**It is this writer’s opinion that this change (translation) is the process of *instantaneous* death and resurrection, with *no hurt*. With this view, one can accept** [**Hebrews 9:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+9.27&t=NKJV) **word for word, without attempting to explain it away.**

**Second Death for Overcomers  
By Gary Whipple of** [**Beyond the Rapture**](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf)

The term “second death” is used to tell us that this death is *exactly* like the “first death.” To understand this, let’s consider the first death for a moment. God says that every man is appointed to go through this death before he can be judged. And he must be judged. For scripture says “...*it is appointed unto men* [mankind] *once to die, but after this the judgment*” ([Hebrews 9:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+9.27&t=NKJV)). If part of this statement from God is true, then all is true. If He is going to judge *all* men, then *all* men must die.

At the rapture of the church, that those who have *already* died will be raised into redeemed bodies. Then, those who are *alive* will be translated, *i.e*. experience both death and resurrection instantaneously. This instant death and resurrection must occur because their bodies of sin cannot be raised. They can only be *changed* into a redeemed body. Thus, it is this writer’s opinion that this change (translation) is the process of *instantaneous* death and resurrection, with *no hurt*. With this view, one can accept [Hebrews 9:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+9.27&t=NKJV) word for word, without attempting to explain it away.

Now keep in mind that the second death is just like the first death. So, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, all Christian overcomers must die the *second* death. This will occur when they die and are raised instantaneously (translated) from a *natural* body into a *spiritual* body likened unto Christ’s, without any *hurt* ([Revelation 20:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.6&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.11&t=NKJV)). Why does this writer insist on the terminology of “instantaneous death and resurrection?” Because the Apostle Paul insisted on it. He called it the *resurrection*, *i.e*. the out-resurrection ([Philippians 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.11&t=NKJV)), and one cannot be resurrected until he dies. It is this same resurrection that the apostle longed for and was trying to *attain*, *i.e*. work for ([Philippians 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.12&t=NKJV)). This is further proof that this resurrection cannot be the rapture, since the rapture is the *redemption* of the body into a “natural body” (which cannot be worked for as it is procured by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross). It is *free* to all of the saints of the church age.

Therefore, all of the saints at the Judgment Seat of Christ will have been raised or raptured and have redeemed bodies (natural bodies); bodies of flesh and blood. However, since flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven ([1 Corinthians 15:50](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.50&t=NKJV)), these bodies must then be changed through *instantaneous* death and resurrection. The fact is, that our Lord referred to this translation as a *resurrection*, on which the second death had *no power* ([Revelation 20:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.6&t=NKJV)). This tells us that these bodies will in fact *die*, and the second death will have *no power* (Gr. authority) to hold them.

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Excerpts from [Bible One - Gary Whipple's Beyond the Rapture](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf) Ch. XIV, Pg. 247, The Final