# DEATH ARRANGEMENTS Pt.1: HONORABLE BURIALS, BURNINGS, SHAMEFUL DEATH

As we grow older we begin to have thoughts about getting things in order for when we pass away. Things like making a will and what our arrangements will be for when we die etc. I'm noticing that cremation is becoming more and more popular today. I believe that is because it is so much cheaper than traditional burial. The righteous however, were never cremated. We have been conditioned to be accepting of things that were never meant for us as Christians. It is very important for us to live our lives Biblically according to God's Word. The Bible may not speak on every subject but where it does speak, we need to heed what it says.

**HONORABLE BURIALS**

In both the Old and New Testaments, physical burial in caves, tombs or the ground was the standard and expected way to care for the dead.

**Genesis 49:29-30 –** (Jacob speaking here) And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that *is* in the field of Ephron the Hittite, In the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a burying place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah. The purchase of the field and of the cave that *is* therein *was* from the children of Heth. And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

The children of Israel were in Egypt when Jacob gave his children these burial instructions. His grandfather Abraham had bought a cave to use for an ancestral burying place. Jacob did not want to be buried in Egypt and wanted to be sure when he died that his children would carry him out and bury him in the cave Abraham had bought for burial.

**Genesis 25:8 -** Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full *of years*; and was gathered to his people.

Gathered to his people means he joined his ancestors in death. **(Numbers 27:13, Genesis 49:33)**

**1 Kings 2:10 –** So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

King David, a man after God's own heart **(1 Samuel 13:14)** was buried. The phrase gathered to his people or slept with his fathers is talking about being reunited spiritually with those who went on before them into Sheol. Remember God is The God of the living and not of the dead. **(Matt.22:32)** Being gathered to their people is speaking of the afterlife.

Because of Moses' sin against God when he struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it to bring forth water, God told him he could not enter the promised land, speaking of Canaan. But God did allow him to see it.

**Numbers 27:13 -** And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered.

**Deut.34:5-6 –** So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

God Himself buried Moses. Moses was "gathered to his people" even though he died and was buried by God on a remote mountain in Moab where his family tomb was not located. So we can understand that being gathered to their people meant to be gathered to those living in the afterlife in Sheol.

**BURNINGS for ROYALTY**

**2 Chronicles 16:13-14 –** And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign. And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds *of spices* prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.

The "burning" was a royal funeral custom where large quantities of sweet-smelling spices, myrrh, aloes, and incense were burned in honor of the king. They did not cremate the actual body.

**Jeremiah 34:5 –** *But* thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn *odours* for thee; and they will lament thee, *saying*, Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD.

God promised Zedekiah to have an honorable burial in the end of his life. Royal funerals in Judah included ceremonial burnings to honor the dead, as seen in the burial of King Asa. Zedekiah would receive the dignity normally given to Davidic kings, even as Jerusalem and the monarchy fell under God's judgment. Even though King Zedekiah had been sent away to captivity under God's judgment, God still had mercy in the end.

**2 Chronicles 21:19 –** And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.

Jehoram's prolonged affliction fulfilled the judgment announced by Elijah because of his idolatry, violence, and leading Judah away from the Lord. The two years gave public testimony that the king's suffering was not an ordinary misfortune but the outworking of God's righteous discipline. Yet Jehoram left no record of repentance or renewed faithfulness. He promoted pagan worship.

Judah withheld the customary royal funeral honors, likely the burning of spices and other ceremonial preparations practiced for deceased kings **(2 Chronicles 16:14; Jeremiah 34:5)**. The people's refusal revealed the contempt earned by Jehoram's ungodly rule. Though he was buried in Jerusalem, he was denied burial among the kings, leaving a legacy of dishonor.

**SHAMEFUL DEATH**

**Proverbs 30:17 –** The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

The meaning is that this rebellious, disobedient child would not even be buried. An unburied body left for scavenging birds represented shame, curse, and the loss of covenant blessing **(Deuteronomy 28:26)**. Research said that ravens and vultures often target the soft tissue of the eye first when feeding on a carcass.

**Jeremiah 25:33 -** And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

This is a time when God will pour out His judgement and there will be so many dead people they will just be left in the streets.

In Joshua chapter 7, Israel lost a battle to the city of Ai and Joshua sought God about it and God told him there was sin in the camp.

**Joshua 7:24 –** And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

They had lost God's protection and favor over this sin. God's judgement against Achan's sin impacted his whole family and all his possessions. It was so great a sin against God that after stoning them they burned their bodies. They were not deserving of an honorable burial even after being stoned.

From my Bible Pictorial Dictionary under burial: In several cases of sinful rulers, ordinary burial was denied to their bodies: the dogs ate Jezebel **(II Kings 9:10)**; Jehoram of Judah, who died with incurable diseases, was not buried with the kings **(II Chron.21:18-20)**; Uzziah was buried in a field, not in the tombs of the kings **(II Chron.26:23)**; and Jehoiakim was buried with the burial of an ass **(Jer.22:18-19)**.

Being left in death unburied, exposed to the elements, and to beasts or to abandonment or burning was considered a disgrace, a curse and severe judgement. **(Jeremiah 16:4, Ecclesiastes 6:3-4)** It was not honorable and was not how the righteous were treated in death.

**Ecclesiastes 6:3 -** If a man beget an hundred *children*, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also *that* he have no burial; I say, *that* an untimely birth *is* better than he.

What's conveyed is that if a man doesn't even get a decent burial in the end of his life it would be better off to have died at birth.

To come to the end of one's life without proper respect and honor was regarded with horror all across the ancient Near East.

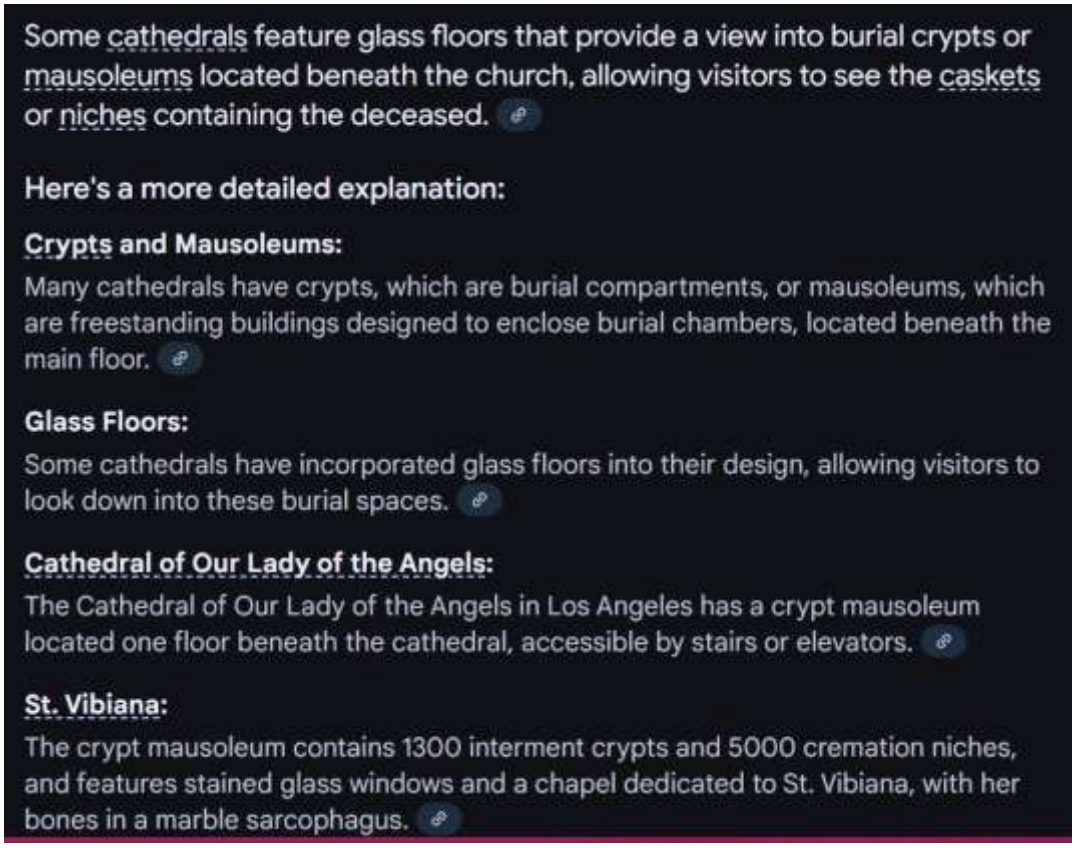
**Isaiah 14:18-20 -** All the kings of the nations, *even* all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, *and as* the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, *and* slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

This is about the King of Babylon. Earthly rulers commonly received public honor in death through royal tombs, funerary rites, and memorials intended to preserve their glory. Yet death brought every king beneath the same power he could not conquer. In contrast, Babylon's proud ruler would receive no such honor, for the Lord's judgment would expose the emptiness of power gained through violence and self-exaltation. Royal burial places often preserved a dynasty's name, as seen in the tombs of Judah's kings in the City of David. A proper burial represented dignity, family continuity, and remembrance among one's people. The king of Babylon would be cast out without burial, cut off from honor and from his royal line, showing that no earthly throne can secure lasting glory against God's decree. The king of Babylon is denied the honorable burial normally granted to rulers. Instead of resting among his ancestors, he is treated as worthless and discarded. His fall overturns the glory, power, and lasting dynasty he imagined for himself. God's judgment removes both his throne and his memorial. The meaning of being covered by those slain with the sword is: His body lies among the casualties of war, not among mourners in a royal tomb. The conqueror who filled nations with corpses becomes indistinguishable from the dead left behind by his own violence. The sword that Babylon wielded against others becomes an instrument of divine retribution against Babylon's king. Being dumped into a rocky pit, portrays abandonment in a grave-like place without dignity or ceremony. Ancient peoples regarded burial as an act of honor and remembrance; to be cast into a pit was to suffer public disgrace even in death. The ruler who sought to exalt himself above the stars is brought down to the depths. God told the King of Babylon he would

not join the kings of the nations in burial. Denial of burial marked profound disgrace in the ancient world, especially for a king who expected honor in death. The fallen ruler of Babylon would receive no royal tomb or lasting memorial, but would be cast away as one rejected by God. Jehoiakim faced a similar judgment: "He shall be buried with the burial of a donkey" **(Jeremiah 22:19)**. Earthly splendor cannot shield the proud from the shame brought by divine judgment.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC PRACTICES with the DEAD**

The Roman Catholic Church and it's many splintered denominations: Methodists, Episcopals, Presbyterians etc. have gone a long way in conditioning people to accept cremated ashes and even dead bodies and bones right into the church. In ancient Roman times, cemeteries were usually sited outside the city boundary to avoid the physical and ritual pollution of the living by the dead.


Some cathedrals feature glass floors that provide a view into burial crypts or mausoleums located beneath the church, allowing visitors to see the caskets or niches containing the deceased.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

**Crypts and Mausoleums:**
Many cathedrals have crypts, which are burial compartments, or mausoleums, which are freestanding buildings designed to enclose burial chambers, located beneath the main floor.

**Glass Floors:**
Some cathedrals have incorporated glass floors into their design, allowing visitors to look down into these burial spaces.

**Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels:**
The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles has a crypt mausoleum located one floor beneath the cathedral, accessible by stairs or elevators.

**St. Vibiana:**
The crypt mausoleum contains 1300 interment crypts and 5000 cremation niches, and features stained glass windows and a chapel dedicated to St. Vibiana, with her bones in a marble sarcophagus.

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So you can see that at some point they got rid of the idea of keeping the dead away from the city, away from the churches thereby defiling them. They welcomed death not only into the city but right into the churches themselves!



The mummified body of Zita, kept in the Basilica di San Frediano in Lucca. (luka)



Honestly, do you think this belongs in a church? For those with eyes to see and ears to hear you know what this is. It is a gateway to satan's kingdom to bring in evil into the place that it is being honored. This is glorifying death and death is the enemy of God. This honors satan and his kingdom and he will always come to what is set up in his honor.



These are some of the mummified corpses at The Church of the Dead in Italy.



Saint Catherine of Bologna

**CLOSING**

The Roman Catholic church has no problem building its churches over catacombs which are underground cemeteries. They bring the dead right into their churches and put them on display. All of these things defile the church. The Roman Catholic Church incorporated Mystery Babylon into its practices. It is actually fronting as a godly church when it really is the religion of mystery Babylon in disguise. They are a false religion and the things they do bring more demonic power in. Those at the top know full well what they are accomplishing even if the average parishioner has no clue.

They are burying the dead inside and beneath these churches because they know that defiles them. Jesus conquered death, hell and the grave and look what these so called churches do. There is NO HOLY SPIRIT in these churches.

**Proverbs 10:7 -** The memory of the just *is* blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

God’s people were buried with honor, not cremated, not left for the animals to pick them over, not left out in the streets.

Next week I’m going to cover cremation.

**PRAYER**