Many people often say, *“Every soul shall taste death,”* and assume that this is a direct quote from the Bible. But is that truly what Scripture teaches—particularly in Psalm 89:48?

Let’s read the verse:

> *Psalm 89:48 (ESV):*
> “What man can live and never see death? Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol?”

Understanding the Context

Before interpreting this verse, it’s important to consider the context in which it was written. The psalmist here is not preaching a doctrinal sermon or giving moral instructions like in other psalms. He is engaged in prayer—an earnest plea to God. This is a moment of vulnerability and reflection, not a theological proclamation.

In prayer, especially when we are overwhelmed or burdened, it is natural to humble ourselves before God. Even if we were blameless, we wouldn't come before Him boasting in our worthiness. Instead, we acknowledge our frailty and nothingness. As Jesus illustrated in the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector:

> *Luke 18:13–14 (NKJV):*
> "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'"

In that same spirit of humility, the psalmist in Psalm 89 cries out:

> *Psalm 89:46–48 (NKJV):*
> "How long, Lord? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire? Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men? What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave?"

Clearly, this is not a universal doctrinal statement that *every single person must die.* It's a heartfelt lament expressing how fragile human life is without God's sustaining power.

What About Enoch and Elijah?

If the psalmist meant that *every* person must die, then we would be forced to conclude that the Bible contradicts itself. But it doesn't. Consider Enoch, the seventh from Adam:

> *Genesis 5:24 (NKJV):*
> "And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him."

Also, remember Elijah:

> *2 Kings 2:11 (NKJV):*
> "Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire... and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

Both men were taken alive—they did not taste death. So Psalm 89:48 cannot be interpreted as a literal or absolute statement that all people must die. Instead, the verse should be understood as a poetic and rhetorical expression of human limitation in a prayer setting, not a doctrinal assertion.

Will Some Be Taken Without Dying?

Yes. Scripture clearly teaches that some believers will be translated or caught up without experiencing death when Christ returns. This is known as the Rapture:

> *1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (NKJV):*
> "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet..."

The phrase "we shall not all sleep" means *not all believers will die*. Some will be alive when Christ returns and will be transformed instantly.

Similarly, in:

> *1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (ESV):*
> “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command... and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them...”

Clearly, not everyone will experience death. Some will be raptured—taken up to be with the Lord while still alive.

The Real Question: Are You Ready?

Whether we die or are caught up alive, the crucial matter is our spiritual condition. Where will we spend eternity? That is the real issue—not whether or not we taste death.

> *Revelation 20:15 (ESV):*
> “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

If we die in sin, we face eternal separation from God. But if we die

in Christ—or are found in Him when He returns—we will live with Him forever.

> *Philippians 1:21 (NKJV):*
> “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

> *John 11:25 (ESV):*
> “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”

Conclusion

So, is it true that every soul must taste death? No.
While death is the common end for most people, Scripture provides clear exceptions (Enoch, Elijah, and future believers at Christ’s return). Psalm 89:48 is not teaching an absolute rule—it is a prayerful reflection on human frailty, not a doctrinal law.

The real question is not *whether* we will die, but *are we ready*—either for death or for Christ’s return.

Have you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ? Have you received the Holy Spirit and been born again? The Rapture could occur at any moment. Will you be among those caught up to meet the Lord, or will you be left behind to face the Great Tribulation?

Maranatha! *(Our Lord is coming!)*

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