

# *Burial After Death*

*This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.*

As children of God, we must look for the truth in what the scriptures teach us on burial after death. There are many different types of burials and rituals. Cremation is one of the many different ways to dispose of the body and the one we will focus on; but does it go against God's word? Let us look for biblical examples on what we should do with our bodies after death. First let us head to Genesis where it tells us our bodies will return to the earth.

Genesis 3:19

**Verse 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

We wanted to start with this scripture to show that God commanded from the beginning what we are to do with our bodies after death. It is up to us to figure out what he meant by "unto dust shalt thou return." Is the ash from cremation the dust we were made from? We do not believe so, but we are going to take you through a series of righteous people that have died throughout the Bible and what happened to their bodies. Let us start with Jacob.

Genesis 47:28-31

**Verse 28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years.**

**Verse 29 And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:**

**Verse 30 But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burying place. And he said, I will do as thou hast said.**

**Verse 31 And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head.**

Here Jacob asks Joseph to bury him with his ancestors. Now let us use Joseph and see what happened with his body after death.

Genesis 50:25,26

**Verse 25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.**

**Verse 26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.**

Hebrews 11:22

**Verse 22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.**

Joshua 24:32

**Verse 32 And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.**

The first scripture shows that Joseph had a commandment of what he wanted done with his bones, and the second shows where and what is done. Now let us use our saviour himself, Jesus, and see what he says and what happens with his body.

Matthew 26:6-13

**Verse 6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,**

**Verse 7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.**

**Verse 8 But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?**

**Verse 9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.**

**Verse 10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.**

**Verse 11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.**

**Verse 12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.**

**Verse 13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.**

John 19:40

**Verse 40** Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

I Corinthians 15:4

**Verse 4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The fact that Jesus chose to be buried and not burned should be proof enough of what we should do with our bodies. We would like to use one more example of a righteous burial.

Acts 2:29, 34

**Verse 29** Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

**Verse 34** For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

Here Peter speaks about King David still being buried to this day and not ascending into heaven. Every one of these righteous people have chosen to be buried instead of burned.

We want to now use the story of the man of God to show the fear the wicked prophet had for his bones being burned. Let us start where the man of God warns Jeroboam.

I Kings 13: 1, 2, 31, 32

**Verse 1** And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

**Verse 2** And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

**Verse 31** And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God *is* buried; lay my bones beside his bones:

**Verse 32** For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which *are* in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

We can now roll forward to where it takes place.

II Kings 23:15-20

**Verse 15** Moreover the altar that *was* at Bethel, *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, *and* stamped *it* small to powder, and burned the grove.

**Verse 16** And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that *were* there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned *them* upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

**Verse 17** Then he said, What title *is* that that I see? And the men of the city told him, *It is* the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.

**Verse 18** And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

**Verse 19** And all the houses also of the high places that *were* in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke *the LORD* to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel.

**Verse 20** And he slew all the priests of the high places that *were* there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.

II Chronicles 34:3-5

**Verse 3** For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

**Verse 4** And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that *were* on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust *of them*, and strowed *it* upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

**Verse 5** And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

We can see here that Josiah fulfills the man of God's prophecy by burning the bones of the wicked but does not burn the bones of the man of God. Lastly, we would like to use the story of Saul and his sons because it is one scripture that people like to use to prove cremation is okay.

I Samuel 31:8-13

**Verse 8** And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.

**Verse 9** And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish *it in* the house of their idols, and among the people.

**Verse 10** And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.

**Verse 11** And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;

**Verse 12** All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there.

**Verse 13** And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

I Chronicles 10:8-12

**Verse 8** And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen in mount Gilboa.

**Verse 9** And when they had stripped him, they took his head, and his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to carry tidings unto their idols, and to the people.

**Verse 10** And they put his armour in the house of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.

**Verse 11** And when all Jabeshgilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,

**Verse 12** They arose, all the valiant men, and took away the body of Saul, and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

II Samuel 21:12-14

**Verse 12** And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa:

**Verse 13** And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged.

**Verse 14** And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.

It is clear that Saul and his son's bones were buried and not burned, all of these examples show you righteous people chose to be buried. They are all an example to us and what we should do with our bodies after death.

Romans 6: 3-5

**Verse 3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

**Verse 4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Verse 5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection*:

Hopefully then, we shall see each other at Christ's return, when all the saints are raised from their graves.

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