

MOMENTUM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THE CHRONICLES OF JENIAH & URIAH
#26 - DEATH & RESURRECTION
DEALING WITH THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE





Jeniah stood by her locker but couldn't move. The bell rang three minutes ago and the hallway was clear. The fear had paralyzed her. It wasn't an anxiety of taking the midterm; she knew she would pass it with flying colors. This was the class she and Benji studied for right before the school shooting. The funeral was hard and it seemed like everyone else had moved on, but the emotions of not being with her friend took a toll and today, they won. Would she ever see her friend again?

Just as she was wrestling with these emotions, the Vice Principal stood close enough to her to tell she wasn't just skipping class. Without a big commotion, she said, "Do you want a pass to see the counselor? Mr. Fouche is free now and I could write you an excuse if you want."

"I'd like that a lot. Thank you," Jeniah replied trying to hold back the tears.

It was a short walk to Mr. Fouche's office, and it was as if he was waiting to speak to her. He was a tall man with a deep but gentle voice. He was an elder at her church but they never had a "real" conversation. When she walked in, it was as if he could read her mind. "You are still struggling with the loss of your friend aren't you?" he said.

Tears flooded her cheeks as she tried to talk. "I'm having a difficult time with his death. Benji was the closest person to me that has died."

In this lesson we tackle the subject of Death and Resurrection. We will examine what the Bible says about the topic and how we can view death in a positive light.

Mr. Fouche said, "It's always hard when we lose someone close to us. I've done a little research on the topic on death and here's what I found."

- Ecclesiastes 9:5 "For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten."
- Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your _____, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither _____ nor planning nor _____ nor wisdom."

"Death is just a sleep," he continued. "That's why we say RIP – rest in peace." Several places in the Bible, including Jesus' very words often referred to death as sleep."

- Psalm 13:3 "Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will _____ in death."

"But if he is sleeping, when will or will he ever wake up?" Jeniah asked. "Excellent question," Mr. Fouché said. "Death is a state of unconsciousness in the grave until the Second Coming of Jesus."

- Revelation 20:13 "The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done."

"You know, the Bible actually talks about two deaths," Mr. Fouché went on. "The first death is like being asleep, but the second death is much worse. The first death is called 'the resurrection of life' because those people will be resurrected to spend eternity with Jesus in Heaven."

- John 5:28-29 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out-those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned."

"The 2nd death is different. There is no coming back from the 2nd death. That is the time where sin and Satan are destroyed." Mr. Fouché said. "I think I've heard of that before," Jeniah said. "How do you avoid that, it sounds a little scary?" "It's not scary if you remember that famous text in John."

- John 3:16-17 "For God so _____ the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have _____ life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to _____ the world through him."

"Jesus came to save us from the second death (the meaning of the word "perish"). When we believe in Him and accept His sacrifice, we don't have to worry about our eternal future," Mr. Fouché explained. "Benji made a decision to be baptized a few months ago. He was always serious about his relationship with God. I am pretty sure he gave his life to Jesus and believed on Him," Jeniah said reflecting on her friend's life.

"Well, that's awesome. As you were talking, I thought about my favorite verse that deals with death. It understands that we will cry, but our outcomes are different than people that don't have hope in Jesus," Mr. Fouché explained. "It is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18."

- "According to the LORD's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the LORD, will certainly not precede those who have fallen _____. For the LORD himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And so we will be with the _____ forever. Therefore _____ one another with these words."