

WHERE DO RABBIS GO WHEN THEY DIE?

SID ROTH

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Where Do Rabbis Go When They Die?

by Sid Roth

Most Jews I meet say they believe in God but are not religious. They want to know God, but they're not interested in the religion of the rabbis.

There is another option.

A Jew is born a Jew and will die a Jew no matter what they believe. But most do not know there is something better than religion—having your own experiential knowledge with God. This experiential knowledge allows us to not just believe in God but to **know** God!

Why is that important?

If you do not know God **before** you die, you will not know God **after** you die! Daniel the Jewish prophet tells us about a Book of Life and the consequence of not having our name inscribed in this Book. Daniel 12:1-2 says, “your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the **book** [of Life]. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to **everlasting life**, some to shame and **everlasting contempt**.”

We live once and then enter into either everlasting judgment or everlasting life. The Torah and the prophets tell us how to enter into everlasting life through a **New Covenant**.

Why would we Jews need a New Covenant? Wasn't the Mosaic Covenant enough? No. Under that covenant, the **only** way to have our sins forgiven on Yom Kippur was through the sacrifice of an animal **in** the Temple. But the Temple was destroyed in AD 70. After that, no Temple meant no animal sacrifice and therefore, no forgiveness of sin! Torah says it is the blood that makes atonement for sin (Leviticus 17:11). Since the way to atonement through animal sacrifices was no longer available after the Temple was destroyed, Judaism had to be reinvented. This new religion was called Rabbinic Judaism.

The architect of Rabbinic Judaism on his deathbed made a revealing and profound statement. The Gemara in Berakhot (28b) records it:

When Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai fell ill, his disciples came to visit him. When he saw them, he began to weep. His disciples said to him, "...why do you weep?" He said to them: "...two paths are before me, one to Gan Eden

(Garden of Eden) and the other to Gehinnom (hell) and I **do not know** upon which I am to be led—shall I not weep?”

If this leader of Rabbinic Judaism had no idea whether he would end up in heaven or in hell, how could he assure anyone else of everlasting life? A great Rabbi describes Rabbi ben Zakkai’s deathbed confession this way: “If a blind man leads another blind man, won’t both will fall into a ditch?”

Rabbinic Judaism was **not** God’s intent. God allowed the Temple to be destroyed and animal sacrifices to cease because He had a better way. The Jewish prophets Daniel (9:26) and Isaiah (53) predicted the better way. Daniel said that the Anointed One, or Messiah, would die for our sins **before** the Temple was destroyed.

All the animal sacrifices and shedding of blood were only shadows of **the** Lamb of God (Messiah) who would take away the sins of the world. The blood on the doorpost during the first Passover protected Jewish families against death. Again, that was just a shadow of the Lamb of God who became our atonement for sin. If the shadow had so much supernatural power and protection, how much more the real thing!

Why is this **new way** superior? The Jewish prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34) said the New Covenant would do three things the Mosaic Covenant could not do.

1. The Torah, or the Word of God, would live **inside** of us.
2. Our sins would not just be covered, but God promised He would **remember them no more**.
3. We would **know** God for ourselves, not just know **about** Him.

There is nothing this world offers compared to personally knowing God. If you know God, you have everything. If you have everything and do not know God, you have nothing. If you know God before you die, you will know Him after you die and experience everlasting life. If you do not know Him before you die, you will experience everlasting judgment.

The best description of the Jewish Messiah was written by the Jewish prophet Isaiah 800 years before Jesus, the Word of God, came to earth. Isaiah 53 (NLT) says:

Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?

[The arm of the Lord is another name for the Messiah, see Isaiah 59:16.] My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. [Alludes to His miraculous birth.] There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we [the Jewish people] did not care. [Because He was so brutally beaten.]

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. [Every sin and violation of the Ten Commandments you have committed is wiped away and you are clean.]

He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. [He did not defend Himself at His trial.] He was led like a lamb to the

slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. [He died for your sins.] He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. [The sacrifice lamb had to be without blemish.] But he was buried like a criminal [a thief was crucified on either side]; he was put in a rich man's grave. [He was buried in a rich man's tomb that belonged to Joseph of Arimathea.]

But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands. When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels. [End of quote from Isaiah.]

Not only did the Messiah pay the price for our sins, but the original Hebrew meaning of this passage makes clear that He also bore our pains and sicknesses. In fact, the ancient rabbis called Him the “Leprous Messiah” because He carried our sicknesses. King David described it like this in Psalm 103:3 (NLT), “He forgives **all** my sins and heals **all** my diseases.”

As a Jew I believe in one God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I also believe in one Messiah, the Jew, Jesus. Some would say He can’t be the Messiah because the Messiah will bring peace to the earth and we don’t have peace. But consider this based on what you have just read in Isaiah 53:

First the Messiah comes to bring blessings by paying the ransom for our sins through shedding His blood. This blessing allows God to live inside of us after He makes us righteous by atoning for our sins. God says, “the heart is deceitful... and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9). His great blessing is He gives us a heart transplant. Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT) says, “I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.”

Then the Messiah returns to usher in an age of peace. How can there be peace without humans receiving a new heart and a new spirit?

- Do you want this supernatural heart transplant?
- Do you want to have experiential knowledge with God?
- Do you want a heart that is responsive and tender to God?
- Do you want to receive His blessings and know Him for yourself?

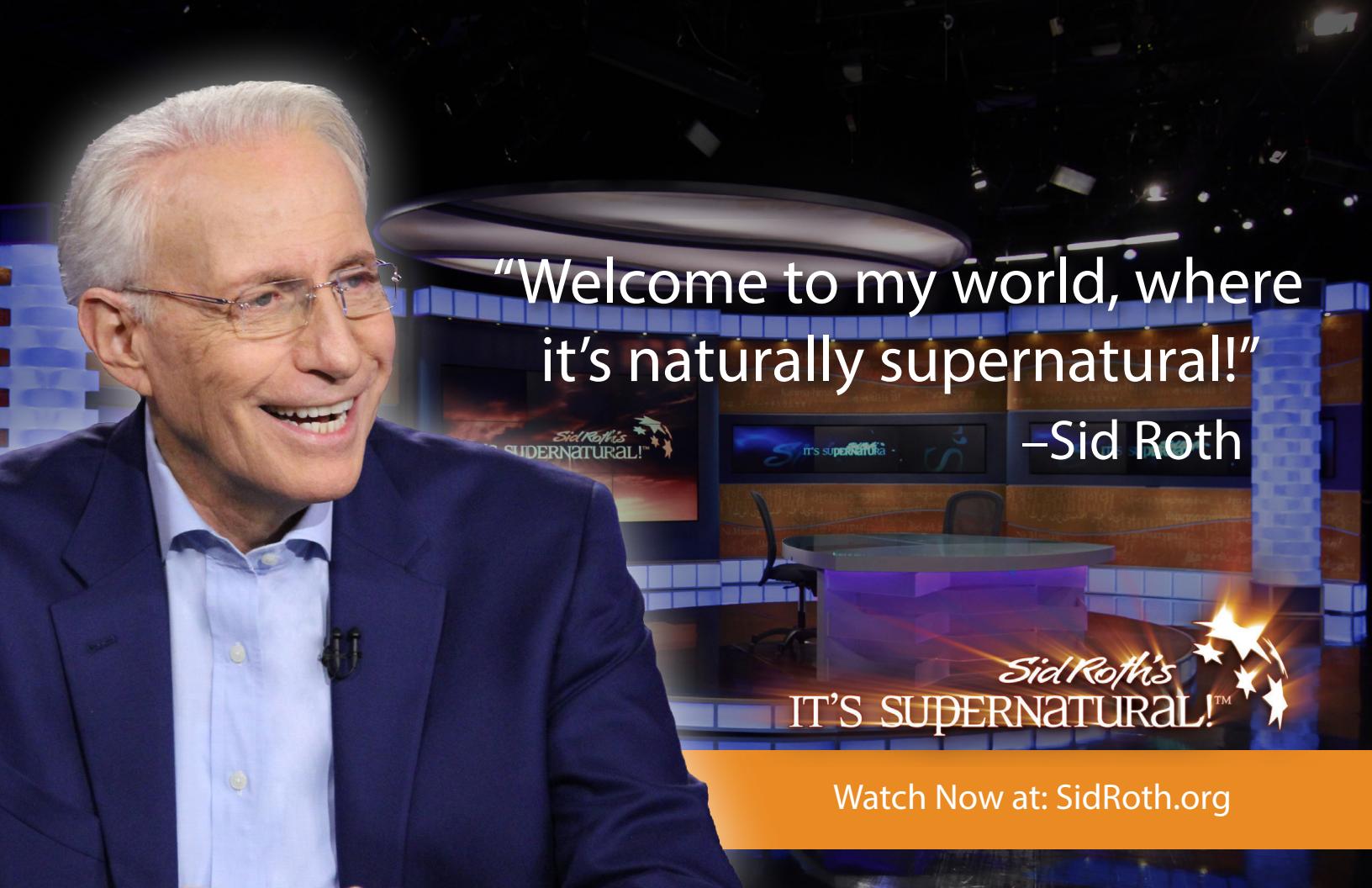
Remember, Daniel the Jewish prophet says the righteous go to **everlasting life** when they die. The unrighteousness go to **everlasting shame and contempt**. In other words, there is no chance of reversal!

If you want to know God, you need to pray your sins be remembered no more, and ask the Messiah to live inside of you and give you a new heart and new spirit that is responsive to God. Pray this prayer out loud and mean it to the best of your ability.

“Dear God, I have committed many sins and I am so sorry. I believe Yeshua (Jesus) is my

Passover Lamb and died for my sins. Thank you for dying for my sins. By Your Passover Blood, my sins are removed and I am clean. Now that I am clean, I ask you to live inside of me and be my Lord.”

After you have prayed this prayer, I urge you to read my book, *They Thought For Themselves*. It will answer many of your questions. For a free online version, go to my website, **TheyThoughtForThemselves.com**. And be sure to let me know that you prayed to receive your Jewish Messiah!

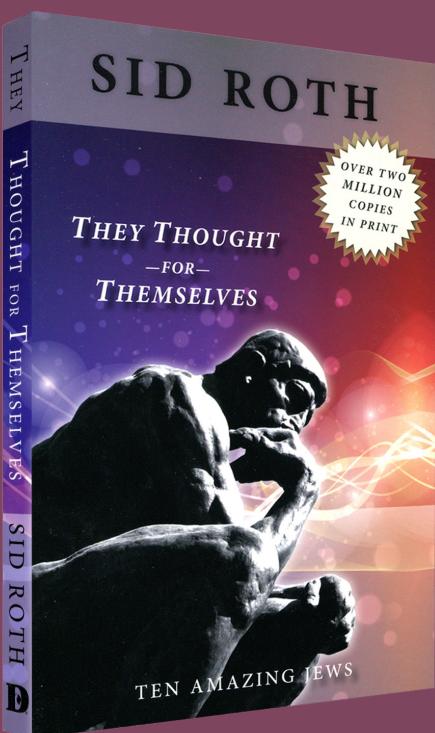


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