

# “Death and the Resurrection”

## INTRODUCTION

1. There are numerous views in answer to the questions, “Is there life after death for humans? If so, what does the Bible teach?”
2. Most *Atheists* believe that we just die and the body is left decompose or possibly preserved in some manner according to some treatment of the body and that there is no afterlife.
3. *Agnostics* will usually give the “*I don’t know*” answer, but may certainly may have opinions that differ.
4. *Various religionists* teach ideas ranging from *purgatory, limbo, annihilation, reincarnation, a “rapture” and partial resurrection of the dead with Christ setting up a kingdom on earth, and other views.*
5. Let us learn and speak as the oracles of God teach (**I Peter 4:11**). May God richly bless us in this study!

## I. GOD CREATED MAN & WOMAN AS DUAL/TRIUNE BEINGS (body & spirit, body, soul & spirit)

A. The physical body with the “spirit” is *alive*. (**2 Cor. 5:1-8; Philippians 1:21-24**).

1. God breathed the breath of life into the man and he became “a living soul” (**Genesis 2:7**).
2. God’s Word is said to be able to divide “soul and spirit” (**Hebrews 4:12**).
3. The Christian’s body is the temple of the individual’s spirit and the Holy Spirit (**Acts 5:32; Rom. 8:9-11; Eph. 1:13,14**)

B. The physical body without the “spirit” is *dead*. (**James 2:26**).

1. Death is “that separation (whether natural or violent) of the soul from the body by which life on earth is ended.” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon*, page 282) Separation is the primary idea. The idea of annihilation is foreign both to the definition of *thanatos* (Strong’s #2288) and its usage in the Scriptures. Death simply means separation of body and soul whereupon the body goes back into dust, the elements of materiality, and the spirit returns to God. (**James 2:26, Eccl. 12:7**).<sup>1</sup>

2. Jesus’ *body* was taken to a new tomb after his death (**Mt. 27:57-60**). His *spirit* went to Paradise in Hades (**Luke 23:43; Acts 2:27**).

## II. WHEN PEOPLE DIE, WHERE DO THEIR SPIRITS GO?

A. Read **Luke 16:19-31**.

1. In death the conscious soul enters into “*hades*” (Strong’s #86). [The KJV unfortunately renders: “*hell*”]. This is the abode of the dead.

2. Hades is defined as follows: From *a and idean*, not to be seen: “the common receptacle of disembodied spirits.” (*Thayer*, page 11) “*Hades*, the unseen world, into which the spirits of all persons pass at death.” (Alexander Souter, *Pocket Lexicon to the Greek N.T.*, page 6) “I, The invisible receptacle or mansion of

the dead . . . II. The invisible places or state of separate souls, the unseen world of separate spirits . . .” (John Parkhurst, *Greek and English Lexicon*, page 14).

3. The consciousness of the souls in *hades* is proven. Attempts have been made by *annihilists* to dismiss the facts taught in Luke 16. Some argue it is a *parable*, but I don’t think so. (*Look up the definition of parable.*) And, *even if it is* indeed a parable, the teaching would not be diluted because all of the elements of a parable are true and the spiritual lesson is based upon fact(s). So if the passage were to teach an additional lesson than what we read of in the Luke 16 text, the fact remains that *hades* exists, that souls separated from the body are there, that there is consciousness in that location after physical death occurs, that there is no second chance to change one’s eternal destiny after death, etc. <sup>2</sup>

4. There are *three areas* in *hades*: the great gulf that divides paradise/Abraham’s bosom from torments.

B. Jesus told a thief on the cross, “...‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’” (Luke 23:43, NKJV)

1. The word “paradise” is used in the New Testament of: (1) *Abraham’s bosom* in hades (Luke 16) and, (2) of *heaven* (Rev. 2:7) where God and the faithful of all time will be forever after the day of judgment.

2. Acts 2:27 reads, “For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.” This is speaking of Jesus’ spirit being in Hades while His body was lifeless in the new tomb for 3 days until His resurrection. See also, Psalms 16:10 where the *Hebrew* word for the same place is used (i.e. Sheol *Heb.* = Hades *Gk.*), “For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; You will not allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.” (NASB)

### III. THE RESURRECTION

A. “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” (Mt. 24:36, ESV)

1. John 14:1-3 Jesus said He was going to leave the earth and to go to heaven, but He would return.
2. Acts 1:9-11 Jesus’ return would be “in like manner” as to His leaving.
3. John 5:28,29 At the resurrection, all who are in the graves, will hear His voice and come forth.
4. Rev. 1:7 When Jesus returns, every eye will see Him, *including* those who pierced Him.
5. John 5:28,29 All who are in the grave shall hear His voice and be resurrected to life eternal or everlasting condemnation.
6. I Cor. 15:35-54 The physical bodies will be changed from a corruptible state to an incorruptible state.
7. I Thess. 4:16,17 Jesus will descend with a shout, with the voice of an archangel & with the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ (saved who died) rise first and the saved (still alive) on earth will be caught up together with them (the risen saved) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
8. Matt. 24:40, 41 There will be a sudden separation on earth of the saved and the lost at Christ’s coming.
9. I Thess 4:16,17 The lost (resurrected and living lost) shall not be caught up in the clouds with Christ.
10. Rom. 14:10-12 All will appear before God for judgment, every knee shall bow every, tongue shall confess. Each of us shall give account of ourselves before God.
11. 2 Cor. 5:10 All must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, give account of our deeds, whether good/bad
12. 2 Thess 1:6-9 Jesus comes in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel
13. Rev. 20:13,14 Hades and death will be cast into the lake of fire. Hades is temporary and ends here.

14. I Cor. 15:20-28 Jesus will deliver the kingdom to God the Father (vs. 24) when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

(Note: the above listing is not exhaustive and not necessarily in chronological order given that some events may occur almost simultaneously. - mjw).

**CONCLUSION**

1. All of us will either pass from this life (*physical death*) or be alive on earth when Jesus returns.
2. Are we living in view of God’s instruction and eternity (2 Peter 3:10-18)?
3. Are we walking with God and His faithful children (Eph. 5:8; I John 1:6-9)?
4. And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.” (Revelation 14:13, NASB)

**- CREDITS/FOOTNOTES -**

<sup>i ii</sup> Frost, Gene (1977) “Death and Resurrection”, *Gospel Anchor*, (Gospel Anchor Publishing Company; Louisville, Kentucky) Volume 4, Number 3

- [Apologetics Press - Afterlife and the Bible](#) - Article on Hades, Gehenna, and life after death.
- [www.religiousinstructor.com/aug99/dead.html](http://www.religiousinstructor.com/aug99/dead.html) - “Where are the Dead?” by Mark J Ward

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***Thanks for reading, listening to, and studying this material in view of God’s Word and eternity!***

Please feel free to make comments, ask questions, or, if you would like to study the Bible free (by phone, or other methods), just contact:

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