

The Three Eternal Destinies #129A Second Eternal Life, Part 1(Because Adam rejected the FIRST ETERNAL LIFE — Gen 2:9,17)

After the fall God (our Creator) gave Adam and all of his descendants the once-in-a-lifetime offer of a *Second Eternal Life*, since he declined the first offer of eternal life (Gen 2:9,17; 3:16-24).

Eternal life now is still offered to those who are willing to live by the knowledge which all mankind has of both good and evil. To do good or to do evil is within all mankind's power, within their authority to do well (Gen 4:7). To eat of the tree of life in the beginning is no longer an option since Gen 3:22-24. So now man must make it on his own. That is, he is on his own to do the good he knows, which is inborn and innate within him. Man knows or is endowed with the instinctive understanding as Rom 1:18-20 and 2:14-16 says. We know this as the *natural law* within the heart of all man. Rom 2:6-10 tells the story loud and clear so no one has an excuse when they stand before God at the last judgment in Rev 20:11-15. Ps 19 also rings out loud and clear, speaking to the heart of all mankind, everyone who has ever lived and will live in this present age.

So, this "Second Eternal Life" is now based on the person's deeds (Ps 62:12; Pr 24:12; Jer 17:10; Rom 2:6, as Rev 20:12 says). The first eternal life was based on Adam and Eve's clear command and direction in Gen 2:9, 16,17; 3:4-7,22. But they did not obey their Creator's command. Gen 2:9,16,17 was not a direct command to eat of the tree of life, but it was left up to Adam and Eve to eat from any other tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. To eat of the Tree of Life Adam had to do on his own volition. But a direct command was given to him NOT to eat from the tree that would cause him to have to earn his salvation by doing the good and not doing the evil. The Tree of Life was a gift of salvation only for eating freely. Rev 22:17 — The tree of the knowledge of good and evil would be salvation earned by good works (Rev 20:12; 22:12). The Holy gain this eternal life not by doing the good and avoiding the evil but by eating of the tree of life, as Rev 22:17 says. But only after and as a result of Messiah's death could a man eat of the tree of life (Gen 3:22-24). All men when they died descended to Sheol — to the Bosom of Abraham or to the other compartment of death, as our Master teaches his own in Lk 16:19-31. Only after the first aspect of the prophecy in Gen 3:15 could a man, when he died, ascend to heaven, and no man could ascend to heaven without dying first without sin as Paul the apostle points out in 2 Cor 5:8. Jn 3:13 and Heb 1:13 both allow us to know that both Enoch and Elijah died and went to Sheol — or death, a place of waiting — until Messiah would Himself descend to lead them into heaven with Him (Eph 4:8,9). Not until Messiah took authority over death, the region of the dead, the place of disembodied spirits, could a man not even see or taste death (Jn 8:51). Even the very day He died (Lk 23:43) a man would not have to go into death, even to be confined to Abraham's bosom (Heb 2:14-15), since three days later He rose from the dead (Mt 12:40; Acts 2:24). To reject this tree or water of life is to reject Messiah and be judged already Jn 3:18, Eph 2:8-10. We, the Holy, are not saved by good works but by grace through faith to do good works (Tit 3:5).

So, Heb 9:27 says that "it is now appointed for all men to die once," but then be resurrected to stand "the judgment" to determine by their deeds done in this present life, whether good or evil, so as to be rewarded a second life or a second death, based on the judgment seat in Rom 2:16; Rev 20:12; Ecc 12:14. All men are endowed with the basic understanding and wisdom of what conscience reveals to their heart. Rom 2:14,15,16 — This is the judgment of Heb 9:27 and John 5:28,29.

Please understand — all men have sinned (Rom 3:23; 6:23), but not all men have sinned as Rev 21:8 and Rev 22:15 or Rom 1:24-31. This is why there is a judgment in Rev 20:12 and 22:12 — in order to make the determination, deciding between a second eternal life or a second eternal death.

Rev 22:11 makes the clear distinction between *The Three Eternal Destinies of Man*. The only way out of the first death of Adam (Heb 9:27) and the second death of Satan (Mt 25:41,46) is to be saved as Rom 6:23 by the gift of God. Rev 22:17 — Today is the day of salvation. This is called "good news." Jn 8:31-32 — set free from death, the first and/or the second death NOW (Jn 5:24; now, Rom 8:1-2; Cor 5:15,17; 1 Jn 3:2).

The Second Eternal Life for the Nations

All those whose names are found in the Book of Life after this last judgment were worthy of this second eternal life. And those whose names were *not* found in this Book, which records the names of all of Adam's descendants who lived according to Gen 3:16-22, were cast into the Lake of Fire, which is the second eternal death. But *all of the Holy* have already passed out of the first death sentence and the judgment of Heb 9:29 and into the Rom 6:23 eternal life (Rev 22:11, as Jn 5:24 says), and those who have know it (1 Jn 3:14,23,24).