

~IMMORTALITY (378)

[Greek, *a-tha-na-si'a*, deathlessness,]

- Is Jesus The One Alone Having Immortality
- Kingdom Heirs Granted Immortality

· The Greek word *a-tha-na-si'a* is formed by the negative prefix *a* followed by a form of the word for death *tha'na-tos*. Thus, the basic meaning is deathlessness, and refers to the quality of life that is enjoyed, its **endlessness and indestructibility**.

· For this which is corruptible must put on incorruption, and this which is mortal must put on **immortality**. (1 Corinthians 15:53)

· But when this which is corruptible puts on incorruption and this which is mortal puts on **immortality**, then the saying will take place that is written; Death is swallowed up forever. (1 Corinthians 15:54) Footnote

· The one alone having **immortality**, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom not one of men has seen or can see. To him be honor and might everlasting. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:16) Footnote

· The Greek word *a-phthar-si'a*, meaning, **incorruption**, refers to that which **cannot decay or be corrupted, that which is imperishable**.

· Everlasting life to those who are seeking glory and honor and **incorruptibleness** by endurance in work that is good. (Romans 2:7)

· So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised up in **incorruption**. (1 Corinthians 15:42)

· However, this I say, brothers; That flesh and blood cannot inherit God's kingdom, neither does **corruption** inherit **incorruption**. (1 Corinthians 15:50)

· For this which is corruptible must put on **incorruption**, and this which is mortal must put on **immortality**. (1 Corinthians 15:53)

· May the undeserved kindness be with all those loving our Lord Jesus Christ in **incorruptness**. (Ephesians 6:24)

- But now it has been made clearly evident through the manifestation of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death but has shed light upon life and **incorruption** through the Good News. (**2 Timothy 1:10**)
- The expressions, **immortal** or **immortality** do not occur in the Hebrew Scriptures, which do show, however, that Yehowah God, as the Source of all life, is not subject to death, hence, is **immortal**.
- How precious your loving-kindness is, O God! And in the shadow of your wings the sons of men themselves take refuge. (**Psalms 36:7**)
- For with you is the **source of life**, by light from you we can see light. (**Psalms 36:9**)
- O Yehowah, you yourself have proved to be a real dwelling for us **during generation after generation**. (**Psalms 90:1**)
- Before the mountains themselves were born, or you proceeded to bring forth as with labor pains the earth and the productive land, **even from time indefinite to time indefinite you are God**. (**Psalms 90:2**)
- Are you not from long ago, O Yehowah? O my God, my Holy One, you do not die. O Yehowah, for a judgment you have set it, and, O Rock, for a reproof you have founded it. (**Habakkuk 1:12**)
- This fact is also emphatically stated by the Christian apostle Paul in referring to God as, the King of eternity, **incorruptible**.
- Now to the King of eternity, **incorruptible**, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (**1 Timothy 1:17**)
- As the article **SOUL** shows, the Hebrew Scriptures also make plain that man is not inherently immortal. References to the human soul **Hebrew, ne'phesh** as dying, heading for the grave, and being destroyed are numerous.
- And an uncircumcised male who will not get the flesh of his foreskin circumcised, even that soul must be cut off from his people. He has broken my covenant. (**Genesis 17:14**)
- Accordingly Yehowah gave Lachish into Israel's hand so that they

- captured it on the second day, and they went striking it and every soul that was in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that they had done to Libnah. (**Joshua 10:32**)
- And his soul draws near to the pit, and his life to those inflicting death. (**Job 33:22**)
 - All the fat ones of the earth shall eat and will bow down, before him all those going down to the dust will bend down, and no one will ever preserve his own soul alive. (**Psalms 22:29**)
 - He proceeded to prepare a pathway for his anger. He did not hold back their soul from death itself, and their life he handed over even to the pestilence. (**Psalms 78:50**)
 - Look! All the souls, to me they belong. As the soul of the father so likewise the soul of the son, to me they belong. The soul that is sinning, it itself will die. (**Ezekiel 18:4**)
 - The soul that is sinning, it itself will die. A son himself will bear nothing because of the error of the father, and a father himself will bear nothing because of the error of the son. Upon his own self the very righteousness of the righteous one will come to be, and upon his own self the very wickedness of a wicked one will come to be. (**Ezekiel 18:20**)
 - The **Christian Greek Scriptures**, of course, are in harmony and likewise contain references to the death of the soul **Greek, *psy-khe'***.
 - Then he said to them; My soul is deeply grieved, even to death. Stay here and keep on the watch with me. (**Matthew 26:38**)
 - Next he said to them; Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do a good deed or to do a bad deed, to save or to kill a soul? But they kept silent. (**Mark 3:4**)
 - Indeed, any soul that does not listen to that Prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people. (**Acts of Apostles 3:23**)
 - Know that he who turns a sinner back from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (**James 5:20**)

- And a third of the creatures that are in the sea which have souls died, and a third of the boats were wrecked. (**Revelation 8:9**)
- And the second one poured out his bowl into the sea. And it became blood as of a dead man, and every living soul died, yes, the things in the sea. (**Revelation 16:3**)
- Therefore the **Christian Greek Scriptures** do not dispute or alter the inspired teaching of the Hebrew Scriptures that man, the human soul, is mortal, subject to death. The **Christian Greek Scriptures**, however, do contain the revelation of God's purpose to grant **immortality** to certain of his servants.

·· **Is Jesus The One Alone Having Immortality**

- The first one described in the Bible as rewarded with the gift of **immortality** is Jesus Christ. That he did not possess **immortality** before his resurrection by God is seen from the inspired apostle's words at;
- For we know that Christ, now that he has been raised up from the dead, dies no more, death is master over him no more. (**Romans 6:9**)
- Christ, now that he has been raised up from the dead, dies no more, **death is master over him no more.**
- And when I saw him, I fell as dead at his feet. And he laid his right hand upon me and said; Do not be fearful. I am the First and the Last. (**Revelation 1:17**)
- And the living one, and I became dead, but, look! I am living forever and ever, and **I have the keys of death and of Hades.** (**Revelation 1:18**)
- For this reason, when describing Yehowah as the King of those who rule as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords. Though this phrase is sometimes used to describe Jesus Christ, here clearly it is not. Jesus is surely not the only Potentate, but Yehowah is.
- Jesus was given immortality, he did not possess it, so as to be referred to as one **having immortality**, like his father who lives forever and ever and cannot die. Also men have seen Jesus, but no man has seen Yehowah God. Clearly then, this one is Yehowah God, and not his son. Thus, Jesus manifestation will be shown to men by God his father.

- This manifestation the happy and **only Potentate** will show in its own appointed times, he the King of those who rule as kings and Lord of those who rule as lords. (**1 Timothy 6:15**)
- The one alone **having immortality**, who dwells in unapproachable light, **whom not one of men has seen or can see**. To him be honor and might everlasting. Amen. (**1 Timothy 6:16**)
- And it is still more abundantly clear that with a similarity to Melchizedek there arises another priest. (**Hebrews 7:15**)
- Who has become such, not according to the Law of a commandment depending upon the flesh, but according to the power of an **indestructible** life. (**Hebrews 7:16**)
- For in witness it is said; You are a priest forever according to the manner of Melchizedek. (**Hebrews 7:17**)
- Furthermore, many had to become priests in succession because of being prevented by death from continuing as such. (**Hebrews 7:23**)
- But he because of continuing alive forever has his priesthood without any successors. (**Hebrews 7:24**)
- Consequently he is able also to save completely those who are approaching God through him, because he is always alive to plead for them. (**Hebrews 7:25**)
- The word **indestructible** here translates the **Greek** term *a-ka-ta'ly-ots*, meaning, literally, **indissoluble**.
- Who has become such, not according to the Law of a commandment depending upon the flesh, but according to the power of an **indestructible** life. (**Hebrews 7:16**) **Footnote**
- The word is a compound of the negative prefix *a* joined to other words relating to a **loosening down**, as in Jesus statement regarding the loosening down or throwing down of the stones of the temple at Jerusalem
- Departing now, Jesus was on his way from the temple, but his disciples approached to show him the buildings of the temple.

(Matthew 24:1)

- In response he said to them; Do you not behold all these things? Truly I say to you, by no means will a stone be left here upon a stone and not be thrown down. **(Matthew 24:2)**
- As well as in Paul's reference to the loosening down of the earthly tent of Christians, that is, the dissolving of their earthly life in human bodies.
- For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, should be dissolved, we are to have a building from God, a house not made with hands, everlasting in the heavens. **(2 Corinthians 5:1)**

· **Kingdom Heirs Granted Immortality**

- For the anointed Christians called to reign with Christ in the heavens.
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for according to his great mercy he gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **(1 Peter 1:3)**
- To an **incorruptible** and undefiled and unfading inheritance. It is reserved in the heavens for you. **(1 Peter 1:4)**
- The promise is that they share with Christ in the likeness of his resurrection.
- For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection. **(Romans 6:5)**
- Thus, as in the case of their Lord and Head, the anointed members of the Christian congregation who die faithful receive a resurrection to **immortal** spirit life, so that, this which is mortal puts on **immortality**.
- However, this I say, brothers; That flesh and blood cannot inherit God's kingdom, neither does corruption inherit incorruption. **(1 Corinthians 15:50)**
- Look! I tell you a sacred secret. We shall not all fall asleep in

death, but we shall all be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51)

- In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, during the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised up incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:52)
- For this which is corruptible must put on incorruption, and this which is mortal must put on **immortality**. (1 Corinthians 15:53)
- But when this which is corruptible puts on incorruption and this which is mortal puts on **immortality**, then the saying will take place that is written; Death is swallowed up forever. (1 Corinthians 15:54)
- As with Jesus, **immortality** in their case does not mean simply everlasting life, or mere freedom from death. That they, too, are granted, the power of an indestructible life, as fellow heirs with Christ is seen from the apostle Paul's association of **incorruptibility** with the **immortality** they attain.
- So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised up in **incorruption**. (1 Corinthians 15:42)
- It is sown in dishonor, it is raised up in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised up in power. (1 Corinthians 15:43)
- It is sown a physical body, it is raised up a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual one. (1 Corinthians 15:44)
- It is even so written: The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45)
- Nevertheless, the first is, not that which is spiritual, but that which is physical, afterward that which is spiritual. (1 Corinthians 15:46)
- The first man is out of the earth and made of dust, the second man is out of heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:47)
- As the one made of dust is, so those made of dust are also, and as the heavenly one is, so those who are heavenly are also. (1 Corinthians 15:48)

- And just as we have borne the image of the one made of dust, we shall bear also the image of the heavenly one. (**1 Corinthians 15:49**)
- Over them, the second death has no authority.
- Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection, over these the **second death has no authority**, but they will be priests of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with him for the thousand years. (**Revelation 20:6**)

See Also INCORRUPTION

- This grant of **immortality** to the Kingdom heirs is all the more remarkable, in view of the fact that even God's angels are shown to be mortal, despite their possessing spirit bodies, not carnal ones.
- Angelic mortality is evident in view of the judgment of death entered against the spirit son who became God's Adversary, or Satan, and also against those other angels who followed that satanic course and, did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place.
- And the angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. (**Jude 1:6**)
- Then he will say, in turn, to those on his left; Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. (**Matthew 25:41**)
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (**Revelation 20:10**)
- And death and Hades were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire. (**Revelation 20:14**)
- So the grant of **indestructible life**.
- Who has become such, not according to the Law of a commandment depending upon the flesh, but according to the

power of an **indestructible life**. (**Hebrews 7:16**)

- Or **indissoluble life** to those Christians who gain the privilege of reigning with God's Son in the heavenly Kingdom marvelously demonstrates God's confidence in them.

See Also HEAVEN (The way to heavenly life)

See Also LIFE