

1

CREMATION:

WHAT DOES THE

BIBLE

SAY?

WAYNE REYNOLDS

PRINTED UNDER AUTHORITY OF
INDEPENDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

God Commands Burial, Not Burning

God's children ought to be buried, not burnt, when they die. The first scripture is Genesis 3:19, when God pronounced judgment upon Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. *"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou return."* It should be noted that God made Adam from the dust of the ground, not from ashes. In fact, when God made Adam there were no ashes on the entire earth. Ashes are produced when a combustible substance is burnt, and at the time when Adam was created, there had been no fire built on the earth, therefore there were no ashes. There is a difference between ashes and dust. Genesis 2:7 declares that God created Adam's body from dust, not from ashes. *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

Genesis 49:30,31 records the burial instructions given by Jacob. He instructed his sons to bury him in the same place where Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Leah were buried. Notice Abraham said his forefathers were buried, not burnt. There is no doubt in my mind that somebody on the earth was burning their dead when Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were buried, but these faithful followers of God would follow His commands and bury the dead.

There are too many examples to be given for the burial of the kings of Israel to list them all here. Let this suffice. Of all the kings of Israel and Judah, the vast majority of them were buried, not burnt. The Bible repeatedly records that when a king of Judah died, he was buried in the place of the kings, if he was a good king who followed the precepts of God. If the king didn't follow the precepts of God, he was considered a wicked king and was not buried in the place of the kings. Instead, he was buried in another place that was chosen for the occasion. It must be noted that it was certainly not the practice of Israel to burn their dead, but it was their expressed procedure to bury their dead. Where did Israel get the idea they ought to bury their dead? From God's own holy Word, of course. See Genesis 3:19.

Burning the dead shows the judgment of God

Joshua 7:25 records that Achan and his family were burnt with fire after they were stoned with stones because they were under the judgment of God. Achan had disobeyed God when Jericho was invaded by taking a Babylon garment, a wedge of gold and 200 shekels of silver. He hid these items under his tent, but God saw it all. When Israel invaded the next town, Ai, they were sorely defeated because there was sin in the camp. After speaking to God, Joshua began to call out Israel until Achan was taken. When he confessed his sin before the people, they stoned him and his family with stones, then burnt their bodies. This example certainly shows the judgment of God upon these disobedient people.

I Samuel 31:12 records that the body of Saul and his three sons were burnt by the valiant men of Israel. The story goes like this: Saul was killed in a battle with the

Philistines. There is some disagreement over the exact cause of his death, but there can be no disputing the following facts. The Philistines came upon Saul's body when they were spoiling the victims. They cut off his head, and took his body back to Bethshan where they fastened it to a wall of the city. When the valiant men of Israel heard what had happened, they crept into the city at night and took Saul's body and the bodies of his three sons and came to Jabesh where they burnt the bodies. They then buried their bones under a tree. Why did they burn these bodies? It is suggested that these men had nothing personally against Saul; they were valiant men of Israel. They risked their lives to retrieve their bodies. I believe they did what God would have them do under the circumstances. You see; God is very able to arrange any circumstance so His will be done whether the participants agree with God or not! I personally believe Saul was a saved man, but he was a disobedient servant. God removed Saul from the throne because of his disobedience, placing David on the throne. God removed His good spirit from Saul, giving him an evil spirit from the Lord. God's good spirit of leadership for Israel was given to David, whom Saul hated. Saul's being burnt with fire shows the judgment of God upon him. Now, listen to what I am saying. I am not saying that every person that is cremated is under the judgment of God. I am not saying that every person that is cremated is lost. I am sure there are saved people that are cremated. What I am saying is that cremation from a scriptural viewpoint shows the judgment of God upon that individual.

II Kings 23:20 tells about a good king of Judah named Josiah. In his work of cleaning up pagan worship from Israel, he went into the high places surrounding Samaria. There he found temples, altars, and priests; set aside for the express purpose of worshipping false gods. When he found the priests burning sacrifice upon their altar to their false gods, he killed the priests and burnt their bones on their own altars. Doesn't this scripture also show the judgment of God in cremation?

Numbers 16 speaks about the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, Abiram, On, and certain others against God's leadership through Moses. It was decided that both sides of the controversy would meet together on the next day with their fire in their censers, and God would show which group He was working through. At the meeting Moses gave the following speech, *"And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. 29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me. 30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD."* As soon as Moses had finished speaking the ground *"...opened her mouth and swallowed them up."* Fire came out from the Lord and the 250 remaining rebels were consumed. This means they were burnt up or cremated, showing the judgment of God against them. God has made it very clear that He is working through Moses.

Leviticus 10 gives the story of two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, who offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded. The results were immediate. Fire went out from God and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. God was "fighting fire with fire," and **His** fire won! It is very noteworthy that Moses commanded

the bodies of the men to be carried out of the camp. When this was done, the Bible states they were "...carried in their coats." This strongly indicates that their bodies were not completely burnt up by the fire of God, but there was only enough fire to kill them and leave their coats intact. The garments they were wearing were holy, and God would not destroy that which is holy to destroy the profane.

If these scriptures are not enough, perhaps one more will suffice. Amos 6:10 indicates that Israel was guilty of burning their dead during a time when they *said* they were afraid to mention the name of the Lord God. Amos declares, however, that their fear didn't mean anything to God. He would judge them because of their gross disobedience to His commands. In fact, He was *already* judging them as shown by their burning their dead.

What About Burnt Offerings?

I suppose this is a good place to bring up burnt offerings. You will recall that almost all the sacrifices in the Old Testament were burnt upon an altar. Why wasn't Jesus burnt when He died? Doesn't the Old Testament sacrifices accurately picture Jesus death on the cross? Remember this: when the sacrifices were burnt, it was because of the judgment of God on the sin the sacrifice bore for the people of Israel. This sin was carried forward from sacrifice to sacrifice and from year to year because the animal wasn't perfect. When Jesus died on the cross, He indeed bore the sins of the world. Jesus paid our eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire while He suffered on the cross. Quite literally, Jesus was *spiritually* burning in the Lake of Fire for our sins while on the cross. Jesus would not break any scripture and the scripture gave explicit command that His body was to be buried with the rich in His death, Isaiah 53:9. That is exactly what happened. His body was buried, not burned. Jesus not only perfectly fulfilled all the requirements of the law in his life, but in his death completely fulfilled all that the sacrifices pictured.

In my very feeble efforts to understand words, I have discovered that there are at least three different Hebrew words translated into our one English word "burnt." One of these words means that a substance is simply burnt up. An example would be to burn wood for heat, or another purpose. Another word for burnt refers to the severe judgment of God upon the disobedient. This is the word used with the burning of Achan, Saul, and the priest Josiah killed. Another word refers to the burnt offering, which indicates *that* burning was a very sweet savor in the nostrils of God. Different words mean different things. When God used different Hebrew words in the Old Testament, He intended for us to get different meanings from those passages.

More Examples of burning being the judgment of God

II Peter 3:10 declares "*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*" Notice the expression "...pass away..." another expression for death. There is no doubt that this complete burning up and destruction of the heavens and earth is because of sin. I personally believe that God will completely annihilate this present heaven and earth. There will be absolutely nothing left at all. It will all be gone. Then God will create a

brand new heaven and earth. I do not believe we will spend eternity on a "refurbished" earth, but on a brand new earth. Why? Because this is a principle of God's own Holy Word. Notice: When God destroyed the earth with water in Noah's day many innocent animals were drowned. Why did God drown animals who did nothing wrong and had nothing to do with the wickedness then on the earth? Because the *stain of sin* was upon them. Why did God destroy Achan's children when they had nothing to do with Achan's sin? Because Achan put the *stain of sin* upon them. Why did God destroy the houses and land of Sodom and Gomorrah along with the wicked sinners? It certainly wasn't because those buildings and land sinned, but because they had the *stain of sin* on them. Why did God cause Daniel to go into captivity when he was such a faithful man of God? Because Judah's rebellion against God had put a *stain of sin* upon the entire population. The United States of America allows mothers to kill their unborn (abortion). God will bring this nation into judgment because of this gross sin. Even the people in this nation that are against abortion will face the destruction of this nation along with those that favor abortion. Why? Because the *stain of sin* is upon all individuals in this nation. Now think about the destruction of this world by fire as recorded in II Peter 3:10,11. Why will God destroy the elements, the planets and the entire universe? They haven't done anything against God, but the *stain of men's sin* is upon them, and there will be no sin, nor the *stain of sin* in eternity. Revelation 21:1 declares, *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away: and there was no more sea."*

II Thess. 1:8 describes the coming of Jesus against those that trouble God's children as *"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Isn't this another example of fire being used to show the judgment of God upon the disobedient?

Heb. 6:8 describes the end of lost people who reject the good gift of God, whose end is to be burned. *"But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned."* This passage again shows that burning is what happens to those that rebel against God and His commandments.

A Burning Mountain

Rev. 8:8-9 describes a burning mountain being cast to the earth causing the destruction of 1/3 of the population of the world. *"And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed."* I believe this mountain is not a literal mountain, but a kingdom of this world. A mountain is often described as being a kingdom, see Isaiah 2:2. This mountain (kingdom) is burning because the judgment of God is upon it. I must say here that this mountain (kingdom) has evolved from pressure exerted by the common people for their "personal freedoms." The Bible states in Rev. 13:1 that the anti-Christ will arise from the sea. Rev. 17:15 tells us the waters upon which the whore sitteth is peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. The fall of the Soviet Union illustrates my point very well. The Soviet Union began to give its people a small taste of freedom and they liked it. The common people began to rebel against the dictators over them until they finally toppled their government. A Reader's Digest article

for December 1991, entitled "Three days that shook the world" describes the role of the common people in the overthrow of the communist government. Luke 21:25 states, *"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring."* This means there will be a "grass roots" movement to change the way nations function. This has never happened before in the history of the world! There have always been great, powerful leaders of nations; but in the last days, the common people will rule themselves. This might sound like a good idea, but watch out! The "me" generation has arrived. The generation that will improve (?) God's world without God has arrived. They bring with them all sorts of false philosophies, developed from their depraved intellect, applied to a depraved society, with a false notion of bringing peace to the world. Things are just about to blow up! Doesn't the Bible state that the first seal that is opened during the tribulation is a rider on a white horse who has a bow but no arrows? Doesn't this rider come to conquer? This is what we are seeing now. The prophecies of Jeremiah 6:14 will be fulfilled when men cry *"...peace, peace, when there is no peace..."* I Thess. 5:3 declares *"...they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."*

When the second seal of Revelation 6:4 is opened, *"And there went out another house that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."* When the third seal is opened, the third rider is black; for there is a vast famine on the earth. The fourth rider is pale for his name is Death. The mountain we are describing in Revelation 8:8-9 is a kingdom developed by the wicked sinners of this earth, much as other wicked sinners before them developed the idea of establishing a tower that would reach unto heaven. They were not successful. Neither will the wicked sinners that develop this kingdom be successful, because their kingdom will collapse back onto them, killing a third of them.

A Burning Star

Revelation 8:10-11 describes a burning star that falls to the earth. *"And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter."* The star is burning because it is under the judgment of God. It is called wormwood, which means bitter. This star is a false messenger of Satan, a false leader of the hordes of people who fall upon the very people who gave him his power, and in the process many of the common people will perish.

The Burning of Pagan Babylon

Revelation 18:8,9 describes the fall of Pagan Babylon. *"Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. 9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,"* Pagan Babylon is a false religious

system developed to fulfill the "religious desires" of the multitude. We will notice the "religious desires" of the multitude shortly, but first notice the fall of this false religious system is described as a "burning." This is because the judgment of God is upon her. God commands His people to come out from this false religious system in Rev. 18:4. If his people come out, they will avoid the plagues that come upon this false system. If they don't come out, they will partake of the judgment of God just as all rebels do.

The "religious desires" of the multitude of the world is not to worship God, giving glory and honor to Him. Rather it is to have a religion that satisfies the depraved, sensual instincts of a sinner. This religion is a religion that provides much money to the "believers." This religion is here today. A part of this religion is what I call the "health and wealth gospel." This religion is a perversion of scriptural giving tithes and offerings, and asking and receiving. There are "religious" people who teach that asking in the name of Jesus is nothing more than asking for physical health and material wealth. Some of these people declare that they were in need of \$1,000.00, and they only had \$100.00. They felt God lead them to give their last bit of money to Him; then very soon afterwards, they came into the exact amount of money they needed. Their theory is the exact opposite of scriptural tithing. Tithing is when we give God, through His local church, 10% of our earnings. The "health and wealth" gospel teach that God will give us 10 times what we give to Him. This theory is not taught in Scripture, but is the perverted thinking of those deceivers who can think only in physical terms. Spiritual matters are beyond their understanding. God will destroy this false religion with His fiery judgment, leaving its adherents grasping at straws, trying to save the financial empire they have developed.

The Eternal Fire

One last scripture ought to completely convince all true listeners. Revelation 20:14,15 declares that the lost are cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer the burning fiery judgment of God for all eternity. *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

Objections to Fire (Cremation)

Being the Judgment of God

The scriptures already given should be enough to convince any true believer that fire is a symbol of the judgment of God. In spite of all the scriptures I have given (and many more that I did not include in this booklet) there will be those that continue to believe in cremation. Some will have legitimate questions, while others won't. This section will attempt to answer some of the more legitimate questions.

Sometimes it is stated that God is fire. God appeared to Moses in the form of a burning bush that was not consumed. God used this burning bush to show Moses He was the eternal one that was never consumed. He also used a "burning" to describe Himself to others. We will notice further descriptions of God shortly. We must remember that fire is a special creation of God, used by man for his benefit, but fire also describes part of the nature of God, especially concerning judgment. When God appeared to Moses in the form of a burning bush that wasn't consumed by the flame, it was a miracle, the first of

the entire Bible. God was revealing Himself as the eternal one that controls all things of nature, whether these things concern man, beast, plant, or mineral. Moses realized he was facing the eternal Godhead, and acted accordingly.

In Rev. 1:14, Christ eyes are described as *"eyes ...as a flame of fire."* This symbolizes the judgment of God because a look from Christ burns through all dross, purifying completely what He sees.

In Revelation 1:15, Christ appears to John with feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace. Brass in the Bible symbolizes the judgment of God while gold symbolizes the glory of God, and other minerals symbolize other of God's attributes. In verse 16, the countenance of Jesus is as the sun shineth in his strength, that is, brighter than the sun. This description certainly invites our attention to the perfect judgment of God as one of His attributes.

I Cor. 3:11-15 describes the judgment of God upon the works of believers. Their works shall be tried by fire, the fire from God's Holy All Seeing Eyes. If their works are good, they will be purified, but if they are not good, they will be burned up.

In Ezekiel 1:13, Ezekiel sees a living creature, which represents God. *"As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning."* The description is very difficult to visualize, just as it is very difficult to visualize God. There is more to God than we can comprehend, even if we try very hard. Ezekiel 1:5-6 describes the part of the living creature that represent Jesus Christ. *"Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. 6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings."* John saw the same living creature in Rev. 4:6-7 around the throne of God. *"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle."* The living creatures are not Jesus Christ, but are representative of Him. The likeness of the living creatures is given in Ezekiel 1:13 as burning coals of fire, with the appearance of lamps, a very bright fire, and out of the fire went lightning. This burning represents one of God's attributes - His judgment.

Isaiah 6:1 describes the Seraphims, which are described in the Hebrew language as burning in their own holiness. *"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."* Seraphims are not angels; for they are not described anything at all like angels. Angels appear in the form of men, never with wings. Seraphims appear with wings to separate them from angels. The Hebrew word that describes seraphims appears only 8 times in the entire Old Testament. It is the word for "fiery" found in Numbers 21:6,8 that describes the "fiery serpents" God sent to bite the rebellious Israelites. This passage again describes burning as representing

the holiness of God, and His judgment upon all sin.

Why Is Cremation Gaining In Popularity?

Cremation is gaining rapidly in popularity mainly because most people who claim to be "Christian" don't apply the scriptures to their lives anymore. Recently (in the past 40 years) there have been many truths that have fallen by the wayside.

Christian separation is not longer appropriate to many people, although God hasn't changed His mind about it.

The Christian work ethic has been replaced by the "entitlement" ethic. Many people expect material necessities to be "handed to them" instead of them having to work for what they receive.

The idea of the Christian family; where the husband is the head of the home, the wife is her husband's helper, and the children are a blessing from God, has been replaced by women's liberation, children's liberation, and men are looked upon as some kind of oppressor. The family is considered by many to be anybody who is a friend, regardless of their relationship. Divorce is destroying husband and wife, and children simply don't know which way to turn. Many couples are living together (which used to be called "shacking up") instead of marrying.

Many "Christians" don't read their Bibles anymore. They read "Christian" literature instead. Sometime when you are in a "Christian" bookstore, see how many books are nothing more than philosophy books with a "Christian" flavor.

Many preachers don't really pray and study so they can preach what God's will is for the people of God. They don't want to offend their listeners because they know the people will fire them and hire someone else who will "tickle their ears." Most preachers don't want to preach God's doctrine because it is much hard work to prepare sermons, and doctrines often divide the church instead of uniting it. These foolish preachers have forgotten that *"...the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* The Word of God is **supposed** to divide and conquer, not be conquered.

These are just a few of the truths that have fallen by the wayside. I use these few truths to show that people are not looking to the Bible to discover what they must do. They are looking at other factors, and when it comes to disposing of dead bodies, the Egyptian philosophy of "body preservation" has prevailed.

Cremation has dramatically increased due to purely economics factors, not from scripture. In many areas, it is considerably cheaper to cremate a body than to bury it, especially when all the ecology factors and the laws that supposedly protect us from decaying bodies are considered.

It should also be noted that cremation has dramatically increased in California and Florida, principally because of the increase of "eastern" religions. Cremation in these states, and other states, will continue to increase as false religions make inroads into the "Christian" community.

Cremation has increased in some southern states because graves are *top of the ground*. There is so much water in the ground, caskets float to the top and must be re-buried. Cremation stops this needless, and endless re-burying.

Supporters of cremation often say that cremation ends perpetual and endless cemeteries. Population "worriers" are concerned that cemeteries will eventually cover the earth because they preserve dead bodies in sealed caskets instead of letting the dead bodies return to the dust. The United States is truly "Egyptian" in this practice. In Egypt, only the very rich could afford the embalming process. All other dead bodies returned to the dust when they died. Today, most people can afford a casket that doesn't allow the body to readily decay. What is to be done with all these buried caskets?

This is a problem of recent origin. Scientists have calculated that there have been some 40,000,000,000 (that's *billion*) people born, lived and died on planet earth in the past 6,000 years! Where are all these dead bodies? Where is all the ecological damage caused by these decaying bodies? It is not properly buried, decaying bodies that cause the problem to the ecology. It is government interference and our Egyptian philosophy of preserving dead bodies in sealed caskets that is causing the problem.

To illustrate how God has engineered the earth to absorb various catastrophic events, note the following. In March 1989, the tanker *Exxon Valdez* ran aground in Prince William Sound, about 25 miles south of Valdez, a city in southern Alaska, spilling more than 10 million gallons of oil. The United States spent hundreds of millions of dollars trying to clean up the mess, and ecologists declared the area a disaster, stating that it would take hundreds of years to return to its natural condition. This is 1996, and visitors to the area say that it is very difficult to imagine the catastrophe that occurred there in 1989. "Nature" has almost completely restored the area.

Another excellent example of how the forces of nature work rapidly to restore itself is Mount Saint Helen's; an active volcano located in southwestern Washington, in the Cascade Range. The volcano, which had been dormant since 1857, began to show signs of renewed activity in early 1980. On May 18, 1980, it erupted with such violence that the top of the mountain was blown off and a cloud of ash and gases was sent to an altitude of 19 km (12 miles). The blast killed at least 60 people and destroyed all life in an area of some 180 square km (some 70 square miles); a vast area was covered with ash and debris. As a result of the eruption, the mountain's elevation was decreased from 2950 m (9677 ft) to 2540 m (8364 ft). A National Volcano Monument was established here in 1982. How long did it take nature to start rebuilding the area? Within three years, it was reported that trees and bushes had already begun to grow and wildlife was moving back into the area. This happened before the government programs to rebuild the area could be started!

I dare say that if the Environmental Protection Agency had been in charge of Israel's exodus from Egypt, it never would have taken place. In Exodus 12:37, the Bible states there were 600,000 men, besides children and the mixed multitude that left Egypt. If each of these men had a wife and each couple had two children, there were 2,400,000 Israelites that left Egypt, not counting the mixed multitude, nor the herds and flocks. What do you do when 2,400,000 people have to go to the bathroom, and there is no bathroom? God answers this question in Deut. 23:12,13. *"Thou shalt have a place also without the camp,*

whither thou shalt go forth abroad: 13 And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee."

The camping ground for the nation of Israel while they traveled in the wilderness would be approximately 500 square miles (50 miles x 10 miles, or 25 miles x 20 miles). When Israel left an area, it wasn't "trashed." Using the commands given them by God, Israel would leave an area as clean as they found it. After they had been gone a short time, God's natural laws would restore the area completely.

Conclusion

I sincerely hope this has answered the question of cremation for you. It has for me. God has so built planet earth that it would have lasted for all eternity, had it not been for sin. God knew sin would enter the world, and created the earth to absorb and purify the normal waste created by mankind, and dead bodies are only one of the normal waste of mankind. Let each one of us determine that we will trust God, not only with spiritual things, but also with material, physical things.

***Independence
Baptist Church***

P. O. Box 70
124 South Main
Foristell, Missouri 63348
636-673-2180
Independencebaptist.org

Wayne Reynolds, *Pastor*

© Wayne Reynolds
6329 Cedar Hill Lane
Troy, MO 63379

Printed under authority of
Independence Baptist Church
April, 1996