

APPOINTED TIMES

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Introduction

Men try to make sure their families are protected for in case of illness or death We live in a world of turmoil and uncertainties. Men go about trying to insure *some need to maintain balance of power* peace and safety. We try to plan our life, and make certain that our plans come to pass.

Appointments are made to be broken: Everyone is trying to find something which is certain, something upon which to base their operations.

Ex: man in the makes apt. in the for 6 hrs later arrives on the plane. Later only to be told up for traffic. Life however, is at the most, uncertain. And yet God's word lays down a few events which are certain to happen in the life of every individual. Here are a few:

I. You will make an irrevocable decision to effect your eternal destiny.

A. As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God

Romans 14:11

B. Decisions are made by different factors

1. Abraham--Faith

a. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed...
For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:8,10

b. God revealed himself to Abraham

2. Peter--Acquaintance
3. Paul--Vision
4. Saul--Self Will
5. Judas--Greed
6. Pilate--Procrastination

II. You have an inescapable rendezvous with death.

A. And as it is appointed unto men once to die,...

Hebrews 9:27

Only a few
more before
we death.
Nehru said
I am not going
to die

Death finalizes
our decision
ex: the Sultan's
brother who hurried
to death.

B. Death is always with us from the moment we leave the womb. It is constantly dogging our heels, relentlessly pursuing us, and eventually catching us. Life is, indeed, a one way street leading from the cradle to the grave, with no possibility of exit.

III. God will judge each of us for our lives on earth.

A. ...but after this the judgement.

Hebrews 9:27b

Redeemed will
be judged by
their service
to God.

man saved
by drowning
9 years later
faced the same
man as his
judge

B. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat upon it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were in those books, according to their works.

The sinner, those
of mercy, will
then become our
judge

Revelation 20:11-12

IV. You will be either punished or rewarded for your life.

A. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire

Revelation 20:15

B. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:4

The rich
man Lazarus

IV. You will either be punished or rewarded for your life.

C. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:7