

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.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on where the dead are. This is the question that everyone looks for and wants a definite answer to, God's word has one. The main line churches teach 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 now consider what the Bible says on this subject, to do this we must start at the very beginning.

Genesis 2:17

Verse 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. If we think about it there is no need for a resurrection if we already are in heaven. Let us look at what the patriarch Job has to say on this subject.

Job 14:10-14

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

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

Verse 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.

Verse 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!

Verse 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 scriptures, 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

Verse 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 are teaching contrary to the 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

Verse 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, which is all of us today. We could stop here and ask whose teachings should we believe, man's or God's? The fact of the matter is, there is still too much scripture for us to quit here.

Job 19:25, 26

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

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

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. These words of Job are once again very important, that he will not come to God in a mystical form; but in his flesh in the last days. 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

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

Verse 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 three days.

John 20:16 - 19

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

Verse 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.

Verse 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken

these things unto her.

Verse 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 Jesus resurrected three days after his crucifixion and had not yet ascended to God the Father. So, Jesus and the thief 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. Jesus words on the cross was to inform that soul that because of his confession to Jesus he had earned eternal life that day, and thereby will be in God's kingdom at Jesus coming as taught in scripture.

I Thessalonians 4:16,17

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

Verse 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.

Now let us look to Solomon and see what he has to say on the subject of the state of the dead.

Ecclesiastes 9:4-10

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

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

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

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

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Ecclesiastes 3:19 - 21

Verse 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 preeminence above a beast: for all *is* vanity.

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

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

We see here that these scriptures teach us that when we go to the grave all things cease to exist. Solomon also tells us what happens to all living creatures at death. We are told this continually throughout the Bible by multiple people. Let us remember the words of Daniel.

Daniel 12:2

Verse 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.

Daniel says the same as everyone before him, all are dead until an appointed time and all are resurrected to life or death. 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 at that time. Some argue that the body dies and the spirit returns to God literally.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Verse 7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

We must remember what the scriptures say happened at creation, God breathed the breath of life into man and he became a living soul. We can further prove this from the drawing together of the dry bones in Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 37:4 - 10

Verse 4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Verse 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

Verse 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put

breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Verse 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

Verse 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them.

Verse 9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

Verse 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

This shows us that the four winds called by Ezekiel was able to breathe life into these dead bones. It is the very breath that we draw that sustains life and to start the process of independent life. So, we see the spirit here as the starting breath that God breathed into man to make him a living soul and this is what returns to God. It is an improper teaching to teach that man has immortality at death as we have read nothing that scripturally supports this. I Corinthians 15:51, 52

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

Verse 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.

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 and there little. Mankind lost eternal life 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. 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.

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