

Study on the topic of Cremation

What is Cremation ?

Cremation is the process in which intense fire is used to transform the human body back to its basic environments,

“ashes to ashes “ “dust to dust “

Because most of the body is tissue, it vaporize in the process leaving bone behind.

This is completed in a cremation chamber, a masonry - lined enclosure with temperature of 1800-2000 degree.

What does the

Scriptures say about Cremation ?

The Scriptures do not say anything about required modes of burial for believers.

There's not a firm biblical teaching against it.

The word cremation is not a biblical term; it does not appear in the Bible.

It was widely practiced in some societies - India, Ancient Greece, and Rome.

Important exceptions were: Egypt, where bodies were embalmed, and Judea (ancient Israel) where they buried in sepulchers , and China where they were buried in the earth.

[Q] Should Christians consider Cremation instead of funerals ?

*More people are choosing cremation.

Scripture References:

The biblical example is of a spiritual regard for the preciousness of the bones.

- The first reference - (1 Sam. 31:11-13) Saul and his sons are burned then their bones are buried.

This was not a Norman practice in Israel.

Their bodies were mutilated by the Philistines, thus the decision was made to cremate, then bury the ashes.

Other references indirectly mentions cremation, since they involve capital punishment that requires offender to be “burned with fire.”

(Amos 2:1); (Amos 6:8-10)

(Lev. 20:14).

Hebrew did not Cremate except in most unusual cases of emergency.

However there are over 200 references to burial in the Old Testament which indicates this was the custom of the culture at that time.

For ancient Israel burial in a tomb, cave, or in the ground was a common way to dispose of a human body.

There is a “Reference” for the body:

When we consider how God created mankind, it support s what is written.

(Gen.1:27) - God created man. {Hebrew word for created man [bara]
{Gen.2:7) - God formed man [Hebrew word [asah]
Bothe speak of creating man.

Man was both created and formed by God.

God created Adam by using ore-existing material, earth - Adam is the Hebrew Word man - which translated dust of the earth - is the Hebrew word adamantly.

“Dust to Dust, Ashes to Ashes.” Job said, he would return to dust.

Solomon - said in {Ecclesiastic12:7} “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave It-“HIM”)

Thus the body returns to the ground and the spirit from which the spirit came.

*The body was washes before (Acts 9:37)

*The body was Anointed for. (Matt. 26:12)

*Wounding linen for. (John 11:44) (John 19: 30-40)

*Perfumes burned at . (2 Chron.16:14)

Interment followed soon after death.

Origin of burials : (Gen. 4:9-10) "Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel ? I don't know, he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper ?" "The Lord said, What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."

For ancient Israel, burial in a tomb, cave, or in the ground was a common way to dispose of a human body.

(Gen.23: 3) & (Gen. 4:19)

(Gen. 23:19) - Natural caves

(Gen. 35:8) - Under trees

(Josh. 24:33) - Tops of hills

(Sam.25:1) - Houses of the deceased

(2Kings 21:18) - Gardens

(2 Chron. 16:14)- And they buried him in his own sepulchers - which he had made for himself in the city of David.

(Matt. 27:60-66) - Laid Jesus in Joseph's tomb- which he had hewn out of rock.

Some example of "decent "or "proper burial" (2 Chron.22:9) - (Eccles.6:3) & (1 Kings 14:13)

- Is Cremation a Sin

There is no explicit Scriptural command against cremation.

Some believers objections to the practice of cremation on the basis that it does not recognize that one day God will resurrect our bodies and reunite them with our spirit.

(1 Cor. 15:35-58) - (1 Thess. 4:16)

The fact that a body is cremated does not make it impossible or difficult for God to resurrect that body.

Think about the Valley of Dry Bones in (Ezekiel 37:1-10).

God is equally able to raise a person's remains that have been cremated as He is with

the remains of a person who was not cremated.

The New Testament

(Rom 12:1) "Present your bodies as living sacrifices unto God"

Teaches us that our bodies are temples for the Holy Spirit-we are bought with a price.

(1 Cor.6:19-20) Dead or alive our bodies belong to the Lord

(Rom. 8:23)

Which makes us Stewards of God's possession. - {Trustees - Managers }

"More over a Steward is required to be found faithful.

Believers bodies belong to God - we are required to manage what belongs to Him.

More people are choosing cremation.

A common reason - is to avoid the expenses related to funeral services and burials.

The [Q] question of Burial or Cremation is within the realm of Christian Freedom.

- Freewill

Burial is illustrative of Regeneration - Burial is a picture of {Baptism}

We are buried with Christ Jesus in baptism raised in newness of Life

(Rom. 6:4) & (Col. 1:12)