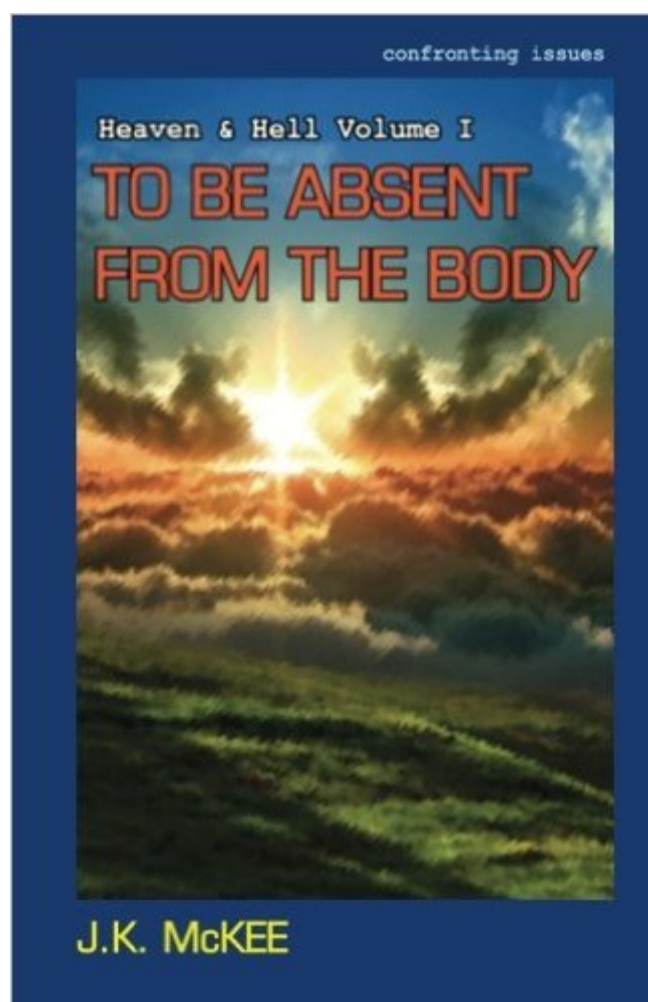


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To Be Absent From The Body



Synopsis

Without any doubt, one of the most uncomfortable subjects that any human being has to confront in life is death. You do not have to be that well versed in reading the Bible, to adequately understand that death is a part of living. With the possible exception of those who will actually be alive at the moment of the Second Coming, the biological life functions of each and every one of us will cease. A mainstay, of both Judaism and Christianity, is the firm belief in the future resurrection of the dead. A Scripture passage like Daniel 12:1 unambiguously tells us, "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake..." Everyone in today's broad Messianic movement would rightfully agree that the deceased from all ages will have their physical remains reanimated and resurrected to new biological life. Yet for many Jews, and many more Christians, questions abound about what is to occur between the moments of physical death and future resurrection. What happens to people? Do people somehow go into absolute unconsciousness, only to then be somehow recreated? Is the death of a human being little different than the death of an animal? Is the death of a human being much different than the death of an animal, with the consciousness of mind, memory, experience, and creativity often more called in the vernacular to be a "soul" temporarily held in another dimension until the resurrection? This installment of the Confronting Issues series by Messianic Apologetics, *To Be Absent From the Body*, has brought together some important information and critical FAQ entries from the Messianic Apologetics website. There are definite questions of human dignity and worth to be evaluated regarding the intermediate state. This volume addresses this subject quite well. If you have a relative, a friend, or another loved one who has passed away knowing the Lord "you can be assured that he or she is consciously in His presence right now" but is also quite eager to return to the Earth to see His Kingdom restored!

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Customer Reviews

The prevailing view in Christianity is that a believer in Jesus goes to heaven upon death. Soul sleep, however, is the doctrine of some, such as Seventh Day Adventists. In the relatively new Messianic movement, some teachers have strongly taught soul sleep. Many people trust these teachers and believe this, without a vigorous (Berean) study of scripture. "To Be Absent from the Body" is that vigorous study. The title, from Paul's words, invites its completion--"is to be present with the Lord." McKee also tackles questions we just haven't verbalized--ie: where did believers in Old Testament times go at death, what is Abraham's Bosom, and on. On many matters, believers have divergent views--ie: will Jesus return before or after the antichrist, should we eat pig or not, should a woman cover her head with a scarf. These matters carry importance. But unconsciousness till the resurrection (soul sleep) versus an aware presence with our loving Lord is an issue that rises to the top for people bereaved of one dearly loved. I invite messianic and church leaders as well as all persons with interest to take a look at McKee's exhaustive study. Know why you can, in full integrity, comfort the grieving among us. The best help for deep sorrow is knowing that the departed treasured one is experiencing the blissful love of our Saving God in the heavenly realm. "Blessed are they that mourn," says wonderful Yeshua "for they shall be comforted." That comfort will (fully) come when the mourner passes on and joins her treasured one(s) in rejoicing in Elohim's love and light before heaven's throne.

This book and the one on Hell should be bought together. They answer a lot of questions that Christians and Messianics have about life after death. This author has his stuff together. All his books are great study material.

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