



LIFE 2: THE SEQUEL

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?







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ALEC MOTYER

CHRISTIAN
FOCUS





Note on Bible Translations and Cross references

It is not possible, for length's sake, to quote every relevant portion of Scripture. Where cross references are given, please take time to look the passage up.

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In Memoriam

Joyce Caine
Clare Barnard Hankey
Clodagh Hayward
James Holland
George Hopper
James Edward Whild

who entered glory while this book was in preparation
and many others, family and friends
who are also part of my treasure in heaven.





PREFACE

What is the point of such a small book on such a large subject?

It was with this same question that the preface to the 1964 edition of *After Death* began and, if it was appropriate then, how much more when substantially the same book rises from the dead thirty years later?

Well, for one thing, the topic has not gone away. People still want to know about 'after death'; they still need to be rescued from guesses, assumptions and falsehoods. And, secondly, there is, after all, no important problem to be faced and answered. The cynic had a real point when he countered the question 'Is there a life after death?' with 'Is there a life before death?' It is not an improper rejoinder and is one which the Christian, open Bible in hand, must face and answer. Yet what is even our longest span on earth compared with eternity – or, as the Lord Jesus himself said, what profit is it to gain the world and lose the soul?

The original book was a contribution to the *Christian Foundations Series* promoted by the Evangelical Fellowship





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of the Anglican Communion and published by Hodder and Stoughton. In that series, Conservative Evangelicals in the Church of England addressed themselves in the first instance to their own denomination. In this refurbished edition of *After Death* the same denominational orientation is sometimes evident – not now, however, as part of what Dr John Stott then spoke of as crusading into Anglicanism to reform it, but because sometimes the Anglican application remains the easiest way to make and illustrate a significant point.

I am grateful to Christian Focus Publications and Mr Malcolm Maclean for opening this door of opportunity for me. I have tried to enter it with an ambition that has not varied for the last fifty years and more, to discover and explain what the Bible teaches. My understanding of some matters conflicts with that of respected, beloved and far more able fellow-students of God's Word, but this, of course, is part of the excitement, even fun, of being under the authority of this great and holy book. After all, inspiration belongs to the Scriptures, not to our poor efforts to explain and understand. Therefore, where differences arise they are to be expressed with humility, and love must prevail within the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Him who is our peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alec Motyer,
Bishopsteignton, 1995

