

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and bright, golden light rays emanate from the pages, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out. The text 'BOOK of JOHN' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font. The word 'BOOK' is in a bold, all-caps font, 'of' is in a smaller, elegant script font, and 'JOHN' is in a bold, all-caps font.

BOOK *of* JOHN

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

JOHN 8:21-30

I believe this is the most direct passage in the whole Bible with regard to the result of not believing in Christ. Notice these words from Jesus:

*“Where I go you can’t come . . .
you will die in your sins”!*

- Grace is available today as we hear the Gospel, but that opportunity is not a guarantee for tomorrow.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2; James 4:14

A CHOICE OF TWO DESTINATIONS

Jesus came from and was returning to His Father in heaven, but nobody can go where He is going who has not first *trusted Him as his or her Savior*.

Jesus was *in* the world, but He did not belong *to* the world. **John 17:14-16**

- 1.** The true believer lives and dies forgiven in the Lord; we have citizenship in heaven. **Phil. 3:20-21**
- 2.** For the unbeliever—because they live and die in unforgiveness and sin—their citizenship is hell.

REJECTING THE LIGHT

It seems almost incredible that these religious “experts” should ask, *“Who are You?”*

- Jesus had already boldly made numerous claims to deity here in John’s Gospel.
- To paraphrase, *“Why should I teach you new things, or give you new proof, when you have not honestly considered the witness I have already given?”*
- Yet Jesus does add more—adding grace upon grace.

THREE VITAL TRUTHS

1. Opportunities to receive the Lord do not last indefinitely.
2. Opportunities once lost, seldom return.
3. Opportunities completely denied mean eternal tragedy.

Note Jesus says, “You *cannot* come”—not because He does not want you, but because you don’t want Him or to come to Him . . . “you are unable to come.”

IT'S A LIFE OR DEATH QUESTION

If we are not **with** Christ in eternity, *where will we be?* Consider this:

- 1. HIS POWERFUL PREACHING of I AM:** *“I have many things to say and to judge of you.”*
- 2. THE PASSION OF HIS PATIENCE of I AM**
- 3. HIS POWERFULLY PERFECT PLANS of I AM**

JESUS IS THE I AM. Exodus 3:12-14

THE ANSWER IS JESUS

Just as light needs no authentication, the Light of the world validates Himself.

- Nobody needs to label or describe light, it speaks for itself.
- In I AM we are bound for heaven's glory.
- Without I AM—the lake of fire.

Jesus is the difference between eternal life and the second death; ***IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH!***