

Is This All There Is?

God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart. Ecclesiastes 3:11a (NLT)

Indicators of an afterlife . . .

A sense of justice

Longings of the human heart

Near-death experiences

If there is no afterlife, then the Christian faith is fake.

If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins. 1 Corinthians 15:17 (GNT)

Life lacks real meaning if there is no life after death.

If our hope in Christ is for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone else in the world. 1 Corinthians 15:19 (NCV)

All people will experience resurrection.

All people, good and bad, will surely be raised from the dead. Acts 24:15b (NCV)

Resurrection is entirely unnatural. We don't go on living beyond the grave because that's how we're made.

Every person will face God's judgment.

We die only once, and then we are judged. Hebrews 9:27 (CEV)

Knowing religious words won't get you into heaven.

Not everyone who calls me "Lord, Lord" will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do. Matthew 7:21 (GNT)

Our bodies will be transformed in heaven.

These bodies will die, but the bodies that are raised will live forever. 1 Corinthians 15:42b (CEV)

Absolute separation from God is hell.

Those who have feigned their faith will be cast out into outer darkness where people weep and grind their teeth. Matthew 8:12 (VOICE)

God doesn't want anyone to perish.

Jesus says that God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16 (NRSV)

Talk About It . . .

1. What's something that you think is beautiful?
2. What's something that brings joy to you?
3. What's something that your heart longs for?
4. How do you respond to Carl Sagan's statement: "Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. A pale blue dot. A mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam. In our obscurity—in all this vastness—there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves."
5. What do you think of the materialist worldview that holds if you can't see, touch, hear, smell, or taste something it's not real?
6. What were your beliefs about an afterlife when you were young? How did you come to believe that?
7. Do you think a sense of justice is a valid indicator of an afterlife? Why or why not? Do you think near death experiences are a valid indicator of an afterlife? Why or why not?
8. What do you think of the idea that if there is no afterlife, then the Christian faith is fake?
9. What do you think of the theological concept that every person will face God's judgment?
10. What do you think heaven will be like?
11. Do you think everyone will go to heaven? Why or why not?
12. What do you think of the theological concept of hell?