

ABF – Burial, Cremation, and Believers

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Why Some Say Cremation is Wrong

1. **It Uses Fire** to Consume and Fire Connected with judgment in Scripture
 - a. True, fire is often connected with God's judgment
 - b. But not always . . . there are many places where fire is an indication of God's presence, God's leading, and God's Lamb
 - c. For example:
 - i. Exodus 3:2
 - ii. Exodus 13:21
 - iii. Exodus 14:24
 - iv. Exodus 19:18!
 - v. Exodus 24:17!
 - vi. Exodus 40:38
 - vii. Deuteronomy 4:24, 36!
 - viii. 1 Kings 18:38
 - ix. 2 Kings 2:11
 - x. 2 Kings 6:17
 - xi. 1 Chronicles 21:26
 - xii. 2 Chronicles 7:1
 - xiii. Psalm 104:4
 - xiv. Isaiah 4:5
 - xv. Daniel 7:9
 - xvi. Daniel 10:6
 - xvii. Zech 2:5
 - xviii. Matthew 3:11
 - xix. Acts 2:3
 - xx. Hebrews 12:29
 - xxi. 2 Peter 3:12
 - xxii. Revelation 1:4
 - xxiii. Revelation 4:5
 - xxiv. Revelation 15:2
2. **Cremation is** something the pagans around the Jews did
 - a. No – the Egyptians embalmed (mummified)
 - b. The nations around the Jews buried their dead
 - c. The Jews themselves buried
 - d. Caring for the deceased was seen as proper and fitting – not taking care (burying) the dead was seen as an insult – Isaiah 14
3. **What about** offering children to the fire? Deuteronomy 12:31; Ezekiel 20:31; II Kings 16:3; 17:17; 21:6
 - a. These are addressing sacrificing children to Molech – something God hates
 - b. The issue is taking what belongs to God (human children), who are created in the image of God (Genesis 1 & 2) and killing them to appease false gods – Ezekiel 16:21
 - c. Molech was not a crematorium; he was a false idol to whom and upon which the children died
 - d. This has nothing to do with what happened to their bodies after their death¹
4. **What about our bodies in the resurrection?**
 - a. The same God who created everything from nothing . . .
 - b. And who created Adam from the dust of the ground . . .
 - c. And raised Jesus from the dead . . .
 - d. Will have no problem raising us from the dead . . .
 - e. Although He never gives us all the details about that!
 - f. Down through the ages, believers have been . . .
 - i. Burned at the stake . . .
 - ii. Killed and eaten by animals . . .

xxv. Revelation 19:12

¹<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/>

- iii. Sawn asunder . . .
- iv. Drowned at sea . . .
- g. And yet God promises to raise all of us from the dead

5. Are Our Bodies and Spirits Connected?

- a. No – there is no hint in Scripture that they are connected in anyway
- b. Absent from the body = present with the Lord! – 2 Cor. 5:8

6. Didn't Satan argue with Michael the archangel about Moses' body?

- a. Yes . . . Jude 9
- b. But we are never told why Satan wanted the body

7. Burial Follows the Biblical Pattern

For Us as a Church

- 1. Death and** proper care of the bodies of those who have died is very important to believers
- 2. The practice of** the Jews and early believers was burial, but that is never stated as a command from God
- 3. Because Scripture** is silent, believers should respect the wishes of the deceased and the deceased's family
- 4. How to care** for the body of the deceased is a decision best left to the family
- 5. The important** issue is salvation prior to death – John 11:25-26.!