



QA: Is the Length of Our Life Already Preset? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

QUESTION: Is the length of our life already preset?

ANSWER: Nothing in the Bible teaches this depressing, fatalistic doctrine, which is fundamental to idolatry, and is practiced in such religions as Hindu, Catholic, *ad nauseum*.

- 1) **Is It Your Time to Die?** Some think "when it's your time to die, there's nothing you can do about it." David wrote:

LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days,
That I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as
handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man
at his best state is but vapor. Selah Surely every man walks about like a
shadow. (**Psalm 39:4-6**)

To "measure my days," means we should count our birthdays to remind us "how frail" we are. This expression does NOT say, "God has predetermined the length of every life," BUT we need "to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom" (**Psalm 90:12**). We should "number our days" but nothing says that God has our days numbered!

- 2) **One-Way Life?**

Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him. (**Zechariah 12:1**)

Each one of us has an individual spiritual part within that is who we really are. We die when this spirit leaves our body: "The body without the spirit is dead" (**James 2:26**).

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**)

There is no return of our spirit to the earth, in any form, and we only pass this way once for there is no second chance after this life. "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (**Hebrews 9:27**), not another life on earth.

3) **We Are Not In Despair!**

But as a mountain falls and crumbles away, And as a rock is moved from its place; As water wears away stones, And as torrents wash away the soil of the earth; So You destroy the hope of man. (**Job 14:18-19**)

By the time we read the headlines, see network TV News, watch destructive TV shows or dismal movies, or listen to our dreary "friends," it's no wonder that "depression" has enveloped our land. Job voiced the danger of being surrounded by downers! But if we listen to God:

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (**Romans 15:13**)

Christians learn to speak like Paul,

We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair. (**2 Corinthians 4:8**)

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. (**1 John 5:4**)

So says the **God of Hope** (**2 Corinthians 4:8**)!

— jtp11, December 4, 2022