

**Title: A Better Hope**  
**Ecclesiastes 3:11**

**Introduction**

A belief in life after death is virtually a universal belief among humans. Skepticism about the afterlife has only emerged in very recent history, and even with its continuing influence, more than 80% of Americans still believe in life after death.

1. Only God can explain the eternal spiritual \_\_\_\_\_  
He has put into our hearts.
2. God has put this sense in our hearts because he wants to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ provides a much better hope than anything our human minds could imagine.
4. The Bible gives us far more information about the \_\_\_\_\_ than any other religion or "scripture."
5. God knows about the longing for \_\_\_\_\_ that he set in our hearts.
6. God \_\_\_\_\_ our anguish over death and our concern for the loved ones we have lost.
7. God wants us to know His plan for our \_\_\_\_\_ life.

**I. God Promises Us A Better Future**

8. In the next life, God wants to give us more than just relief from the \_\_\_\_\_ of this life.
9. Our future is so wonderful in a positive sense that it far exceeds the limits of human \_\_\_\_\_ to describe it.
10. Scripture sometimes employs \_\_\_\_\_ language.
11. Above all, the next life will be \_\_\_\_\_.

12. God created us to enjoy perfect \_\_\_\_\_ forever.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is a belief that humans continue to exist consciously—but as disembodied spirits after death.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ believe at death; people are reincarnated according to karmic law.
15. Nirvana is the sphere of \_\_\_\_\_ - the end of suffering.
16. According to scripture, the next life will provide a complete joy and satisfaction of every wholesome human \_\_\_\_\_.

## **II. God Supplies Better Evidence**

17. Empirical certainty refers to scientific \_\_\_\_\_ of something that is accessible to our five senses through repeated laboratory examination.
18. Every belief about the afterlife is NOT equally plausible or implausible because some beliefs have more \_\_\_\_\_ for them than others.
19. There is a definite \_\_\_\_\_ between blind faith and evidence-based faith.
20. Not all views of the afterlife have the same evidential \_\_\_\_\_.
21. The Bible's unique and abundant record of fulfilled \_\_\_\_\_ provides a basis for trusting the integrity of its unfulfilled predictions.
22. The evidence for Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ provided by the disciples and the early church is very compelling.

23. The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ for their faith in Jesus and eternal life provides a basis for trusting Christ's claim that we can also overcome death through him.
24. As followers of Christ, we can experience the reality of a \_\_\_\_\_ love relationship with God through his Spirit.
25. The New Testament calls this God's " \_\_\_\_\_ " that guarantees that he will come through on his promises concerning the next life.
26. Christians who understand this truth are substantially \_\_\_\_\_ from the fear of death.
27. Eternal Life is \_\_\_\_\_ when you accept Jesus' forgiveness of your sins and His resurrection from the dead as a down payment for your own resurrection to eternal life.

### **III. God's Offer Is The Best Offer**

28. Other religions always make the afterlife something you earn through good \_\_\_\_\_ in this life.
29. The more devoutly you adhere to the offer made by other religions, the less \_\_\_\_\_ you have.
30. \_\_\_\_\_ believe your good and bad works will be weighed on a large scale and influence whether you successfully cross the abyss into paradise.
31. Rabbinical \_\_\_\_\_ has the same problem.
32. Even in works-based versions of \_\_\_\_\_, we find the same problem.
33. Eternal life is a free gift because it depends not on our good works for God but on Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ and finished work.

34. God makes the way to heaven available entirely \_\_\_\_\_ from our works.
35. If you are willing to put your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ's payment, you are guaranteed eternal life.

### Conclusion

36. Very few people ever get the opportunity to make decisions that they know will \_\_\_\_\_ impact the rest of their lives.
37. God extends this offer to \_\_\_\_\_, no matter how undeserving they've been, because of his great love for us.

If you choose God's offer, it's a decision that you will never regret. Even 10 million years from now, you'll still be marveling over the wonderful things that flow from your decision.

### Answers

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|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. longings       | 14. Pantheists   | 27. guaranteed   |
| 2. satisfy        | 15. nothingness  | 28. works        |
| 3. Bible          | 16. aspiration   | 29. assurance    |
| 4. future         | 17. proof        | 30. Muslims      |
| 5. eternity       | 18. evidence     | 31. Judaism      |
| 6. knows          | 19. difference   | 32. Christianity |
| 7. eternal        | 20. credentials  | 33. perfect      |
| 8. negatives      | 21. prophecy     | 34. apart        |
| 9. language       | 22. resurrection | 35. trust        |
| 10. symbolic      | 23. martyrdom    | 36. positively   |
| 11. personal      | 24. personal     | 37. everyone     |
| 12. relationships | 25. down payment |                  |
| 13. Animism       | 26. delivered    |                  |

### QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. What did you imagine heaven would be like as a child? How has your understanding of Scripture changed your view of heaven?
2. What evidence for the Gospel do you find the most compelling? In what ways have you been able to share this evidence with others?