

The God of the Living
Matthew 22:23-33

ECKART FRAHM

ASSYRIA

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE
WORLD'S FIRST EMPIRE





“If they were not properly buried, Assyrians believed, the dead – especially if they had been abandoned on the battlefield after being killed there –

“would . . . find their way back to those they had known in life and punish them with sickness, misery, or death.”

Eckart Frahm

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- He demanded his soothsayers try to identify the sin of his father by “reading” the intestines of sacrificed animals (haruspicy).
- He tried to avenge his father’s death in an unsuccessful military campaign.

“Based on the available evidence, it appears that Sennacherib felt unable to openly acknowledge and process what had happened to Sargon.

“The anxieties produced by the traumatic experience of the events of 705 B.C.E. seemed to have stayed with the king and over time triggered certain psychotic syndromes.

“A letter from the reign of his son and successor Esarhaddon mentions that Sennacherib was frequently so enraged

“that none of his diviners dared tell him of any untoward sign they had observed,

“and adds that the king struggled with the ‘alu demon’ often mentioned in cuneiform texts alongside spirits of the dead.”

Eckart Frahm

“All the kings of the nations lie in glory,
each in his own tomb;
but you are cast out, away from your grave,
like a loathed branch,

“clothed with the slain,
those pierced by the sword,
who go down to the stones of the pit,
like a dead body trampled underfoot.

“You will not be joined with them in burial,
because you have destroyed your land,
you have slain your people.”

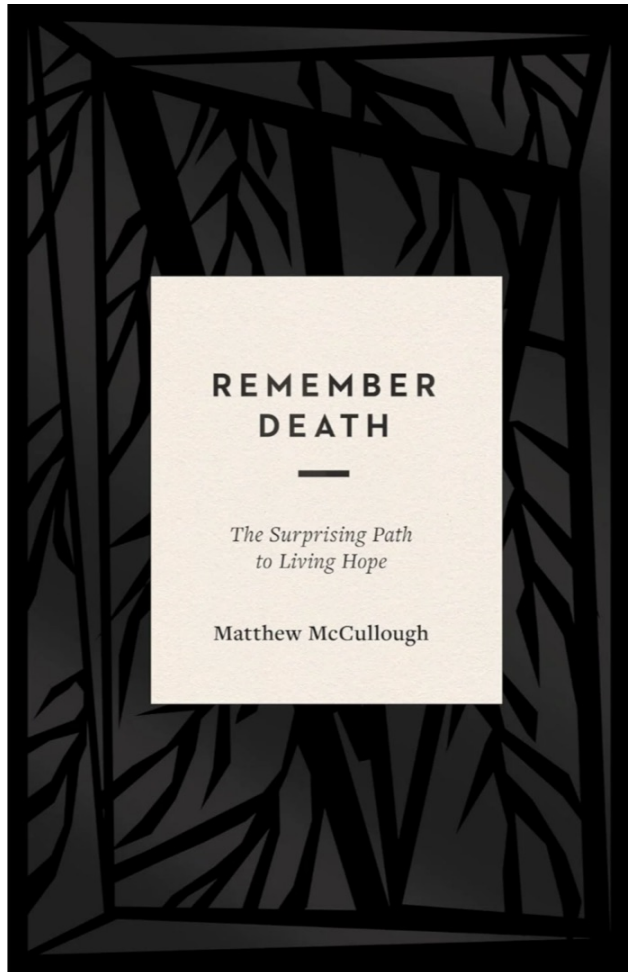
Isaiah 14:18-20a



**REMEMBER
DEATH**

—
*The Surprising Path
to Living Hope*

Matthew McCullough



“Why are we avoiding the truth about death?”

Matthew McCullough

1. Our duty to happiness

“We seem to believe that we have a right to the experience of happiness.

“This entitlement drives our surging consumer economy: if I’m not happy, I should buy something to make me happy.

“It drives our obsession with psychotherapy:
if I’m not happy, I need a professional to
figure out why and help me get there.

“But there is no consumeristic or therapeutic solution for the problem of death.

“There is no product you can buy that will bring back someone you love or add an extra year to your life.

“There’s no therapeutic insight that could turn death into a good thing.

“The more you get to know yourself, even love yourself, the more deeply you grieve the end of yourself.

“We suppress death because it’s an
unanswerable challenge to our happiness.”

Matthew McCullough

1. Our duty to happiness
2. The horrible implications

“Death cuts us off from everyone we love. It means the end of everything we enjoy about life.

“And it is a head-on assault against our dignity and significance as human individuals.

“Who can fully stand up under the weight of this knowledge? The irony is that in order to survive, we must deny that we can’t survive.”

Matthew McCullough

“Death is not okay. By avoiding the subject of death, we act like that’s not true. And we shrink down the scale of Jesus’s victory to fit the world we live in now.

“If death is not a problem, Jesus won’t be much of a solution.”

Matthew McCullough

1. The Sadducees **test Jesus.** (23-28)

Zealots = Jewish terrorists

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Sadducees = Jewish religious elite

“Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.’” (24)

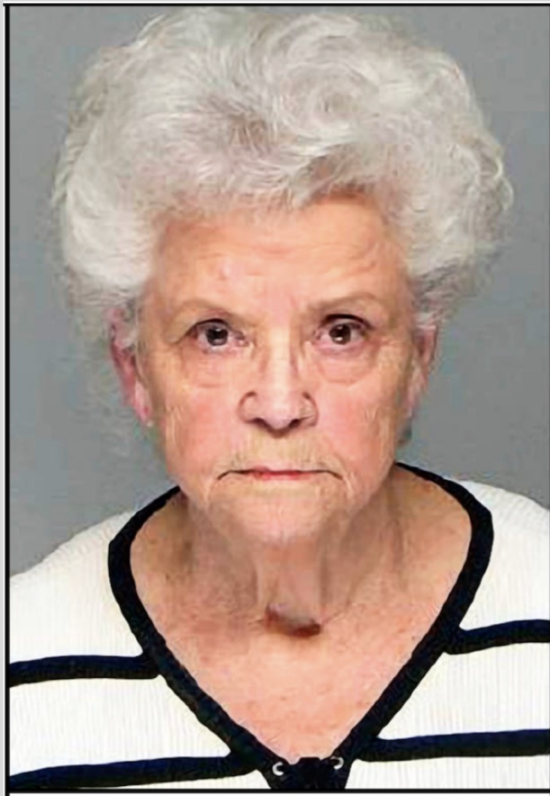
levirate marriage =

If a man dies without children, his brother can marry his widow in order to carry on his name.

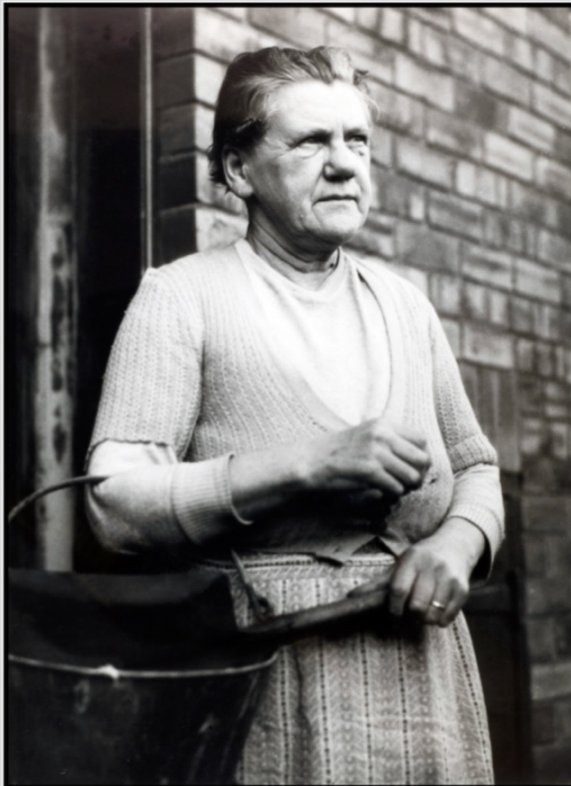
“Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother.

“So too the second and third, down to the seventh. After them all, the woman died.”

(25-27)



Betty Neumar



Mary Elizabeth Wilson

“In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven,
whose wife will she be? For they all had her.”

(28)

2. Jesus **responds** to the Sadducees. (29-33)

- Jesus **corrects their theology.** (29-30)

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wrong = to wander, to be deceived

* Jesus cares about their theology and calls them out when they are wrong!

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.” (30)

“But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.’”

1 Corinthians 2:9

- Jesus corrects their theology. (29-30)
- Jesus **connects word and power.** (29b)

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- “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.” (29b)

- Jesus corrects their theology. (29-30)
- Jesus connects word and power. (29b)
- Jesus **clarifies resurrection hope**. (29b)

“And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God:

“I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” (31-32)

“He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (32b)

“And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.” (33)

What does this mean?

There is no eternal life without a relationship
with the God of the living!

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

“For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Romans 10:9-10

We can face death with hope!

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things,

“that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

“and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

Hebrews 2:14-15

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,’”

John 11:25