

## THE STEP OF DEATH

*John Edwards*

David said, “...truly as the Lord liveth...there is but a step between me and death” (1 Sam. 20:3). We need to seriously consider the step of death.

**A COMMON STEP.** The Scriptures speak of “*the common death of all men*” (Num. 16:29). When we pick up the newspaper or listen to the radio, we are not stunned to find obituary announcements where some have died. Death is as common as life itself.

**AN APPOINTED STEP.** The Hebrew writer penned, “...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). All of us have an appointment with death. Are you ready?

**A SEPARATING STEP.** Death is a separation. James recorded, “*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also*” (Jas. 2:26). At physical death, the body goes back to dust from whence it came and the spirit unto God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7).

A sober reflection on the step of death should move us to order our steps in God’s word (Ps. 119:133).

## MORMONISM VERSUS THE BIBLE

*John Edwards*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (The Mormon Church), organized April 6, 1830 in Fayette, New York by Joseph Smith, began at the wrong time, the wrong place and by the wrong person to be the church revealed in the New Testament. The many contradictions, discrepancies and errors of Mormonism with the Bible are enough to show the Mormon faith is not the “*one faith*” of Ephesians 4:5.

**MORMONISM TEACHES THE BIBLE DOES NOT CONTAIN ALL THE WORD OF GOD.** “Thou fool, that shall say, A Bible, a Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no other Bible...ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written” (2 Nephi 12:53-64).

The Scriptures teach the written testimony of eye and ear witnesses, revealed and confirmed by the Spirit of truth, is certain (Lk. 1:1-4), complete and infallible (Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 16:13) and sufficient to produce faith and give life (Jn. 20:30-31). What truth is not revealed in the Bible that I must hear, believe and obey in order to be eternally saved?

**MORMONISM TEACHES THE BIBLE HAS SCARCELY A VERSE THAT IS NOT POLLUTED.** “What shall we say, then, concerning the Bible being a sufficient guide? Can we rely upon it in its present known corrupted state as being a faithful record of God’s word? ... Who knows that even one verse of the whole Bible has escaped pollution, so as to convey the same sense now that it did in the original?” (*Divine Authenticity of the book of Mormon*, pp. 204-205, 218, Orson Pratt).

There many verses of the Bible to be found in the book of Mormon, yet we are told it is doubtful that one verse of the Bible has escaped pollution. IF that be true, then where does that put the book of Mormon?

The word of God was confirmed by signs following (Mk. 16:15-20; Heb. 2:3-4). The faith once delivered does not need to be redelivered (Jude 3), and the faith once confirmed does not need to be reconfirmed (Gal. 3:15). The lack of authentic signs is evidence of the want of genuine latter-day revelation. We are glad to study with anyone interested in learning more about the faith once delivered to the saints.

**If Jesus came at 3:00 today, where would He find you?**

## **UP THERE — NOT DOWN HERE**

*John Edwards*

Some question where heaven is or shall be. It has long been advocated by the Jehovah's Witnesses that this earth will be restored to a peaceful paradise. When that happens, we are told, there will be no more sickness, old age or death, and there will be plenty of good things to eat, suitable homes and enjoyable work for all, no more crime, violence or war, freedom from fear and peace everywhere on earth.

There are those among our own brethren who think and have publicly taught that this old earth will be refurbished, rejuvenated and renovated. Heaven will be down here on earth, some want us to believe. Thus, we need to be reminded:

**HEAVEN IS NOT DOWN, BUT UP.** The word "up" is used several times with "heaven". Jesus taught, "**But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...**" (Mt. 6:20). It is recorded, Jesus "**looking up to heaven**" (Mt. 14:19; Mk. 7:34). He "**lifted up his eyes to**

heaven" (Jn. 17:1). He "**was carried up into heaven**" (Lk. 24:51), or, as Mark put it, "**received up into heaven**" (Mk. 16:19). John 3:13 says, "**And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.**" Stephen "**looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God**" (Acts 7:55). Paul spoke of one "**Caught up to the third heaven**" (2 Cor. 12:2). Colossians 1:5 speaks of "**the hope which is laid up for you in heaven...**" Heaven is not down, but up!

**HEAVEN IS NOT HERE, BUT THERE.** Jesus declared, "**In my Father's house are many mansions....I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also**" (Jn. 14:2-3). Note He said, "**WHERE I AM, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO.**" Jesus is not here, but there!

Thus, when I think of heaven, I think up, not down; there, not here.

## **HOW TO PROSPER AND HAVE GOOD SUCCESS**

*John Edwards*

Many books have been written to tell me how to prosper and be successful. You can stack them all up and they will not equal the words uttered by the Lord to Joshua as he succeeded Moses in leadership of the children of Israel. Read Joshua 1:6-9 to learn how to prosper and have good success:

*"Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for **then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**"*

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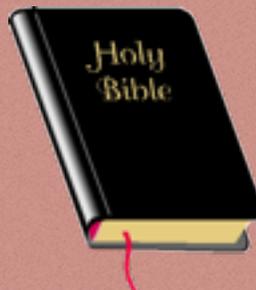
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