

The Only Living God

We really only understand what life is when we have seen death. To see a dead animal, a bird, or sadly a loved one brings the message home that death is the end of life. There is nothing there anymore. All signs of life and animation are gone: the canvas is blank.

Dead gods

Yet there are many people who worship inanimate, and therefore dead, gods – images made out of metal, wood or stone. They have no life in them, having been carved or shaped by craftsmen trying to imitate life. Long ago a Hebrew man summed up idol worship in this graphic way:

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk (Psalm 115:4–7).

Then he added this devastating assessment: *“Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them”* (Psalm 115:4–8); in other words, worship a lifeless god and expect to become lifeless yourself!

The Living God

The God of the Bible states that He is full of life, always has and always will be full of life. He alone has immortality (1 Timothy 6:16); has always existed (Psalm 90:2); for, as Jesus explained, *“The Father has life in Himself”* (John 5:26). Throughout the Bible God is

called the *“living God”* – from Deuteronomy 5:26, when Moses marvels at having heard the voice of the living God, right through to the Book of Revelation.

Even a king who worshipped gods made of wood and stone came to recognize the difference: that the prophet Daniel's god was *“a living god”* (Daniel 6:20, 26).

Immortality

God's life has always been there and always will be there. It is inextinguishable, for God is immortal. At present, our lives are of limited duration because we fail to think and behave as God does. But He has a plan to deal with that and Jesus Christ has shown us that we too can have immortal life. When Jesus said that *“the Father has life in Himself”*, the statement continues *“He has granted the Son to have life in himself”* (John 5:26).

Redemption

Jesus is the first human to gain life in himself – to become immortal (Psalm 21:4) – and the whole plan of redemption centres on the idea that many others will follow.

This can happen to us, if we follow the example of Jesus in our attitude to God and in our behaviour to each other. We must believe what God has told us about the coming Kingdom on the earth. Then we can look forward to being truly living beings – full of life, energy and zest for doing what is right. The emptiness of death will then be gone for ever.

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