

# Where are the Dead?

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word, and not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

Where are the dead? This is the question that plagues man we look for and want a definite answer, and God's word has one. The main line churches teach the theories that came from pagan beliefs we must go directly to God's word and compile it as it tells us to, line upon line, precept upon precept here a little and there a little. Let us first deal with one of their strongest arguments, the story of Lazarus and the rich man. I believe there is two issues here first one being the whole scenario itself. The teaching is that Jesus was telling an actual incident if it was then it still goes contrary to the teachings of the churches, which is that one dies, goes to heaven and lives in bliss. Luke 16:20-31 is where we find this story one would have to be pretty hard hearted to want to spend an extended time period looking down on those who have died and are now suffering in eternal punishment. What about seeing your loved one suffering among the living, never mind the dead? My second issue is the very argument as to whether this is a literal story or a parable. The second deals more with the message that Jesus was bringing Israel and that was that the Pharisee "i.e." the rich man was not as secure in his deliverance as he thought and that salvation was more likely going to the publican.

Let us now consider what the Bible says on this subject. To do this we must go to the very beginning.

*Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

The punishment is death, not immortality in heaven. Think about it.

There is no need for a resurrection if I already am in heaven, but let us continue to look at what the word of God says.

The patriarch Job has much to say on this subject.

*Job 14:10-14*

*10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?*

*11 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:*

*12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.*

*13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!*

*14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.*

One could rest their case on just these texts, for Job covers everything from death to the resurrection. Yet nowhere does Job refer to ascending into heaven at death. In fact Jesus clearly tells us that no one has.

*John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*

It is interesting when one thinks about it those who teach ascension into heaven at death is teaching contrary to words of Jesus.

To further prove that even after the ascension of Jesus no one ascended to heaven we need only look to Peter's first message to the new found church

*Acts 2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.*

This is a powerful message and it is preached directly to the New Testament Church that is you and me. As I said earlier I could stop here and ask you whose teachings should you believe mans or God's. The fact of the matter is there is still too much scripture for us to quit here.

*Job 19:25,26*

*25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:*

*26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:*

These words of Job are once again very important not in a mystical form, but in his flesh in the last days. This is when Jesus comes in all his glory and the trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ will be raised. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Also we should understand that Job never indicates anywhere that he will see God prior to that latter day, and that he will be in his flesh. This is contrary to the teachings of the world churches who teach us we will be with God right after death in a spirit form. Let us deal with their argument of why they believe this.

*Luke 23:42-43*

*42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*

*43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

It would appear that this person would be in heaven with Jesus that very day. We know from scripture that Jesus did

not ascend into heaven for at least three days.

*John 20:16-19*

*16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.*

*17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

*18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.*

*19 ¶ Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

We see that after Jesus resurrection three days after his crucifixion. He had not yet ascended to God the Father so the thief and Jesus could not have been in paradise together that same day. We know that Jesus was speaking of the time of the resurrection in the latter days. Job said in 14:12 that does not rise out of their sleep till the appointed time.

*Ecclesiastes 9:4-10*

*4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.*

*5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.*

*6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.*

*7 Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.*

*8 Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.*

*9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.*

*10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

Again and again we see that the scriptures teach us that when we go to the grave all things cease. I would think that if I was to ascend to heaven as a spirit or whatever form, that I would increase in knowledge somehow! Jesus words on the cross was to inform that soul that because of his confession of Jesus he had earned eternal life that day, and thereby will be in God's kingdom at Jesus coming as taught in scripture.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16,17*

*16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Let us not get into the resurrection as that is another study.

Once again let us look at the words of one of the wisest men to live.

*Ecclesiastes 9:4,5*

*4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.*

*5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.*

The dead know not anything! Remember not just one or two text for doctrine, but line upon line and precept upon precept here a little and there a little. This is what is being presented to you.

*Ecclesiastes 3:19-21*

*19 For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast: for all is vanity.*

*20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

*21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?*

Here we see Solomon first tell us what happens at death for all the living creatures. In verse 21 we see the effect of the hundreds of wives he had outside the faith of Judaism, for this very wise man ask who knows the spirit of man goes upward and the beast downward to the earth. We know only what God has told us, and that is that sin would take away our life that we would die, and Solomon believed this. Let us remember the words of Daniel.

*Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Remember this teaching comes forward to Peter's first message to the New Testament Church as quoted earlier when he clearly stated that King David was dead and in his grave then.

In order to be fair, there is a scripture I will deal with.

*Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.* Some argue that the body dies and the spirit returns to God literally, but we must remember what the scriptures say happened at creation. God breathed the breath of life into man and he became a living soul. Man became a living soul not some kind of second entity Genesis 2:7 We can further prove this from the drawing together of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37: 4-10 this shows us that the four winds called by Ezekiel was able to breath life into these dead souls "bones" it is the very breath that we draw that sustains life even the new born is smacked on the bottom to start the process of independent life. So we see it was the starting breath that God breathed into man to make him a living soul.

*1 Timothy 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

It is an improper teaching to teach that man has immortality at death as we have read nothing scriptural supports that.

*1 Corinthians 15:51-53*

*51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

*52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

*53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

When shall this take place at the last trump look back in this tract and read 1 Thessalonians 4:16 that trump will not be sounded till our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ returns.

Dear friends we have presented the word of God to you as it says it should be, Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little there little. Isaiah 28:10. Mankind lost eternal life anywhere, heaven or earth when he sinned in the Garden of Eden. Jesus the Christ came to make atonement for mankind and thereby give us another chance at eternal life on earth.

*Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.*

God created the earth for us to inherit when we die we cease to be till Jesus calls us forth from the grave, and then the righteous will receive their inheritance.<sup>20</sup>

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