

No One is Promised Tomorrow?

From: In Defense of My Father: Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God

Taken from Chapter 7: Addressing Misconceptions
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Psalm 139:15-16 NKJV

*My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought
in the lowest parts of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance,
being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.*

Reading this version, one might conclude from verse sixteen that God predetermines how many days we will live. However, the KJV gives a different message.

Psalm 139:16 KJV

*Thine eyes did see my substance,
yet being imperfect; and in thy book
all my members were written,
which in continuance were fashioned,
when as yet there was none of them.*

This gives a better interpretation. The word “substance” refers to the developing child in the womb. It isn’t that all our *days* were written, but that all of our *body parts* were written before they were even formed.

Does God know the course of our lives because He is all-knowing? This is a likely conclusion, but it doesn’t say He plans each day of our lives including the day we will die.

It does say in Scripture that it is appointed unto man to die once and then the judgment, but this is simply saying that we only get one life, and when we die that is the end. There is no second chance after we die. It doesn’t mean at all that when “our time comes” we will die.

To say that God gives us a certain number of days and then we die does not take into consideration that people commit suicide, are murdered, killed in weather events and by unnecessary accidents. God is not to blame for any of those. He isn’t standing near us on the day He has supposedly determine that we will die ready to kill us if we don’t keel over naturally.

If we accept that when “our time comes” we will die, we might likely accept death instead of fighting it. A former pastor of mine, Mrs. Lonnie Decker, told me about such an account. She had been very sick for quite some time. One night she had a dream, and the Lord stood before her and told her it was “her time to go.” As she looked closer at Jesus, she saw Him as a lamb, but then was able to see that under His lamb head was another head in the shape of a wolf. She recognized in her dream that the enemy was seeking to deceive her into embracing death and rebuked him. When she woke, she was healed of her sickness.

Instead of fearing that “Today might be your last,” or that “We aren’t promised tomorrow,” let us rather believe God for a long life.

Psalm 91:14-16

*“Because he has set his love upon Me,
therefore I will deliver him;*

*I will set him on high,
because he has known My name.*

¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;

*I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him.*

*¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy him,**
And show him My salvation.”*

Proverbs 3:1-2

*My son, do not forget my law,
But let your heart keep my commands;*

*² **For length of days and long life**
And peace they will add to you.*

Consider that even under the Old Covenant, the people were promised “length of days and long life” if they followed the law. We have a “better covenant based on better promises.” We can also look forward to being “satisfied” with a long life. We don’t have to live in fear of death coming at any moment. We are not only promised tomorrow, but many days to come. We can believe God for good health and long life today, tomorrow, and into our future.