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A keresztény temetés vigasztaló üzenete

Abstract

In all cultures and religions, death and burial rituals had an essential place in everyday life. Preceding Judaism and Christianity, the parallel between birth and death was emphasized already in the Egyptian culture. Belief in a post-mortem life may be traced down in the funerary customs. Specifically Christianity regards death as a transition to the otherworld. The death of the martyrs was glorified as their heavenly birthday. Life after death and encounter with God, judgment and postmortem fate became central in medieval thinking. The concept of *communio sanctorum* urged the faithful to offer intercessions on behalf of the dead. The earthly community assisted the dead in their otherworldly purification offering prayers, atoning mass sacrifices and good deeds. The doctrine of the purgatory and the aiding practices related to it strengthened the sense of belonging together between the living and the dead. Burial rituals preserved up to present day confirm this faith.

Keywords

death, burial, funerary rituals, atonement, atoning mass sacrifice, purgatory, community of prayer