

Alex Trebek was the popular tv gameshow host of Jeopardy for 37 years before he passed away in 2020 after a battle with cancer. He also released an autobiography that same year which I happened to read recently. I was curious as to whether or not his facing his own mortality sparked any spiritual inclinations in his soul. I was a bit disappointed, however, in that through most of the book, he really didn't go there. It sounded like God, spirituality and the church were not much a part of his life at all.

However, in the 2nd to last chapter he finally came around to make a few statements on religious belief, equally disappointing I might add. Alex stated: 'Am I a believer? Well, I believe we are all part of the Great Soul – what some call God. We are God, and God is us [pantheism]. We are one with our maker. How do I know this? It's not that I know it. It's that I feel it . . . But do I pray to a specific god? Do I anticipate a particular version of the afterlife? No, I do not.'

Trebek then went on to add, 'However, I've been thinking more and more about that old line they used to use in the military: "No one's an atheist in a foxhole." If ever there was an opportunity to believe in God – a god – this might be a good one, Trebek, now that you're on the verge. What have you got to lose?' By his own admission, Trebek did not expect much to come by way of an afterlife.

What a contrast we find with the Biblical picture presented to the Christian. Jesus Himself states unequivocally, 'I am the resurrection and the life; He who believes in Me shall live even if he dies.' [John 11:25] He also adds, 'Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.' [John 5:28-29]

The Apostle Paul spoke often on the resurrection, 'For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.' [II Cor. 5:1]

As we approach the Easter holiday this year, I encourage you to reflect upon the grand hope and vision of the resurrection that is promised to all whose trust is in Jesus. As the angels long ago once declared at the site of the empty tomb, 'He is not here – He is risen just as He said' – so shall you and I elude death's grip and enter into life everlasting through faith in the risen Lord.