God’s Mercy in Death
by Hugh Ross

God judges people in two categories: 1) the righteous (those submitted to God)—all evil deeds are erased and forgotten and their reward is based on good deeds alone; 2) the wicked (those who are rebellious)—all good deeds are erased and forgotten and their torment is based on evil deeds alone.

**Background references on death**

- Genesis 2:16-17
- Genesis 3:22
- Genesis 6:3
- Proverbs 16:4
- Ecclesiastes 7:2-4
- Ecclesiastes 8:8
- Ecclesiastes 9:2-6
- Isaiah 65:19-25
- Ezekiel 18:20-32
- John 16:5-11
- 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
- Hebrews 9:27
- Revelation 20:11-15

**The righteous sometimes die young**
- to protect from future torment
- to protect heavenly reward
- as an instrument for good
  - 1 Kings 14:6-13
  - 2 Kings 20:1-21:16
  - 2 Chronicles 32:22-33:6
  - Isaiah 36-39
  - Psalm 23:4
  - Isaiah 57:1-2
  - Acts 4:32-5:11
  - Acts 7:54-8:4
  - Acts 9

**The righteous sometimes die old**
- to maximize heavenly reward
- to protect a spiritual heritage
- to provide an opportunity to achieve an ignored priority
  - Psalm 116:15
  - 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
  - Philippians 1:21-26
  - Ephesians 2:10
  - 2 Timothy 4:6-8
  - Revelation 14:13

**The wicked sometimes die young**
- lack of wisdom
- led astray by folly
- to stop the spread of wickedness
  - Genesis 38:6-19
  - Job 20:4-11
  - Psalm 55:15
  - Proverbs 5:21-23
  - Proverbs 29:16
  - Ecclesiastes 2:26

**The wicked sometimes die old**
- To give them time to turn from their evil ways
  - Ezekiel 18:23
  - 1 Timothy 2:4
  - 2 Peter 3:9
  - Revelation 2:21