

Q & A SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. As a way to extend the reach of your newest book, *The Coming Glory: Hope Now for Life After Death*, you formed a Glory Project Committee. How did that happen?

I visited a friend, Dr. Gordon Van Wylen, former president of Hope College, and found him at the bedside of his wife reading a pre-publication copy of *The Coming Glory* to her. I asked him about it and he said they found it helpful to read a few pages before bedtime.

Later that night, I had a dream of enabling people around the country to have a copy of the book—people who were looking for comfort and hope as they faced the loss of a loved one.

I dreamt that we could send *The Coming Glory* free of charge to pastors in five denominations who requested a free copy. They in turn would recommend or give the book to members of their congregations.

2. But that would cost quite a bit of money.

Unfortunately, the dream did not cover that. So I told the dream to a fund-raiser friend, and he said “That’s going to cost money.” I said, “I know. That’s why I’m talking to you!”

That’s when we put together the Glory Project Committee and were able to raise funds to make the dream a reality.

3. Why was this dream so important to you?

People are hurting, confused, and fearful. Grief is hard to bear. We all need all the help we can get. We need hope.

I served Second Presbyterian Church for 20 plus years as a minister of congregational care. I had the opportunity to minister to hundreds of families facing the loss of a loved one. Families had questions about what the Bible says about death and eternity.

I listened to their questions and answered as best I could, but I wished I could leave a resource with them. I looked for resources but did not find any that would fit that specific need. So I wrote *The Coming Glory*.

4. What does the title mean?

Death is not the end of our story. Glory is coming. Glory refers to the power and presence of God manifested especially in Jesus Christ and all his redeeming work. Although God’s glory is evident all around us now, in creation and transformed lives, Scripture indicates we will see God’s glory in all its grandeur at death. The Bible says every believer will see Jesus, the visible expression of God’s glory. The Bible says we will see him as he is. Our appropriate response is wonder, awe, and worship.

5. What qualified you to write on death and life after?

Since none of us have died and come back to tell about it, we need revelation from beyond this world--revelation that only God can provide.

So I studied the Bible on this topic and discovered that what God reveals in Scripture is fascinating, comforting for the believer, and confirmed by the historical death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I realized there is a need for resources that articulates biblical information in a way that was easy to understand and directly related to the needs of those about to die along and their grieving families.

Personal experience with death in my family and near death crises of my own helped me to know firsthand the urgency of holding on to the comfort of Scripture. By experience and research I knew what the questions were. And the answers turned out to be thrilling.

6. What impact has COVID-19 had on how we view death?

I think the pandemic has made most of us more aware of our mortality. It has increased our fear and anxiety.

Recently I heard a podcast by the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. It featured medical doctor Lydia Dugdale who was treating COVID-19 patients. When she was asked about the effect of the virus on her patients, she responded,

“I’ve had patients who’ve looked at me and said,
‘You know, I have no idea what I believe and I’m scared out of my
mind—I’m dying’”

7. What qualifies you to write on death and life after?

I’m a student of Scripture and I’ve had a few near death experiences myself. Scripture instructs. Experience sensitizes us to the pain, anxiety, insecurity, and urgent need for hope we have when we come face to face with our mortality.

8. Where can people obtain your book?

The Coming Glory is available at Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, and the book’s website, <https://thecomingglory.com> .