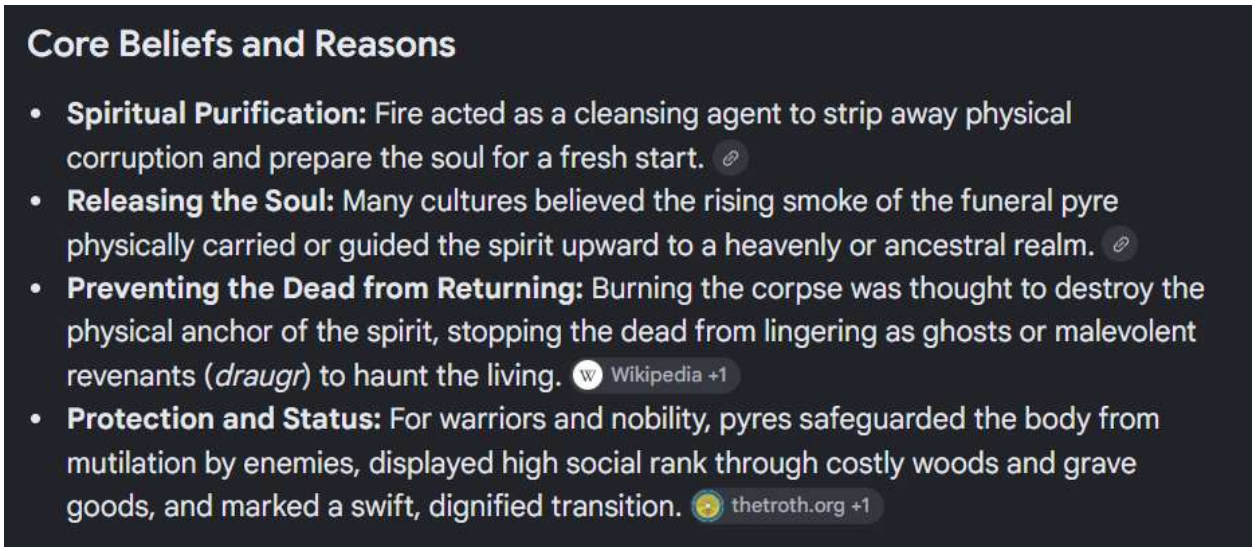
# DEATH ARRANGEMENTS Pt.2: CREMATION, ASHES

**CREMATION**

Where did the idea of burning the dead come from?

Ancient pagans burned their dead to purify the spirit, aid the soul's ascent to the afterlife, and prevent the body or ghost from causing harm. Practices varied widely by culture, era, and social status rather than following a single uniform belief.



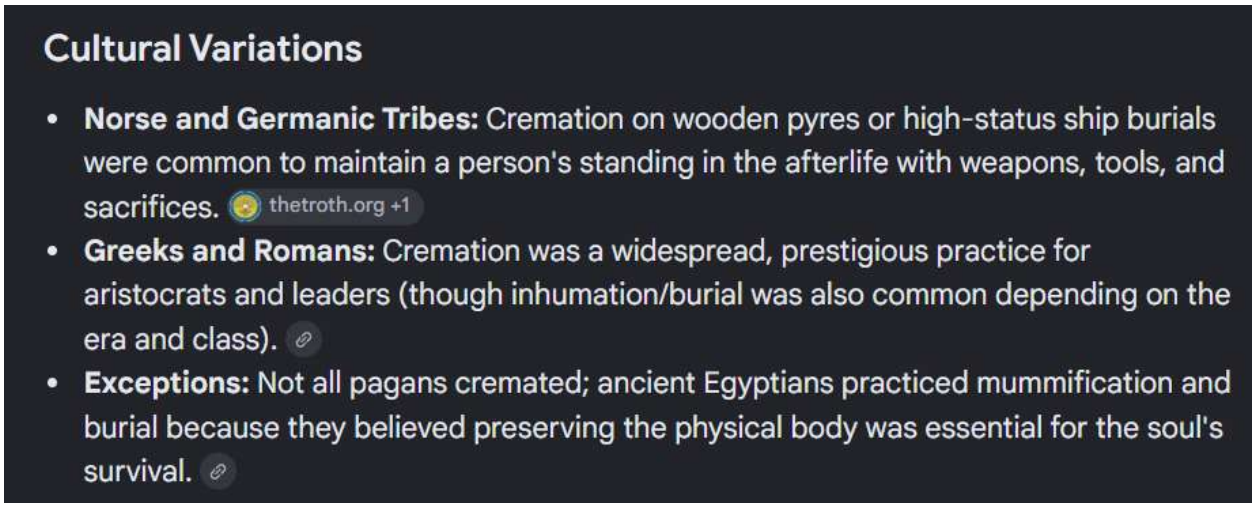

Core Beliefs and Reasons

Fire acted as a cleansing agent to strip away physical corruption and prepare the soul for a fresh start.

Many cultures believed the rising smoke of the funeral pyre physically carried or guided the spirit upward to a heavenly or ancestral realm.

Burning the corpse was thought to destroy the physical anchor of the spirit, stopping the dead from lingering as ghosts or malevolent revenants (draugr) to haunt the living.

For warriors and nobility, pyres safeguarded the body from mutilation by enemies, displayed high social rank through costly woods and grave goods, and marked a swift, dignified transition.



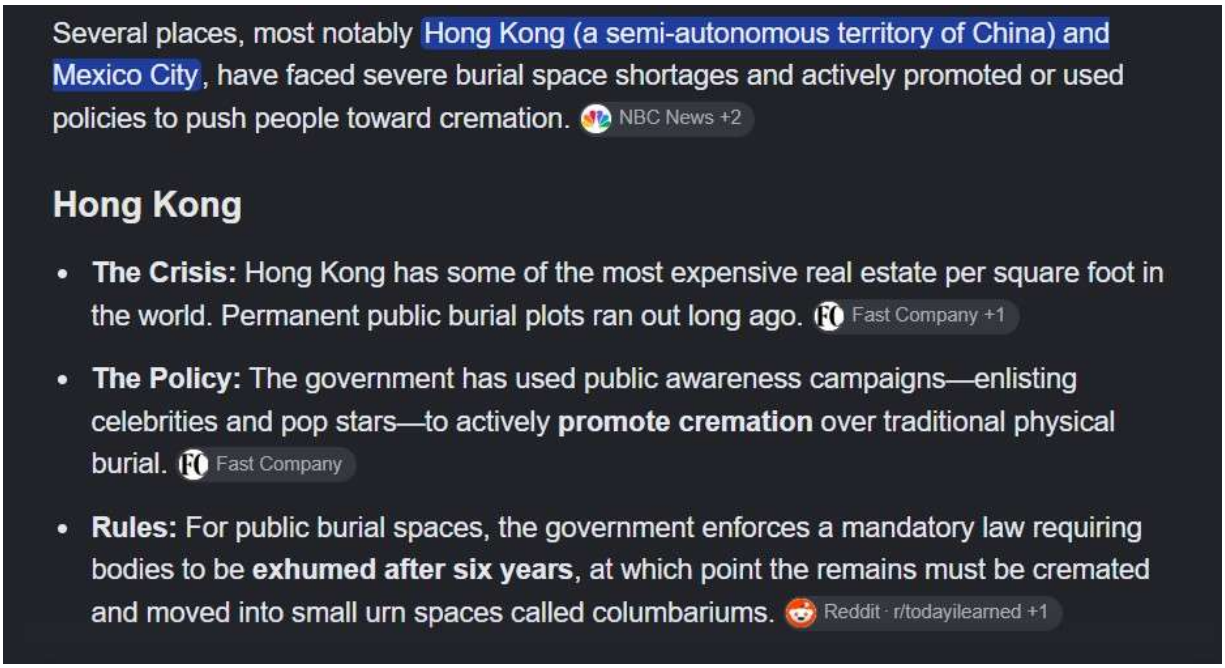

Cultural Variations

Norse and Germanic Tribes: Cremation on wooden pyres or high-status ship burials were common to maintain a person’s standing in the afterlife with weapons, tools, and sacrifices.

Cremation was a widespread, prestigious practice for aristocrats and leaders (though inhumation/burial was also common depending on the era and class).

Exceptions: Not all pagans cremated; ancient Egyptians practiced mummification and burial because they believed preserving the physical body was essential for the soul’s survival.

Hindus burn dead bodies to free the soul from its physical form and help it move on to the next life or reach liberation. They believe in reincarnation, which means the soul is reborn in a new body after death. Burning the body quickly severs the soul's emotional attachment to the earth. Fire is seen as a sacred element (Agni) and a divine messenger. It purifies the deceased and carries the soul toward higher spiritual realms



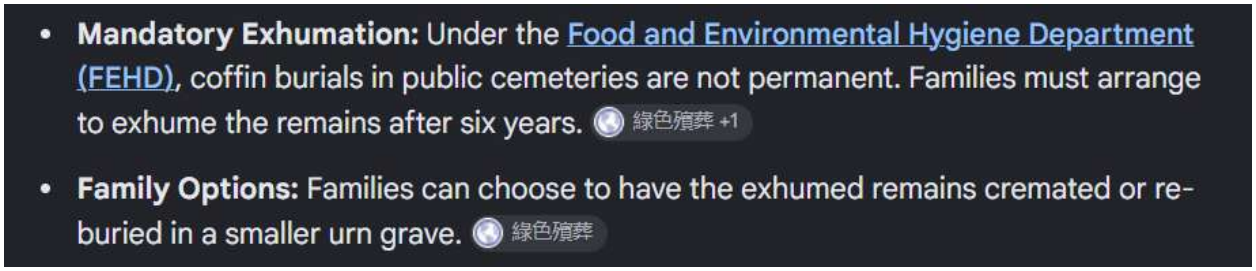

Several places, most notably Hong Kong and Mexico City, have faced severe burial space shortages and actively promoted or used policies to push people toward cremation. NBC NEWS

Hong Kong:

Hong Kong has some of the most expensive real estate per square foot in the world. Permanent public burial plots ran out long ago.

The government has used public awareness campaigns – enlisting celebrities and popstars – to actively promote cremation over traditional physical burial.

For public burial spaces, the government enforces a mandatory law requiring bodies to be exhumed after six years, at which point the remains must be cremated and moved into small urn spaces called columbariums.

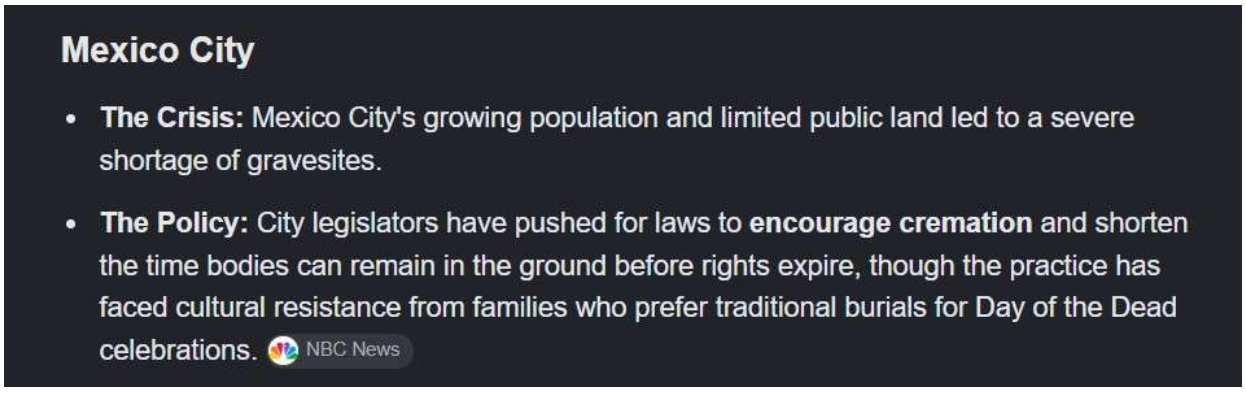


To checkup on Reddit – I found this: Under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), coffin burials in public cemeteries are not permanent. Families must arrange to exhume the remains after six years.

Families can choose to have the exhumed remains cremated or reburied in a smaller urn grave.




This is a cemetery in Hong Kong. Photographer Finbarr Fallon worked on the photo series “Dead Space” for five years over several trips to Hong Kong




Mexico City:

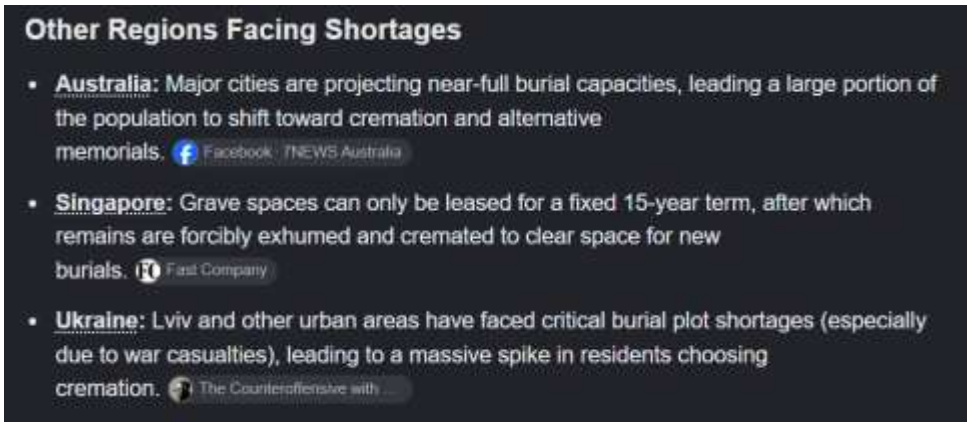
Mexico City’s growing population and limited public land led to a severe shortage of gravesites.

City legislators have pushed for laws to encourage cremation and shorten the time bodies can remain in the ground before rights expire, though the practice

has faced cultural resistance from families who prefer traditional burials for Day of the Dead celebrations. NBC News



Cemetery in Mexico City Photo credit: demotix.com




Other Regions Facing Shortages

Australia: Major cities are projecting near-full burial capacities, leading a large portion of the population to shift toward cremation and alternative memorials.

Singapore: Grave spaces can only be leased for a fixed 15-year term, after which remains are forcibly exhumed and cremated to clear space for new burials.

Ukraine: Lviv and other urban areas have faced critical burial plot shortages (especially due to war casualties), leading to a massive spike in residents choosing cremation.

I can see the writing on the wall, cremation is satan's way and this is his world and this will continue to become more and more popular as satan's agenda for this world unfolds. People who live in these crowded areas where there is not enough land space to be buried can make arrangements to have their bodies transported out of the city for burial.

The story of the treatment of the bodies of Saul and of his sons sheds light on the whole subject of burial. The Philistines beheaded the bodies, exhibiting the heads throughout their land. In fact, they hung King Saul's head up in the temple of their god, Dagon. **(1 Chronicles 10:10)** They fastened Saul's body to the wall of Bethshan. **(1 Sam.31:8-13)** The men of Israel rescued the bodies, burned them, and reverently buried their bones under a tree and mourned seven days. This was during war time and the bodies were mutilated. These men were moved to do what they did to prevent further desecration of Saul and his sons because King Saul had rescued them earlier from a brutal siege by Nahash the Ammonite **(1 Samuel 11)**. The Philistines were using them as public displays of trophies of war. These bodies had already been exposed to the elements for a period and this made it so that the Philistines could not reclaim the bodies for further humiliation. The only one we know was righteous in this mixture was Jonathan. But this was an exception to the rule, this was wartime and the bodies were already mutilated and exposed to the elements and even beheaded. So this is not our example of what to do in death.

Ancient Israelites generally viewed cremation with disfavor. It was only used in an extreme emergency, like during war times for sanitary reasons. This is what happened with King Saul and his sons when they died on the battlefield.

The story of the dead Moabite reviving when he touched the bones of Elisha **(II Kings 13:20-21)**, shows not only the speedy decomposition of a body, but the informality of burials in the time of war or necessity. War time burials could vary but were not the norm.

*Please play from 36:12 to 37:47 These ministers are going to talk about something that happens when you keep the ashes of a deceased person. STOP

Even after loved ones die, they bring the ashes of the body instead of …They bring the ashes of the person that died into their home. When that happens, a lot of times, that represents death. So when they bring the ashes of a loved one inside their home, someone that died, they are inviting demonic spirits. Demonic spirits are attached to those ashes. The other minister says he had a really good friend that got possessed like that. Where he literally started worshiping his father. His father had passed and they put the ashes right there on the fireplace mantle. And this guy literally went insane, that was his altar, how he communicated with his father (familiar spirit). And it wasn't his father, it was familiar spirits that were leading him and directing him into self destruction. *(about 1.5 min's)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=1SIOsMh-oc4&list=PLnZ974mrg_PH6d1H6GyomGRKM1lUvWSrA

If you have ashes of a dead loved one or of a dead pet, it is best to bury the ashes or spread them somewhere but do not keep them in your home. If you keep the ashes in your home it creates a gateway to satan's kingdom and for interaction with familiar spirits who will imitate your dead loved one or your pet. I'm talking to those of you who have ashes right now, who didn't know any better, the act of cremation has already taken place, get those ashes out of your home. Bury them, spread them or take them to a funeral home where they can be housed. Then repent and do not cremate anyone else and ask God for forgiveness as you now understand Biblically this is not God's plan for us in death.



This is Pastor Erustus of our outreach ministry in Kenya. He is also my spiritual father in the faith. I had shared about this with him and he said, about ashes of the dead and pets, I think the best way is to bury it at the funeral homes or on your land rather than keeping them in one's house, to become a captive to it and open doors for a familiar spirit to haunt one's life. To me if one has no place to bury the ashes then its ok to spread them in the ocean or beautiful places as long as there are no spiritual beliefs or superstition attachments to the act.

Last year a lady on FB who is my friend asked for my help and prayers about house items being moved in her room and yet she could not see who was doing it and other times she could feel someone was walking in the house but could not be seen. She started living in fear, could not pray, hatred. When I asked about her life and family she told me her mother died sometime back and was cremated and she took her mother's ashes and kept them in her house and that always when she sees the ashes the image of her mother comes and they start talking as if it was real. This has really affected her life. But things were not getting better in her life. I told her she was not talking to her mother but to a familiar spirit which started controlling her life. I told her to do away with the ashes and anoint the

house and ask God to deliver her. She told me she will do it. Pastor you see these practices are affecting people's lives. Christians should not copy or want what the nonbelievers do which is outside the Bible.

**Amos 2:1-3 –** Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime: But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, *and* with the sound of the trumpet: And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the LORD.

God said He would destroy the king and all the princes of Moab because of what they did.

**New Living Translation**

This is what the LORD says: "The people of Moab have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! They desecrated the bones of Edom's king, burning them to ashes.

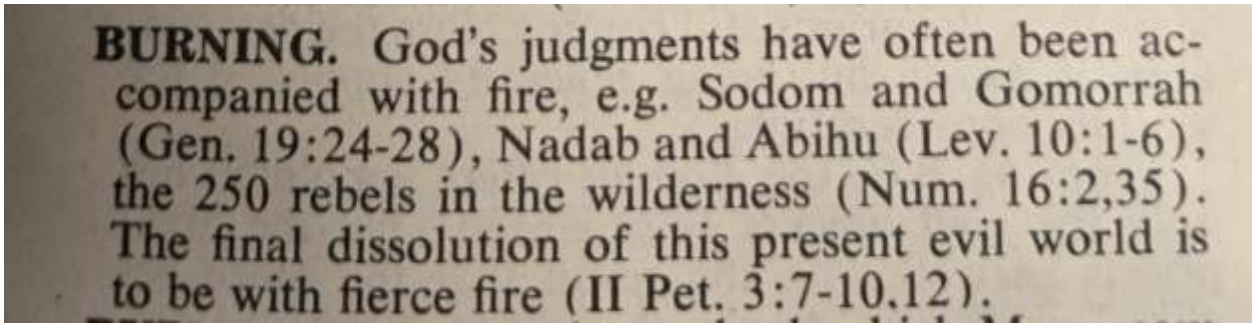
NLT – v. 1 – This is what the LORD says: "The people of Moab have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! They desecrated the bones of Edom's king, burning them to ashes.

This is cremation.

Moab committed an extraordinary act of contempt by desecrating the remains of Edom's king, apparently reducing his bones to ash or lime. The Lord regarded such treatment of the dead as a grievous offense against human dignity. Moab, descended from Lot, and Edom, descended from Esau, were neighboring peoples with a history of conflict, but national hostility did not excuse such brutality. God's judgment upon Moab demonstrates that He sees violence committed beyond Israel's borders and condemns every attempt to glorify hatred by dishonoring those made in His image.

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God pronounces judgment on Moab for this act, viewing the destruction of human remains not just as a war crime, but as a severe violation of human dignity. This is how strongly God is against cremation.


**BURNING.** God's judgments have often been accompanied with fire, e.g. Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24-28), Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-6), the 250 rebels in the wilderness (Num. 16:2,35). The final dissolution of this present evil world is to be with fierce fire (II Pet. 3:7-10,12).

This is from my Bible Pictorial Dictionary: Burning – God's judgments have often been accompanied with fire, e.g. Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.19:24-28), Nadab and Abihu (Lev.10:1-6), the 250 rebels in the wilderness (Num.16:2,35). The final dissolution of this present evil world is to be with fierce fire (II Peter 3:7-10,12).

**ASHES**

Perhaps you've heard tv shows or real ministers at funerals say "ashes to ashes and dust to dust." However, that's not Biblical. The Bible does not say we are ashes or that we return to ashes.


- **Creation and Return to Dust:**
  - *Genesis 3:19* — "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."
  - *Genesis 2:7* — Describes God forming man from the dust of the ground.
  - *Ecclesiastes 3:20* — "All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return."
  - *Ecclesiastes 12:7* — "And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." GotQuestions.org +1

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There is no mention of us being in ash form returning to ashes. We are made from dust of the ground and that is what God’s Word said we would return to. This is the basis for burial and why the righteous are buried, God’s Word lays it out for us.

When we look in Scripture we learn that the righteous were not cremated.

Listen to Pastor Erustus’ final words on the subject of cremation: I have not found anywhere in the Bible where it talks on or allows cremation. God’s people were buried with honor. I cannot support cremation because I don’t have any biblical base for it. Yes, many people get burned in fires accidentally or either way and God is all powerful to bring them back, as I always quote with God all things are possible. In Revelation the bible says even the seas and hades will bring forth the dead when Jesus returns. Cremation is not common here apart from the Indians who practice it here basing on their beliefs. Many do it with some beliefs attached to it like going to throw the ashes in the oceans or lakes, keeping the ashes in their houses or homes which end up opening doorways for familiar spirits in peoples lives. Personally I wouldn’t advise any Christian to do it because I have no Biblical scripture to back it. That is what I can say on this Pastor. Pastor for those who have already done cremation, let them repent and then stop cremating their loved ones.

If you had someone cremated, go before God and ask for forgiveness and then don’t do it again. God is full of love and mercies; we leave judgment in His hands.

**CLOSING**

Early on in my ministry I did officiate two memorial services. Knowing what I know now, looking at it Biblically I can no longer be part of those services. I did ask God for forgiveness.

**Psalm 116:15 -** Precious in the sight of the LORD *is* the death of His saints.

The Lord regards the death of His faithful people as weighty and costly, never as an unnoticed event. Psalm 116 rises from personal deliverance, yet it affirms God's abiding care even when deliverance from earthly death is not granted. The Lord knows His servants intimately, receives them into His presence, and will raise them bodily through Jesus Christ. Because Christ conquered death, His people grieve with hope, awaiting resurrection and everlasting fellowship with Him.

I have heard some reasoning in favor of cremation, that God can raise those who are burned to death in a fire, so He can raise anyone who is cremated. We all know God can do anything, however, that is not good reasoning for cremation when you study God's Word. Cremation is not according to God's Word, the righteous were not cremated, cremation was a defilement, a judgment, a curse, a dishonor and ultimately viewed as a disgrace.

Bury your dead with honor and be sure your wishes are made known to be buried if you die before Jesus returns. Jesus is our example in all things and He was buried. And I praise God He rose from the dead and is alive forevermore!

**PRAYER**