

Bible Study and Notes

YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE

(LESSON 16)

Bible Study

1. What did God say would happen if Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree?
Genesis 2:16-17
2. What did Satan say would happen if Eve ate of the forbidden tree? **Genesis 3:1-4**
3. What makes a SOUL?
Genesis 2:7
4. What happens when a person dies? **Psalms 104:29**
5. What happens to the soul when a person sins? **Ezekiel 18:4**
6. Other than human beings, what else are considered souls? **Revelation 16:3**
7. What returns to God upon death? **Ecclesiastes 12:7**
8. The thing that returns to God, where is it located before death? **Job 27:3**
9. The thing that returns to God is synonymous with what other item located in the same place? **Genesis 2:7**
10. At what time will those that are Christ's rise to see Jesus? **1 Corinthians 15:20-23, John 6:40, John 6:44, John 6:54**
11. Beside God and the angels, who is in heaven right now?
Genesis 5:24, 2 Kings 2:11, Jude 1:9
12. What did Jesus call death?
John 11:11-14
13. How much do dead people know? **Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, Psalms 6:5**

What Is the Destination of the Lost?

Before Jesus returns (Revelation 14:14), messages represented as going forth by three angels will be pronounced so that people will not have the

excuse that they did not know. The first angel was a wake-up call that Christianity is not status quo. The second angel revealed that the world is being influenced in what is really a confusing manner called Babylon. The third angel specifically identifies the beast, the image of the beast, and the mark of the beast. Now, what is the destination of those that persist in supporting the beast, the image, and the mark? Revelation 14:10-11 tells us, *"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."* The "fire and brimstone" is typically in reference to hell fire. But to understand hell, one needs to understand what it means to die.

Even children are curious about life after death. For instance, a boy was walking through a graveyard one day when he spotted a peculiar head stone. Engraved on the stone were these words: Paul Adams 1902 - 1964. Also included was this saying, "Stop my friend, as you go by. As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, you soon shall be. So, prepare yourself to follow me." The boy pondered and then responded in crayon, "To follow you I am not content, until I know just where you went." That is exactly our question for this lesson.

Where do we go when we die? Some believe in reincarnation. Some believe we pass immediately on to heaven or hell. Others believe they are sleeping in the grave in Christ without breathing, yet others believe in no future at all. What is the truth?

Well, Jesus who is the Truth has the answer. Why? Revelation 1:18 says, *"I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."* Jesus lived on this earth, died, and took His life up to walk on this earth again. He holds the understanding to the mystery of death.

By the way, did you know that this subject is the oldest subject ever discussed? The first temptation was based upon the answer to the question regarding life after death.

What Were the Prevalent Theologies in the Garden?

Genesis 2:16-17 says, *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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."* God makes it clear that when a person dies, they are not just dead but "surely" dead. What does the word SURELY mean? According to *Webster's Dictionary*, it means: certainly, without doubt, indeed, really (not partially or pretending). A Thesaurus renders the word COMPLETELY to have the same synonyms as the word SURELY.

This is significant because when God states that man shall SURELY die, that is without exception covering all aspects of man.

And keep in mind, God did not say, "in the day that thou eatest thereof I will welcome your spirit into Heaven." God simply said the death was Adam's future.

But what does Satan say? Genesis 3:1-4 tells us, *"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."* Now we know Satan is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). What lie did he tell? God stated that Adam and Eve would completely die, yet Satan's lie, which is believed today, was that they would not completely die.

This brings up an interesting question. How many people would take a walk in a graveyard on Friday the thirteenth at midnight with the wind blowing softly through the trees making a howling noise? Not too many. Why? We know all those people are dead, but not surely dead. Right?

What Happens When People Die?

To answer this question, let us

look at how people are created. According to Genesis 2:7, we are told, "*And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*"

Notice that God did not put a soul into Adam, but rather a living human being is a soul because the body and breath of life are together. So, by Bible definition, a SOUL is a word used to describe the current state of the breath of life associated with the body and not an entity. It is best illustrated by an equation: Body + Breath = Soul.

Now, what happens at death? Psalm 104:29 tells us, "*Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.*" The death equation would be Soul - Breath = Death.

The Bible even states plainly what happens to a soul at death in Ezekiel 18:4: "*Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*" They die.

How does the Bible use the word SOUL? Acts 2:41 tells us, "*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls.*" Either this is a haunted church, or God uses the word SOUL as living and breathing bodies. Acts 27:37 also states, "*And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.*" Either this is a haunted boat ride or Paul was in the company of living, breathing bodies. Even Revelation 16:3 mentions, "*And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became*

as the blood of a dead [man]: and every living soul died in the sea." Now this goes against what is taught in school. Animals are also considered souls. In fact, any creature that is living and breathing is considered a soul to God. When the breath ceases, the body returns to the dust.

Our own conversation reveals the same usage. If one were to walk down the street in New York on a winter's day and see a homeless person lying on a grate in the sidewalk to stay warm, what might a compassionate statement be? "Oh, that poor soul." As we see, the word SOUL refers to a living, breathing being.

What about the spirit that returns to God? According to Ecclesiastes 12:7, it says, "*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*" And a lot of people with finite, agenda minded goals of proving the Bible contradictory, grab a hold of this verse to prove the opposite about death, that they actually do go to Heaven. But let us honestly investigate this verse. To find what the word SPIRIT means in this context, let us first address where the spirit is located. According to Job 27:3, the Bible says, "*All the while my breath [is] in me, and the spirit of God [is] in my nostrils.*" What was placed in the nostrils? Genesis 7:22 tells us, "*All in whose nostrils [was] the breath of life, of all that [was] in the dry [land], died.*" So, the word SPIRIT is synonymous with BREATH in many cases throughout the Bible, which should make sense now, without contradiction.

Think of it this way. It is like an invisible breathing tube. When a person dies, God retracts the tube.

Besides, Jesus, our example even in death, shows what is meant by SPIRIT. Luke 23:46 states, "*And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*" Did Jesus go to the Father at that moment? Not according to John 20:17, which says, "*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.*" This occurred days after the cross when Jesus arose. Therefore, Jesus' statement on the cross was an announcement that He will no longer receive breath from the Father.

Is this a New Testament teaching? James 2:26 says, "*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*" James just used the Body - Spirit = Death formula.

When people die, they simply return to the dust of the earth, and the breath or the spirit that kept them alive returns to God.

It is best illustrated by a light bulb. Imagine that the light bulb is the body. By applying the electricity, which is the breath of life, there is light, which is a living soul. When the electricity is taken away, where does the light go? Nowhere. It just disappears. So, it is with death. When the last breath is taken, the soul dies, meaning that the body contains no life.

What About the Immortal Soul?

1 Timothy 1:17 says, "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." The word IMMORTAL appears in only one verse. And notice that it identifies God. He is immortal; we are not.

How about the word IMMORTALITY? Is that in the Bible? It appears five times actually. The first also answers the question, "Who has immortality?" According to 1 Timothy 6:13-16, the Bible says, "I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and [before] Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep [this] commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, [who is] the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 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." Jesus Christ is the only one with immortality.

How do we know we will receive immortality? 2 Timothy 1:10, tells us, "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." By the selfless death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who paid our death penalty, that we might not die, as well as the fact that

He rose and walked this earth for forty days, demonstrates life after death, which gives us the blessed hope of immortality. Praise the Lord!

Now, the next reference is in Romans 2:7, which says, "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life." If you have something, would you still be looking for it? Of course not! Besides, we are told in the rest of the context when we will receive it. Romans 2:5-7, tells us, "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life." We will receive immortality at the day appointed which is the revelation of the righteous judgment, which is at the second coming -- not a day sooner.

Let us take a look at the last two verses containing the word IMMORTALITY. 1 Corinthians 15:53-54 says, "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." When will this occur? 1 Corinthians 15:52 tells us, "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." That trump is the trumpet blast that wakes up the dead and ushers in the second coming. Praise the Lord! To reinforce this, back up to 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, which says, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

Does Jesus confirm this? John 6:40 tells us, "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:44 states, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:54 mentions, "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Who Is in Heaven or Hell?

First, who is in hell right now? Since the body returns to the dust and the spirit or breath of life returns to God upon death, according to the Bible, no one is currently in hell. Is there a "Thus Saith the Lord"? Job 21:30-32 states, "That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath. Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him

[what] he hath done? Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb." And Psalms 31:17-18 says, "Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, [and] let them be silent in the grave. Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous."

Then the second question is, other than God and the angels, who else is in heaven right now? Some may reply, with "according to this study, no one" but what does the Bible actually say?

1. Genesis 5:24 says, "*And Enoch walked with God: and he [was] not; for God took him.*" This is an example of those who will be translated at the end of time.
2. 2 Kings 2:11 tells us, "*And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, [there appeared] a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*" This is also an example of those who will be translated at the end of time.
3. Jude 1:9 states, "*Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*" This is an example of those who will be resurrected at the end of time. And these three verses explain how the transfiguration was possible.
4. In addition, there are possibly others: Matthew

27:52-53 tells us, "*And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*" These are assumed to be in heaven because these are the first fruits of the big resurrection at the end of time, which is referred to as the great harvest.

What Do the Feast Days Reveal About This Subject?

Speaking of first fruits, what do the feast days reveal about this subject? We are told that we ought to be able to take everything to the sanctuary (Psalms 77:13).

Focusing on when people are gathered to go to heaven, we will look for those feasts that gather fruit out of the land, such as harvesting.

The first feast day was that of Passover (Leviticus 23:4) which was fulfilled at the Crucifixion (Matthew 26:2). Nothing about gathering fruit

The next feast was that of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 6-8), which allows our sins to be purged by Jesus' shed blood (1 Corinthians 5:7). Again, there is no symbolism regarding gathering fruit.

Then there was the feast of First Fruits (Leviticus 23:9-14) of which the Resurrection fulfilled (1 Corinthians 15:20). This is a feast symbolizing people being presented to the Lord revealing a great future harvest. That

means that those who rose from the grave and went into the city were more than likely taken to heaven as the first fruits along with Jesus. And, notice a key word in the reference: Matthew 27:52-53 says, "*And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*" We are asleep in Jesus. Many of the saints includes those of over five hundred years prior to this event. That means, since by that duration of being in the grave would cause the bodies to completely return to the dust, those saints were not in heaven or hell but were sleeping in Jesus arising with the new incorruptible bodies.

The fourth feast day was Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-22), which was fulfilled by Jesus sending the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). There is no symbolism regarding gathering fruit of the land.

The fifth feast was that of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25) which is a warning feast coinciding with the Great Awakening (Revelation chapter 10) of the 1800's. There is no gathering of fruit during this feast either.

Immediately following the Feast of Trumpets was the feast of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32), which is fulfilled by the Judgment (Revelation 14:7) preceding the second coming. People's records are investigated and a verdict given but there is no gathering of fruit during this feast.

The last feast is known as Ingathering (Leviticus 23:33-44) which will be fulfilled at the

Second Coming (Revelation 14:14-16). This is when everybody else will be taken to heaven. It is the great harvest, and the feast identifying when additional people will be taken to Heaven. Therefore, no others are admitted to Heaven between the resurrection and the second coming. They all simply sleep in Jesus.

Did Jesus Not Preach To the People in Hell?

1 Peter 3:18-19 states, "*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison.*" Looking at only these verses, it may appear that Jesus preached in hell after the death on the cross, however, verse 19 is not the end of the thought. Continuing on into verse 20 reveals a whole different time frame. 1 Peter 3:20 tells us, "*Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*" The prisoners are those that are imprisoned of Satan, and by the Spirit filled Noah before the flood, Christ preached unto them for one-hundred and twenty years (Genesis 6:3). Noah is just one time frame example of Jesus preaching to those in prison.

How Do Animals Die?

Did you know that exactly the

way animals die is exactly how humans die? Ecclesiastes 3:19-20 tells us, "*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. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*"

Even Peter had to deal with this subject. While addressing a crowd, he noticed the Sadducees were present, which did not believe in a resurrection (Matthew 22:23). Peter tried to settle the matter in Acts 2:29, 34 by saying, "*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. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand.*" Peter is telling the people to look at David's tomb, which was nearby. As he pointed to it, he told them that David had not yet ascended into heaven.

This also tells us that when people are buried and they go to Heaven, there is a stark difference in the grave site. In other words, it does not remain covered over with fresh dirt; it becomes a hole in the ground. That is why Peter directed their attention to the grave of David. He said, "Look at his grave. It is perfectly maintained still signifying that he is not ascended into the heavens. No spirit or being has popped out of there to disturb the grave." So, the notion that a loved one goes to Heaven is quite accurate by

a physical standard – the grave has to show signs of an ascension. That means, when those that arose at Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 27:52), it clearly says, "the graves were opened", which is a hole in the ground.

To illustrate this subject, did you ever experience the following? Someone you know passes away and you attend the viewing and the funeral. During the sermon, the minister may say, "Let us not grieve, for they are in heaven walking on the streets of gold in the presence of the holy angels and Jesus." Then at the gravesite, the minister may say, "Unlike others who have no hope, our dear friend will rise again to meet the Lord in the air." Now wait a second! The night before, they were visible in a casket; a moment ago it was said they were up in heaven walking the streets of gold; and now it is seems that they are about to be lowered into the grave to rise and meet Jesus in the air at the second coming. Is this theology confusing or what?

How Does Jesus Define Death?

According to John 11:11-14, the Bible says, "*These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.*" Jesus called

death a sleep. This is beautiful. If we were to die before Jesus returns, the very next thing that we would be aware of is the second coming. We will not sense any passing of time.

Also notice when Jesus went to the tomb. What did Jesus say? Lazarus, come down? No. Lazarus, come up? No. He said, Lazarus, come forth (John 11:43).

Did Lazarus come out, look around, and in seeing Jesus, say that he was up there walking the streets of gold with a host of angels and is now upset that Jesus brought him down to this rotten old earth? No. Or did Lazarus come out of the tomb, look around and in seeing Jesus, run up to Him and say, "Thank you Jesus. I was down there with Satan and the fallen angels and they were on my back all day long. They gave me a pick and I never stopped working. It must be over 9,000 degrees down there." Did he say that? No. There is no record of any details because Lazarus had no experience to render. He was simply asleep.

Besides this, Martha had her theology straight: "*Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day*" (John 11:23-24).

Overall, the situation with Lazarus is an object lesson concerning the status of death and the resurrection. Lazarus died, slept in the tomb, Jesus came, and called him out. One day soon, Jesus is going to come again and at that time, those that are asleep in Jesus will come forth out of their tombs at His calling.

Did you also know that death, called a SLEEP, appears 66 times in the Bible?

- (1) *And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt SLEEP with thy fathers* (Deuteronomy 31:16)
- (2) *And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou (David) shalt SLEEP with thy fathers* (2 Samuel 7:12)
- (3) *Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall SLEEP with his fathers* (1 Kings 1:21)
- (4) *So David SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.* (1 Kings 2:10)
- (5) *And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David SLEPT with his fathers* (1 Kings 11:21)
- (6) *And Solomon SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father:* (1 Kings 11:43)
- (7) *And the days which Jeroboam reigned [were] two and twenty years: and he SLEPT with his fathers,* (1 Kings 14:20)
- (8) *And Rehoboam SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David.* (1 Kings 14:31)
- (9) *And Abijam SLEPT with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David:* (1 Kings 15:8)
- (10) *And Asa SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his*

father: (1 Kings 15:24)

- (11) *So Baasha SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried in Tirzah:* (1 Kings 16:6)
- (12) *So Omri SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria:* (1 Kings 16:28)
- (13) *So Ahab SLEPT with his fathers;* (1 Kings 22:40)
- (14) *And Jehoshaphat SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father:* (1 Kings 22:50)
- (15) *And Joram SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David:* (2 Kings 8:24)
- (16) *And Jehu SLEPT with his fathers: and they buried him in Samaria.* (2 Kings 10:35)
- (17) *And Jehoahaz SLEPT with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria:* (2 Kings 13:9)
- (18) *And Joash SLEPT with his fathers;* (2 Kings 13:13)
- (19) *And Jehoash SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel;* (2 Kings 14:16)
- (20) *He built Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that the king SLEPT with his fathers.* (2 Kings 14:22)
- (21) *And Jeroboam SLEPT with his fathers, [even] with the kings of Israel;*

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- (2 Kings 14:29)
- (22) *So Azariah SLEPT with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: (2 Kings 15:7)*
- (23) *And Menahem SLEPT with his fathers; (2 Kings 15:22)*
- (24) *And Jotham SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: (2 Kings 15:38)*
- (25) *And Ahaz SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: (2 Kings 16:20)*
- (26) *And Hezekiah SLEPT with his fathers: (2 Kings 20:21)*
- (27) *And Manasseh SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza: (2 Kings 21:18)*
- (28) *So Jehoiakim SLEPT with his fathers: (2 Kings 24:6)*
- (29) *And Solomon SLEPT with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: (2 Chronicles 9:31)*
- (30) *And Rehoboam SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: (2 Chronicles 12:16)*
- (31) *Abijah SLEPT with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: (2 Chronicles 14:1)*
- (32) *And Asa SLEPT with his fathers, and died in*
- the one and fortieth year of his reign. (2 Chronicles 16:13)*
- (33) *Now Jehoshaphat SLEPT with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. (2 Chronicles 21:1)*
- (34) *He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king SLEPT with his fathers. (2 Chronicles 26:2)*
- (35) *Uzziah SLEPT with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which [belonged] to the kings; (2 Chronicles 26:23)*
- (36) *And Jotham SLEPT with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: (2 Chronicles 27:9)*
- (37) *And Ahaz SLEPT with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, [even] in Jerusalem: (2 Chronicles 28:27)*
- (38) *And Hezekiah SLEPT with his fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David: (2 Chronicles 32:33)*
- (39) *So Manasseh SLEPT with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house: (2 Chronicles 33:20)*
- (40) *For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have SLEPT: then had I been at rest, (Job 3:13)*
- (41) *for now shall I SLEEP in*
- the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I [shall] not [be]. (Job 7:21)*
- (42) *So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens [be] no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their SLEEP. (Job 14:12)*
- (43) *Consider [and] hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I SLEEP the [SLEEP of] death; (Psalms 13:3)*
- (44) *The stouthearted are spoiled, they have SLEPT their SLEEP: (Psalms 76:5)*
- (45) *At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead SLEEP. (Psalms 76:6)*
- (46) *Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are [as] a SLEEP: in the morning [they are] like grass [which] groweth up. (Psalms 90:5)*
- (47) *SLEEP a perpetual SLEEP, and not wake, saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 51:39)*
- (48) *They shall SLEEP a perpetual SLEEP, and not wake, saith the King, whose name [is] the LORD of hosts. (Jeremiah 51:57)*
- (49) *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 12:2)*

- (50) *He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but SLEEPETH. (Matthew 9:24)*
- (51) *And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which SLEPT arose (Matthew 27:52)*
- (52) *And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but SLEEPETH. (Mark 5:39)*
- (53) *And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but SLEEPETH. (Luke 8:52)*
- (54) *These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus SLEEPETH; but I go, that I may awake him out of SLEEP. (John 11:11)*
- (55) *And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell ASLEEP. (Acts 7:60)*
- (56) *For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on SLEEP, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: (Acts 13:36)*
- (57) *For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many SLEEP. (1 Corinthians 11:30)*
- (58) *After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen ASLEEP. (1 Corinthians 15:6)*
- (59) *Then they also which are fallen ASLEEP in Christ are perished. (1 Corinthians 15:18)*
- (60) *But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that SLEPT. (1 Corinthians 15:20)*
- (61) *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all SLEEP, but we shall all be changed, (1 Corinthians 15:51)*
- (62) *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are ASLEEP, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13)*
- (63) *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which SLEEP in Jesus will God bring with him. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)*
- (64) *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are ASLEEP. (1 Thessalonians 4:15)*
- (65) *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or SLEEP, we should live together with him. (1 Thessalonians 5:10)*
- (66) *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell ASLEEP, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of the creation. (2 Peter 3:4)*

THAT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR!
AMEN?

Besides, if upon death, people immediately went to heaven, who is Jesus going to resurrect when He returns? 1 Corinthians 15:52 tell us, "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." Amen?

How Much Do the Dead Know?

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 says, "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." We know we will die, but those that are already dead, they do not comprehend. Also, the love of God and the hatred of Satan and their sin perish.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 tells us, "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." So much for being assigned a cloud to keep clean.

Psalms 115:17 states, "The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence." Isaiah 38:18-19 "For the grave cannot praise thee,

death can [not] celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I [do] this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth." So much for ascending to heaven and praising God all day long.

Psalms 6:5 mentions, "For in death [there is] no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" That is quite clear. We will not remember God one bit in death.

Is Trying to Contact the Dead Biblical?

Leviticus 19:31 says, "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I [am] the LORD your God." God tells us flat out not to seek the various mediums used in contacting the dead, yet many sincere Christians flock to palm readers, tarot card readers, watch movies with witches and warlocks, and the like. Why does God not want us to contact these people? Because there is nobody to contact and the mediums are Satan's servants who are working to pull us from God. The spiritual world is the strongest power that Satan can unleash.

We learned that all who die are resting in the grave except for Moses (Jude 1:9) and a few people at the time of Christ's resurrection (Matthew 27:52-53). [Elijah and Enoch are also in heaven but never saw death.] So, the question one must ask is "Where is Mary?" According to the Bible, she would currently be resting in the grave awaiting the

resurrection. Then who is that appearing around the world claiming to be Mary? Even leaders of countries are being visited by what they think is Mary, but in reality, it is Satan impersonating her. In fact, this is nothing new in Satan's bag of deceptions. Remember Papal Rome just Christianizes pagan concepts including this one. Is this a Babylonian practice? Jeremiah 7:17-18 says, "Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead [their] dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger." The "queen of heaven" is one title that is applied to Mary by the Catholic Church. Instead of offerings cakes, today the Catholic Church conduct processions, specifically the May procession.

What council is given on this subject? Luke 11:27-28 tells us, "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed [is] the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed [are] they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

Many Christians think they can dabble a little and not get hooked. Take for instance the Ouija Board. It is definitely a spiritual power and it is not all fun and games.

When walking the path that Jesus has laid down for us, it is hard enough to get through the

day with all of the temptations that Satan throws at us; yet, many try to play on his turf. If Paul were alive today, he would say, God forbid!

Now besides trying to stay off of Satan's turf, we also need to set examples as we lead others to Christ. This is a 24-hour, 7-days a week job with no time off. Matthew 12:30 says, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Every word, action, and thought are either on God's side or Satan's. There is no middle ground.

With that in mind, who does Halloween uplift -- God or Satan? Satan of course with all of its spirits, ghosts, witches, and monsters. It is known also as hell's night or devil's night. On top of that, we know it to be very pagan because throughout the Bible, pagans usually took their clothes off. Nakedness and sinning frequently go hand in hand. And during Halloween, the popular female outfits very much encourages various forms of nudity by exposing much more skin than usual. What company does a Christian have with Satan? Amen? What I do not understand is why Christians who profess to lead people to Christ would spend even a moment in support of this annual Satanic event. The number of children abducted during the month of October primarily to be sacrificed by witches and other Satanists is no laughing matter. Years ago, witches were burned, drowned, or at least jailed for things they practiced. True, our early fathers may have gone overboard, but society has now come 180 degrees where people dress their little ones in

witch's garb. It is time that our weak and insipid Christianity wake up and declare war on Satan and not support his day of satanic influence. Amen?

Where did Halloween originate? "Now a children's holiday, Halloween was originally a Celtic festival for the dead, celebrated on the last day of the Celtic year, October 31. Elements of that festival were incorporated into the Christian holiday of All Hallows' Eve, the night preceding All Saints' (Hallows') Day. Until recent times in some parts of Europe, it was believed that on this night witches and warlocks flew abroad; and huge bonfires were built to ward off these malevolent spirits. Children's pranks replaced witches' tricks in the 19th century, but most of the other Halloween customs are probably survivals from the Celtic festival." *1995 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia.*

Unfortunately, I hear the response, "Oh lighten up. There's no harm in it. The kids have a good time and don't know much more than it's the day to go door-to-door for candy." If there were a day once a year that we were to go into a Satanic Temple and worship Satan, no Christian in their right mind would step foot in there. Right? So, Satan has brought it to the streets by decorating houses with satanic idols. Uncarved, unaltered pumpkins as well as other fall decorations is one thing, but ghosts, witches, spider webs, and black cats is another. Superstition is a satanic religion and we cannot serve God and Satan at the same time. Amen?

Satan is not stupid for focusing

his deception on kids either and creating a fun atmosphere thereby makes it hard to not practice such things. Satan knows that we more than likely can withstand direct attacks at us. But, in using others, especially children, he just pulls at our hearts. We need to remember that Satan used the "fun" tactic against the Sabbath back in the third century. To win pagans, Christians were told by Constantine to celebrate Sunday as the Lord's Day of resurrection as a joyous, happy, fun day, and to not work on that day. Christians began to have a really good time on Sunday and began to look at the true Sabbath as dull and boring and now the Sabbath is all but forgotten. Instead of teaching our kids to have fun in the satanic realm, we should rather be teaching Jesus to our kids. It is important to replace Halloween with something interesting and worthwhile for kids. By all means, let us remove Satan from our homes and practices. Amen?

Did you know the Protestant Reformation, specifically the nailing of the 95 Thesis occurred on October 31? Maybe on this date we should remember that instead of Halloween. In fact, it is interesting that Halloween coming after the 95 Thesis just so happened to land on the same day. This is not a coincidence.

What About Near Death Experiences?

2 Thessalonians 2:9 tells us, "[Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with

all power and signs and lying wonders." Revelation 16:14 "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, [which] go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Satan and his angels can work signs and wonders. They can make a person look dead, give them an experience, and awaken them so they can tell everyone about it. Many times, near death experiences are nothing more than the senses being aware of the environment or simply one falling into a dream. And besides that, you do not hear of too many cases about people going to hell. Rather, it is mostly heavenly experiences. Does that not strike at your curiosity? Those who can give vivid details of a past life are nothing more than Satan or one of the fallen angels feeding the information in and the person speaking it. Remember, these fallen angels lived through every age, know every person that ever lived, and have perfect recall right down to mannerisms.

How about haunted houses? Job 7:8-10 tells us, "*The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no [more]: thine eyes [are] upon me, and I [am] not. [As] the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no [more]. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.*" Now could Satan's angels be haunting the houses? Absolutely.

When did Job think he would rise from the dead? Job 14:10 states, "*But man dieth, and*

wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where [is] he?" Is that not our question? Job 14:11-14 continues, "[As] the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens [be] no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. 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! If a man die, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." Notice the events. Man dies and does not ascend to heaven right away. God's wrath must be passed. When will that be? According to Revelation 15:1, it says, "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God." So, the seven last plagues must occur.

Next the heavens have to be no more. When is that? According to 2 Peter 3:10, we are told, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

Next, a change is to come. When is that? According to 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, it says, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

What about the thief on the cross? Luke 23:42-43 says, "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." Well, there are three problems with this verse.

1. The thief did not ask to go that day. Luke 23:43 states, "Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."
2. Jesus did not enter the kingdom that day. John 20:17 tells us, "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."
3. The thief did not die that day. John 19:30-34 says, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and [that] they might be taken away. Then came

the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other, which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."

What is the solution then? It is a misplaced comma. We read verse 43 as "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Try reading it this way: "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee To day, shalt thou be with me in paradise." It has a whole new meaning and fits in perfectly with the over one hundred other verses that refer to death as returning to the ground.

Now, I am not into arbitrarily changing the Word of God, but let us realize that punctuation was not added until hundreds of years later. It was not inspired and neither are verse numbers and chapter breaks. Further, there is another example of a misplaced comma. Acts 19:12 tells us, "So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Have you ever heard of spirits coming out of sick handkerchiefs and aprons? Spirits only inhabit living beings. The verse should read, "So that from his body were brought unto the sick, handkerchiefs or aprons and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Handkerchiefs and aprons were brought to the sick is the point.

What about Paul's out of the body experience? According to 2 Corinthians 12:2-3, the Bible says, "*I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth).*" This is nothing more than Paul stating that he had an experience that seemed so real as if he were there, yet he thinks it might have just been a vision. This is similar to what John, Isaiah, and many other prophets experienced as they entered visions. [We will discuss visions more in a future lesson.] Besides, Paul told the Corinthians in the first letter when the actual experience would occur and also to Timothy. "*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

What About Being Absent from the Body Is to Be Present with the Lord?

The phrase "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" is nowhere in the Bible. This is an example of reading something into a verse.

Looking at 2 Corinthians 5:8, it reads as, "*We are confident, [I say], and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*" It simply states that he would rather be in the presence of the Lord than to be in this body that is growing old and will die.

But it says we can be "*confident*" about this! Yes, we can be confident in the fact that one day we will be present with the Lord without this body we have now. But nowhere does it state that that happens at the point of death.

Besides, listen carefully to what Paul taught. 1 Corinthians 15:50 tells us, "*Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*" At this point, we agree that this house, which is this body, cannot inherit the kingdom of God, so we must be absent from it to do so, but read on to see when this takes place. 1 Corinthians 15:51 tells us, "*Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.*" Just as Jesus taught and as it appears in sixty-six locations, death is a sleep – an unconscious state of existence. It is not our bodies that sleep but who we are is what sleeps. How do we know? Read on.

According to 1 Corinthians 15:52, the Bible says, "*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.*" How are the dead raised? With the bodies that are born to get old and die? No! With a body that is raised

incorruptibly! If Paul were talking about our existing bodies sleeping, that would mean our existing bodies would come up again but they do not. And note when this happens – "*At the last trump.*" That trump ushers in the second coming.

He even told the Thessalonians the same thing using similar words. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, it says, "*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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: 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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*" This cannot be taken that Jesus brings the sleeping saints from heaven at the second coming because the dead or sleeping ones are the ones to rise first.

Comparing this with John 14:3, the Bible says, "*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also*" we see that Jesus, after completing the mansions will come back and bring us to heaven. Who are

they? According to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, we get the answer: They are the ones that are sleeping in Jesus waiting for the resurrection and those saints which are alive at His coming.

What About the Witch of Endor?

1 Samuel 28:6 tells us, “*And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.*” First, notice that God was not speaking to Saul, so Saul sought other means to get spiritual answers. That was the first mistake.

Then 1 Samuel 28:7 tells us, “*Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, [there is] a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.*” We read in the beginning of this lesson that God commands us not to seek such persons, yet Saul is doing just that. That was the second mistake compounding sin up sin opening himself up to the devil.

So, 1 Samuel 28:8-13 says, “*And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me [him] up, whom I shall name unto thee. And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land:*

wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, [As] the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou [art] Saul. And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.” Wait a minute. What spiritual beings were cast to the earth in the first place? Satan and his angels of course is the answer (Revelation 12:9).

Now, 1 Samuel 28:14 says, “*And he said unto her, What form [is] he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he [is] covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it [was] Samuel, and he stooped with [his] face to the ground, and bowed himself.”* Notice that Samuel is coming up from below. If this were a life immediately after death experience, Samuel’s spirit would be coming down from heaven and not up from the earth. [Hebrews 11:32 provides a list of saved people of which Samuel is included]. Also notice that Saul never saw Samuel but rather he listened to the witch, and he “perceived” it to be.

Then, 1 Samuel 28:15 says, “*And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and*

answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.” Since God is not talking to Saul, neither by prophets, or by visions, which angels usually appear in, then why would God allow Samuel to come to him? Since God is not speaking to him, that then leaves only Satan.

What About the Rich Man and Lazarus?

Luke 16:19-31 tells us, “*There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, 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. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they*

pass to us, that [would come] from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." There are many concerns, but we will just cover the major issues.

1. In God's Word, Abraham is not one of the ones specifically mentioned to being in heaven and is therefore in the grave at the time of this parable.
2. Notice that Lazarus did not go to heaven, rather to Abraham's bosom.
3. If the rich man were truly in hell, he would need a whole lot more water.
4. Notice the physical tongue is present on the rich man, which are present on bodies and not spiritual beings.
5. Also, where did people go before Abraham came along?
6. John 8:56-58 plays a significant part in answering where Abraham is. "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw [it], and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before

Abraham was, I am." If Abraham was in heaven or the receptionist of all those that are bound to heaven, then why did Jesus not refer to that here? Instead, Jesus referenced only the earthly life of knowing Abraham. How could He do that? It was Christ with two angels that visited Abraham at the tent on their way to destroy Sodom.

Overall, this is a parable pointing out that the Jews have gotten spiritually fat from the Word and they did not share it as they were supposed to. They failed, hence the second covenant. Lazarus represents the Gentiles who would do what God desires and in that, they will receive the promise given to Abraham before the Jews will.

Another comment regarding the tongue is that this in no way supports that spirits go to heaven or hell. That means if one takes this literally and not as a parable, it would mean that the bodies upon death go to heaven and hell right away.

The second point, which proves this is no more than a parable, is that where the rich man goes does not exist yet as the lesson *One Hot Time* will bring out.

What About Purgatory?

Isaiah 6:5-7 is where this comes from. "Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, [which] he

had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid [it] upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." But when will the sinful body be purged? According to 1 Corinthians 15:50-53, it says, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality."

What did Martin Luther believe? "We shall sleep until He comes and knocks on the little grave and says, 'Doctor Martin, get up!' Then I shall rise in a moment and be happy with Him forever." *The Christian Hope*, p. 37.

Luther described the theory of the immortal soul as: "Monstrous fables that form part of the Roman dunghill of decretals." - *E. Petavel, The Problem of Immortality*, page 255.

His comments on Solomon in Ecclesiastes are "Another place proving that the dead have no ... feeling. There is, saith he, no duty, no science, no knowledge, no wisdom there. Solomon judgeth that the dead are asleep, and feel nothing at all. For the dead lie there, accounting neither days nor years, but when they are awaked, they shall seem to have slept scarce one minute." -

Martin Luther, *Exposition of Solomon's Booke Called Ecclesiastes*, page 152.

What Is Revealed For the Last Days?

1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Many will depart from the faith in God's Word over this issue. Do you know how serious this subject is? To continue to worship at churches that preach immediate life after death is to be worshipping at a church supporting spiritualism. To continue to place offerings in the collection plate is to financially support spiritualism.

What About the Souls Who Have Been Slain?

Revelation 6:9-11 states, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled." As Revelation 1:1 points out, the Book of Revelation was "signified" by the angel to John. The preceding

eight verses signify four great events that come upon the earth through horsemen riding different colored horses. So, the context puts it in symbolism.

Further, if one takes this to be literal that means for thousands of years, those that died for the Word of God have been crammed into a place under the altar of the Lord.

Besides, the true meaning is revealed in God's response to their cry -- "rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled." That is what was conveyed in the main body. We rest in Christ, or as the Bible states sixty-six times, we sleep in Jesus.

Why Is This Important?

To believe in some entity that goes to heaven or hell is spiritualism. What is scarier is that many Christians are listening to people that have come back from the grave and are teaching things contrary to the Word of God. This was predicted to happen in the last days (1 Timothy 4:1). And the Word of God says in 2 Timothy 4:4, "And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Further, Protestants use to believe that when we die, we sleep, for during the French Revolution, notice one of the teachings given up while grasping atheism: "But did France make war on the Bible? She did! And on November 26, 1793 a decree passed the French Assembly preventing the Bible. And under that decree the

Bible was gathered and burned and every possible mark of contempt was heaped upon them. And all the institutions of the Bible were abolished.

Baptism and Communion were abolished, the being of God was denied, and death pronounced as being an eternal sleep. The goddess of reason was set up in the person of a vile woman and publicly worshipped." *Journal of Paris*, 1793, No. 318. [Quoted in Buchez-Roux, Collection of Parliamentary History, volume 30, pages 200, 201.]

We have a choice. Do we believe God or Satan? Satan said, "Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). God said, "thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Surely is to be completely, wholly, and without exception. To believe a spirit of some sort is released upon death is to believe we do not surely die.

May we not listen to the fables of Rome nor give up to the seducing spirits about but allow the truth to set us free.

Do You Know the Man Who Paid the Price?

Today, if you were to be stung by death, would you be ready to meet your Lord? It could happen in a car accident, natural disaster, or whatever. The time is today to stand firm on the Word and believe in Jesus who will be coming back soon. Are you ready to meet Him?

When Jesus returns may you look up with extreme gladness or be called from the grave because you have heard His voice and followed Him.