

Where are the Dead?

- I. Introduction: Many ponder this question.
 - a. Many have theories of what happens to man
 - i. Humans become Angels
 - ii. Purgatory
 - iii. Reincarnation
 - b. Can't know except by what is revealed by God
 - i. We don't know by experience – Not ever been there
 - c. Must study the Bible to find the answers “Where are the Dead?”
- II. Before we know what happens at death – Must first understand what man is
 - a. What is Man?
 - i. Scriptures ask this question
 - 1. (Psalms 8) (Heb 2:6) “What is man, that thou are mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him?”
 - b. Scriptures also answer this question
 - i. Man has a body
 - 1. (Gen 2:7) “God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”
 - ii. Man has a Spirit
 - 1. (Job 32:8) “There is a spirit in man.”
 - 2. (Daniel 7:15) “I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body.”
 - 3. (Zechariah 12:1) “God formeth the spirit of man within him.”
 - c. Man is a composite being
 - i. Composed of body and spirit
 - 1. Together – Life
 - 2. Separate - Death
 - a. (Eccl 12:7) “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
 - 3. Best definition of Life and Death
 - d. What is Life?
 - i. You may say, “Life is a mode of existence.”
 - 1. “But what is a mode of existence?”
 - ii. Life is the state of spirit and body being together
 - 1. (James 2:26) “The body without the spirit is dead.”
 - III. Destination of the Body
 - a. Back to dust – Ground
 - b. Not of much concern with the body – House in which the Spirit lives in
 - i. (II Corinthians 5:1) “We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”
 - 1. Tabernacle – Tent / Paul compares this body with a tent

2. Temporary dwelling place
 - c. Question is, “where does the spirit go?”
- IV. Destination of the Spirit
- a. Where does it not go?
 - i. Grave – Hence what death is – Spirit does not go where the Body goes
 - ii. Purgatory – Not a hint of this in the scriptures – conflict with simplest of scriptures
 - iii. Directly to Heaven or Hell – Hear this statement at funerals
 - b. Where it goes
 - i. Thief on the Cross
 1. (Luke 23:39-43) “And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”
 - a. Both Jesus and penitent thief journeyed to paradise on that day
 2. Christ was resurrected three days later – One of the godly women approached him and was about to touch him
 - a. (John 20:7) “Touch me not. I am not yet ascended to my Father.”
 - b. Three days before he died – yet not ascended to the Father
 - c. Three days before he went to paradise – Yet not to his father
 - d. The Father is in Heaven – Christ went to paradise – Christ did not go to the Father – Therefore Paradise and Heaven are not the same
 - ii. What is the Paradise that Jesus spoke of?
 1. (Acts 2:29-30) “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. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;”
 2. (Acts 2:31) “He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.”
 - a. Two things pertinent to our study

- i. Our Lord's body would not be left in the grave until it decayed
 - ii. His spirit or soul would not remain in Hades.
 - b. Was in Hades – also in paradise
 - i. Paradise is in Hades
 - c. Had not been in heaven
 - i. Paradise and Hades is not heaven
- iii. What is the Characteristics of the Hadean world
 - 1. Rich man and Lazarus
 - a. Many materialists will say, “Oh, that’s just a parable.”
 - i. Implying that it’s not true
 - ii. Not sure if it’s a parable or not
 - 1. Parables start, “**And he spake a parable unto them say...**”
 - 2. This starts, “**There was a certain rich man...**” Now was there a certain rich man or not?
 - iii. If it is a parable does that mean it’s not true
 - 1. What is a parable?
 - a. Def. “**A parable is an illustration put forth to clear up some difficult truth.**” – always uses illustrations that could happen – not mythology
 - 2. If parable – then it’s something that could happen
 - 3. If not a parable – Something that did happen
 - a. Either way it teaches truth
 - b. What does this Story teach?
 - i. (Luke 16:19-31)
 - ii. Summary:
 - 1. Life is union of body and spirit
 - 2. Death – Body goes to the grave/
Spirit goes into Hadean realm
 - 3. If righteous – Abraham’s Bosom
 - 4. If wicked – torment
 - iii. Disembodied Spirits – not speaking of a future state in heaven
 - 1. Abraham told the rich man that his brothers need to hear Moses and the Prophets – Old dispensation
 - 2. Heaven is after this dispensation

3. If speaking of Heaven and Hell –
Hear Christ and the Apostles

2. Consciousness of the Dead

- a. (Luke 16:25) “Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”
 - i. “Son, remember...”
 - ii. Evidence of Consciousness – and Memory
 1. Memory – Blessing and Torment
- b. (Eccl. 9:5,6) “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing.”
 - i. Materialists use this scripture to Show there is no consciousness
 - ii. Need to go further
- c. (Eccl. 9:5,6) “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. 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.”
 - i. Where is it that the dead know not anything?
 1. Under the sun
 - ii. Why?
 1. He’s no longer under the sun – but in the Hadean World
 - iii. When I’m in Columbus – I know what’s going on there cause I’m there
 1. When I’m in another city – I know longer know what’s going on there in Columbus
- d. There will be a memory – Consciousness
 - i. What will you remember

V. Reunion of the Body and the Spirit

- a. (Heb 9:27) “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
 - i. There will be a future Judgment
- b. (John 5:28-29) “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”
 - i. Both the good and the evil will be resurrected
 1. Both will be reunited with their bodies
- c. What is Judgment for?
 - i. If there destiny is set at death?

- ii. Must understand what judgment is
 - 1. Many think of judgment as Man pleading his case to God
 - a. Not so – Destiny already set
 - b. Physical application:
 - i. Man if in court doesn't plead his case to a Judge – but to Jury – they decide guilt or innocence
 - ii. Judge – pronounces Judgment
 - 2. (Matt 25:31-33) “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”
 - a. Picture of God pronouncing Judgment
 - b. What you do in this life is your plead – this is where you prove your innocence or guilt
 - 3. All have sinned – but Christ died for us – to have sins forgiven
 - a. If we obey him and follow after him then we can have a home with him when we die
 - iii. If we are his
 - 1. (Matt 25:34) “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”
 - iv. If we are not his
 - 1. (Matt 25:41) “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”
- d. Which are you?
- i. Have you had your sins washed away
 - 1. Ananias told Saul (Acts 22:16) “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
 - 2. How do we have our sins washed away
 - a. Water grave of baptism
 - 3. That's how we come in contact with the Blood of Christ
 - a. (Rom 6:3) “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
 - b. Christ shed his Blood in his death
 - c. His Blood is for the remission of sins
 - 4. Why Peter said (Acts 2:38)
 - a. Baptism puts you in contact with the blood

- ii. Are you living for Him in the way that he teaches
 - 1. (John 14:6) “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
 - a. He’s the way – must live our lives as he has commanded

VI. Conclusion:

- a. Death has no respect of Persons
 - i. It affects the old and the young
 - ii. Are you prepared for what lies ahead