nightmare puts them in a stronger experience.

But let's think: Perhaps *this* life is the dream and the actual Reality itself lies after our death?

The Bible likens death to sleeping, so could waking up each day could be similar to a resurrection?

So what could we say then about death if we use this Biblical parallel?

Why does God make this comparison and could it tell us anything about death, life after death, and what might happen between the two events that could be both encouraging and helpful to mull over?

When our sleep is sweet and much needed after a hard day the passage of those hours seems to go by as if in a moment.  
(1Cor 15.52)

Could the comparison be that when Ecclesiastes says the dead know not anything, that they have been removed from our experience of life?

(*Eccl 9.5*)

But perhaps that is only from *our* experience and not theirs?

We're still in Time and Space and the dead are not.

Their spirit has gone back to God who gave it (as Owner), leaving behind only the body that served them in this life.

(*Eccl 12.7*)

They have been removed from this physical universe and are not found except in our memory, our memorabilia, and in our love.

Therefore from *our* physical experience the dead are sleeping and their resurrection lies in the future – but only as *we* experience time and life.

So let's now consider the immediate experience of those who have just 'left us'.

Perhaps *we* are the ones who are 'left behind'?

Could it be that just as we sleep, with the passage of time seemingly altered (with the 7-8 hours sometimes going by as if in a flash), that those who die because they are no longer subject to our human constraints have, from their perspective, an instant consciousness in another realm – in another dimension?

Is it possible that from their perception they have not 'missed a beat' - rather like ourselves when we awake from that dreamless sleep?

So the third position to consider would be from God's perspective.

We could ask the question has *God* 'lost' the dead - is *He* waiting for the resurrection?

It would seem that the answer would be quite obvious: Jesus said that God is the God of the *living*, not the dead.

(*MATT 22.32*)

So if God has the dead alive with Him in another Realm, and if those we have lost are immediately alive to themselves outside the restraints of this life, where then does that leave us?

Obviously we are now clearly alive physically in Time and Space ('Einstein's Universe') with the arrow of time pointing forwards and the dead asleep - as we view them.

Therefore we are not 'stuck' so to speak, but yet not removed to the brilliant Reality that the Bible indicates is for all who hope for it, whatever their resurrection order.

So maybe the Biblical image of sleep has some helpful and encouraging words for us about all those we have loved and lost at this time of our lives.

Just thinking.

Sleep well tonight!

tg.