

# Where to from Here?



An  
Around-the-Table  
Bible Study

Investigative Studies

in the Bible

with Dr Lionel Hartley



# **Where to from Here?**

An Around-the-Table Bible Study

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever been to a funeral? What do you remember about it?

Death is not a pleasant topic. Most people fear death, and when we hear that someone has died, the most common reaction is denial. "No, it can't be!" Most of us don't think we will die, but unless Jesus returns first, this will be a reality.

But this raises a very important question. What happens to people after they die?

Before we talk about death, we need to talk about how life began.

It was the sixth day of creation. God had just created the world, but something was missing. Having spoken everything into existence, God now turns his attention to the his masterpiece of creation, people.

How would you write the following verse in your own words?  
Genesis 2:7

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Be ready to share what you have written.

We can make this verse into a simple mathematical equation.

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} = \text{Living Being (or soul)}.$$

Notice that it is the whole breath (or spirit), plus the dust of the ground that makes a living soul. Some people think that we are spirits floating around who then jump into bodies. But "spirit" here is simply the breath of God.

Others think that the soul is separate from the body. The Bible doesn't see it that way. Our soul and body are combined. Just like if we have wood and some nails and decide to make a box. The box is a result of these two items coming together. Was the box floating around before? No it didn't even exist until it was made.

God has made us, he gave us life.

So why is there death?

## Part 2: You Won't Die

## Notes

What is the biggest lie you have ever heard?

What do you think would be the worst or the biggest lie ever!

If you were to rank all the lies ever told which one would come out on top?

Maybe the worst lie ever told would be the very first one. It was the first deceptive act that ever occurred on this planet. It deceived our first parents and is still deceiving a lot of people. What was this lie?

Genesis 3:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

There it is. The first and the worst lie ever told. "You will not surely die." The serpent deceived Adam and Eve, they took the fruit, and the devastating effects of sin entered the world. Sin causes death, separation & destruction. What happens in the very next chapter of Genesis?

Genesis 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_

We went from a perfect world, to sin entering the world in Genesis chapter 3, to a murder, in fact there are two murders (see verse 23) in the very next chapter.

What word occurs eight times in Genesis 5? (last word in verse 5, 8, 11, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sin causes death.

Things got so bad what did God do?

Genesis 6:17 \_\_\_\_\_

From a perfect world to a sinful world so full of wickedness that God destroyed it.

One can see very clearly that sin causes death. The devil is a liar. Sin separates us from the life-giver. Death was never a part of God's plan, and that is why after sin entered the world God did something about it.

What does Romans 6:23 say?

\_\_\_\_\_ Even though death is all around because of sin, Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life. That's why it's so important to follow him.



## Part 3: The Soul

## Notes

The sad thing is that many people still believe in the first lie every told. “When you die,” they say, “you don’t really die, your soul will come back as a cow or a fly or a dog. Or you might come back as another person and live life all over again.” Others say that when you die your soul goes directly to heaven or hell. What does the Bible say about this?

The word immortal can be seen to mean one who never dies. Who alone has immortality?

1 Timothy 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

What does the Bible say about the soul that sins?

Ezekiel 18:4, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Just as the Bible tells us how we began, the Bible also explains what happens to us after we die! It’s a bit like putting the movie in rewind. Write what the following verse means to you in your own words.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Be ready to share what you have written.

This is pretty straightforward! The dust returns to the ground, and the spirit, or breath, returns to God who gave it. So what happened to the soul?

Did the soul go to heaven? Did it go to hell? Where did it go? Remember the box? Putting the boards and nails together we got a box.

Now what happens if we reverse the order and take the nails out, so we now only have nails and wood again? Where did the box go? Did it go to box heaven? Did it go to box hell?

It simply ceased to exist. So we can look at our formula again. The equations at the death of humans is

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_.

This fact could make us feel uncomfortable, but fortunately the Bible has more to say on this important topic.



## Part 4: What Do The Dead Know?

Notes

So what do the dead know?

Ecclesiastes 9:5 \_\_\_\_\_

What emotions do the dead have?

Ecclesiastes 9:6 \_\_\_\_\_

What won't be in the grave

Ecclesiastes 9:10 \_\_\_\_\_

The dead know nothing, have no feelings and have no part in planning. Satan wants us to believe differently. So when someone says that he or she has talked to someone who has died, who do you think they would have been talking to?

\_\_\_\_\_

The Bible also gives us a better way that we can understand what death is like.

Once upon a time a mob was throwing stones at Stephen, an early church leader.

They were trying to stone him to death. Just before he died, Stephen cried out "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." What happened then?

Acts 7:60 \_\_\_\_\_

Why would Stephen fall asleep when people were trying to kill him?

What does the next verse tell us?

Acts 8:1 \_\_\_\_\_

It seems that the Bible equates death with sleeping.

When a person dies they don't go to heaven they don't go to hell, it's as if they go to sleep. The Bible mentions that death is like a sleep over and over again. And when we trust the Bible—when we look at it this way—we see there is great hope.



**Where to  
from Here?**



*A few Bible Verses about Sleep and Death*

Psalm 90:3-6 You turn man back into dust And say, "Return, O children of men."  
For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a  
watch in the night. You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; In the  
morning they are like grass which sprouts anew.

Job 7:21 "Why then do You not pardon my transgression And take away my  
iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust; And You will seek me, but I will  
not be."

Job 14:10-12 "But man dies and lies prostrate Man expires, and where is he?  
"As water evaporates from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dried up,  
So man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens are no longer, He will  
not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep.

Psalm 13:3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, or  
I will sleep the sleep of death,

Daniel 12:2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake,  
these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

Matthew 9:24 He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And  
they began laughing at Him.

Mark 5:39 And entering in, He said to them, "Why make a commotion and  
weep? The child has not died, but is asleep."

Luke 8:52-53 Now they were all weeping and lamenting for her; but He said,  
"Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at  
Him, knowing that she had died.

1 Kings 2:10 Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of  
David.

Deuteronomy 31:16 The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie  
down with your fathers; and this people will arise and play the harlot with the  
strange gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and will  
forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

2 Samuel 7:12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your  
fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from  
you, and I will establish his kingdom.

1 Kings 11:43 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of  
his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.



1 Kings 14:20 The time that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years; and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place.

1 Kings 16:6 And Baasha slept with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah, and Elah his son became king in his place.

1 Kings 22:50 And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of his father David, and Jehoram his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 14:16 So Jehoash slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel; and Jeroboam his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 15:7 And Azariah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Jotham his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 16:20 So Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and his son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

2 Kings 20:21 So Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and Manasseh his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 21:18 And Manasseh slept with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza, and Amon his son became king in his place.

Revelation 14:13 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 labours, for their deeds follow with them."

John 11:11-14 This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. read more.

Acts 7:60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Psalms 17:15 As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.





Isaiah 26:19 Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

Jeremiah 51:57 “I will make her princes and her wise men drunk, Her governors, her prefects and her mighty men, That they may sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake up,” Declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts. (See also Jeremiah 51:39)

Psalms 76:5 The stout-hearted were plundered, They sank into sleep; And none of the warriors could use his hands.

### Part 5: A Lesson from Lazarus

What did Jesus say about his friend Lazarus?

John 11:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did his disciples think?

John 11:12 \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus actually mean?

John 11:13-14. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus did go, he saw how death affected everyone, he wept at Lazarus tomb. And asked them to take away the stone. What happened next.

John 11:41-44 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Just as Jesus said that his friend Lazarus had fallen asleep in death and he was going to wake him up, one day he will say the same thing for all those who have died believing in him. "My friends have fallen asleep and I am going there to wake them up."

What does the Bible say about this?

1 Thessalonians 4:13

The Bible is very clear in that it wants us to know exactly what happens when people die. Death is heartbreaking, and we need to grieve and cry when someone close to us dies. But for those who die who have said 'Yes' to Jesus, we can cry with HOPE. Because of Jesus we know that one day he will come and wake this dead person up. Because of Jesus we will get to see our loved ones again.

### Part 6: The Blessed Hope

The Bible then explains how this will happens. Who is coming back? And when do the dead rise?

1 Thessalonians 4:16

What about we who are alive and remain? What happens to them.

Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you see what is happening? There will be a great big reunion in the sky.

We will see our loved ones again. We will be together with Jesus!!

What are we to do with these words?

Verse 18 \_\_\_\_\_

We are to encourage each other, because of this hope we have in Jesus. What does the Bible say will happen to our bodies, and who will gives us the victory?

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 \_\_\_\_\_

Through sin, death entered this world.

But Jesus has a solution. He has paid the price for that sin. And even though people still die, for those who are in Jesus, it is as if they are sleeping, and one day Jesus is going to come back to wake them up. On that day we will see our loved ones again.





***Answer pages follow***

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## Part 1: God Gives Life

Notes

Have you ever been to a funeral? What do you remember about it?

Death is not a pleasant topic. Most people fear death, and when we hear that someone has died, the most common reaction is denial. “No, it can’t be!” Most of us don’t think we will die, but unless Jesus returns first, this will be a reality.

But this raises a very important question. What happens to people after they die?

Before we talk about death, we need to talk about how life began.

It was the sixth day of creation. God had just created the world, but something was missing. Having spoken everything into existence, God now turns his attention to the his masterpiece of creation, people.

How would you write the following verse in your own words?  
Genesis 2:7

### *Your own wording*

Be ready to share what you have written.

We can make this verse into a simple mathematical equation.

$$\frac{\text{Man} / \text{Dust}}{\text{Breath} / \text{Spirit}} + \frac{\text{Breath} / \text{Spirit}}{\text{Breath} / \text{Spirit}} = \text{Living Being (or soul)}.$$

Notice that it is the whole breath (or spirit), plus the dust of the ground that makes a living soul. Some people think that we are spirits floating around who then jump into bodies. But “spirit” here is simply the breath of God.

Others think that the soul is separate from the body. The Bible doesn’t see it that way. Our soul and body are combined. Just like if we have wood and some nails and decide to make a box. The box is a result of these two items coming together. Was the box floating around before? No it didn’t even exist until it was made.

God has made us, he gave us life.

So why is there death?

*Answers from  
King James  
(Authorised)  
version*

What is the biggest lie you have ever heard?

What do you think would be the worst or the biggest lie ever!

If you were to rank all the lies ever told which one would come out on top?

Maybe the worst lie ever told would be the very first one. It was the first deceptive act that ever occurred on this planet. It deceived our first parents and is still deceiving a lot of people. What was this lie?

Genesis 3:1-4 **You won't die**

There it is. The first and the worst lie ever told. "You will not surely die." The serpent deceived Adam and Eve, they took the fruit, and the devastating effects of sin entered the world. Sin causes death, separation & destruction. What happens in the very next chapter of Genesis?

Genesis 4:8 **Murder - Cain kills Abel**

We went from a perfect world, to sin entering the world in Genesis chapter 3, to a murder, in fact there are two murders (see verse 23) in the very next chapter.

What word occurs eight times in Genesis 5? (last word in verse 5, 8, 11, etc.)

**"died"** Sin causes death.

Things got so bad what did God do?

Genesis 6:17 **Flood to destroy all flesh**

From a perfect world to a sinful world so full of wickedness that God destroyed it.

One can see very clearly that sin causes death. The devil is a liar. Sin separates us from the life-giver. Death was never a part of God's plan, and that is why after sin entered the world God did something about it.

What does Romans 6:23 say?

**Wages of sin = death**  
**Gift of God = eternal life**

Even though death is all around because of sin, Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life. That's why it's so important to follow him.



## Part 3: The Soul

Notes

The sad thing is that many people still believe in the first lie every told. "When you die," they say, "you don't really die, your soul will come back as a cow or a fly or a dog. Or you might come back as another person and live life all over again." Others say that when you die your soul goes directly to heaven or hell. What does the Bible say about this?

The word immortal can be seen to mean one who never dies. Who alone has immortality?

1 Timothy 1:17 *God alone is immortal*

What does the Bible say about the soul that sins?

Ezekiel 18:4, 20 *It shall die*

Just as the Bible tells us how we began, the Bible also explains what happens to us after we die! It's a bit like putting the movie in rewind. Write what the following verse means to you in your own words.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 *Your own wording*

Be ready to share what you have written.

This is pretty straightforward! The dust returns to the ground, and the spirit, or breath, returns to God who gave it. So what happened to the soul?

Did the soul go to heaven? Did it go to hell? Where did it go? Remember the box? Putting the boards and nails together we got a box.

Now what happens if we reverse the order and take the nails out, so we now only have nails and wood again? Where did the box go? Did it go to box heaven? Did it go to box hell?

It simply ceased to exist. So we can look at our formula again. The equations at the death of humans is

*Living being - breath = dust*

This fact could make us feel uncomfortable, but fortunately the Bible has more to say on this important topic.

*Dust returns to  
the earth / the  
spirit returns  
to God*

## Part 4: What Do The Dead Know?

Notes

So what do the dead know?

Ecclesiastes 9:5

**Nothing**

What emotions do the dead have?

Ecclesiastes 9:6

**None**

What won't be in the grave

Ecclesiastes 9:10

**work, knowledge, wisdom**

The dead know nothing, have no feelings and have no part in planning. Satan wants us to believe differently. So when someone says that he or she has talked to someone who has died, who do you think they would have been talking to?

**Satan**

The Bible also gives us a better way that we can understand what death is like.

Once upon a time a mob was throwing stones at Stephen, an early church leader.

They were trying to stone him to death. Just before he died, Stephen cried out "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." What happened then?

Acts 7:60

**He fell asleep**

Why would Stephen fall asleep when people were trying to kill him?

What does the next verse tell us?

Acts 8:1

**He was dead**

It seems that the Bible equates death with sleeping.

When a person dies they don't go to heaven they don't go to hell, it's as if they go to sleep. The Bible mentions that death is like a sleep over and over again. And when we trust the Bible—when we look at it this way—we see there is great hope.

**Devise:**

**(Devising,**

**planning,**

**thoughts)**

*A few Bible Verses about Sleep and Death*

Psalm 90:3-6 You turn man back into dust And say, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night. You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew.

Job 7:21 "Why then do You not pardon my transgression And take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust; And You will seek me, but I will not be."

Job 14:10-12 "But man dies and lies prostrate Man expires, and where is he? "As water evaporates from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dried up, So man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens are no longer, He will not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep.

Psalm 13:3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

Daniel 12:2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

Matthew 9:24 He said, "Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him.

Mark 5:39 And entering in, He said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep."

Luke 8:52-53 Now they were all weeping and lamenting for her; but He said, "Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him, knowing that she had died.

1 Kings 2:10 Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.

Deuteronomy 31:16 The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers; and this people will arise and play the harlot with the strange gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

2 Samuel 7:12 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

1 Kings 11:43 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

1 Kings 14:20 The time that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years; and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place.

1 Kings 16:6 And Baasha slept with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah, and Elah his son became king in his place.

1 Kings 22:50 And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of his father David, and Jehoram his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 14:16 So Jehoash slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel; and Jeroboam his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 15:7 And Azariah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Jotham his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 16:20 So Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and his son Hezekiah reigned in his place.

2 Kings 20:21 So Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and Manasseh his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 21:18 And Manasseh slept with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza, and Amon his son became king in his place.

Revelation 14:13 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 labours, for their deeds follow with them."

John 11:11-14 This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. read more.

Acts 7:60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Psalms 17:15 As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

Jeremiah 51:57 “I will make her princes and her wise men drunk, Her governors, her prefects and her mighty men, That they may sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake up,” Declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts. (See also Jeremiah 51:39)

Psalms 76:5 The stout-hearted were plundered, They sank into sleep; And none of the warriors could use his hands.

### Part 5: A Lesson from Lazarus

What did Jesus say about his friend Lazarus?

John 11:11 Was asleep  
Jesus would wake him

What did his disciples think?

John 11:12 Natural sleep

What did Jesus actually mean?

John 11:13-14. death

Jesus did go, he saw how death affected everyone, he wept at Lazarus tomb. And asked them to take away the stone. What happened next.

John 11:41-44 Jesus prayed  
Jesus called Lazarus  
Lazarus came alive

Just as Jesus said that his friend Lazarus had fallen asleep in death and he was going to wake him up, one day he will say the same thing for all those who have died believing in him. "My friends have fallen asleep and I am going there to wake them up."

What does the Bible say about this?

1 Thessalonians 4:13

## *Not to be ignorant about death*

The Bible is very clear in that it wants us to know exactly what happens when people die. Death is heartbreaking, and we need to grieve and cry when someone close to us dies. But for those who die who have said 'Yes' to Jesus, we can cry with HOPE. Because of Jesus we know that one day he will come and wake this dead person up. Because of Jesus we will get to see our loved ones again.

### *Part 6: The Blessed Hope*

The Bible then explains how this will happen. Who is coming back? And when do the dead rise?

1 Thessalonians 4:16

## *Jesus - Dead rise first*

What about we who are alive and remain? What happens to them.

Verse 17 *Caught up/meet Lord/ Eternity*

Do you see what is happening? There will be a great big reunion in the sky.

We will see our loved ones again. We will be together with Jesus!!

What are we to do with these words?

Verse 18 *Comfort one another*

We are to encourage each other, because of this hope we have in Jesus. What does the Bible say will happen to our bodies, and who will give us the victory?

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 *Changed God*

Through sin, death entered this world.

But Jesus has a solution. He has paid the price for that sin. And even though people still die, for those who are in Jesus, it is as if they are sleeping, and one day Jesus is going to come back to wake them up. On that day we will see our loved ones again.

*The dead will have a "front-row seat" at Jesus' 2nd. Coming!*







# The Secret Rapture

ONE SHALL BE TAKEN, AND THE OTHER LEFT

One of the most quoted passages used in support of the secret rapture teaching is Luke 17:34-37 and its parallel passage in Matthew 24:37-41.

Consider this quote from Matthew 24:37-41:

"But as in the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark. And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left."

According to the rapturists, this passage indicates that when Jesus comes, one person will be snatched away in the rapture, while the other person will be left to continue life on this earth in the tribulation period. The amazing thing is that neither Matthew 24 nor Luke 17 indicate that those who are left are engaged in any activity after the coming of Christ.

As with so many other texts which are misused, we must examine carefully the context of each passage. Once the context is clear, there will be absolutely harmony with the rest of the Biblical teaching on the second coming of Christ.

Matthew 24:37-39 draws a parallel between the end time and Noah's day. In fact, that is the context and the obvious impact of all that Jesus is saying here. The end time is going to be just like Noah's day. In Noah's day, eight people entered the ark; the rest did not. So it shall be in the end time. Some will be taken when Jesus comes, and the others left.

In both Noah's day and in the last days there are people left. In Noah's day, those left were destroyed by the flood (Matthew 24:39). In the last days, those who are left shall be cut asunder (Matthew 24:51). Luke 17:37 indicates that their bodies are left to the eagles to devour. In other words, in both cases, at the time of the flood and at the second coming, those who are left are left for destruction.

There is no indication whatsoever in these verses that those who are left have a second chance after the so-called rapture.

The Bible is exceedingly clear that those who are left are destroyed by the coming of Christ. Revelation 19:15-18 describes the same scene when Christ comes and calls for the fowls to devour the mighty men of earth who have not accepted Him. Here again is a picture not of a second chance, but of a total destruction at the second coming of Jesus Christ.





BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT HELL EXPLAINED

Revelation 20:10    **TORMENTED FOR EVER AND EVER**

FOREVER in the Bible is a period of time, limited or unlimited, depending upon what is being described. The word FOREVER in the Bible is like the word TALL. Tall has different meanings depending on what is being described, such as a dog, or house, or a mountain. The word FOREVER is used 56 times in the Old Testament in connection with things already ended. In the case of man, the Bible teaches that FOREVER means MAN'S LIFETIME or AS LONG AS A MAN LIVES. In the case of Samuel, FOREVER meant "AS LONG AS HE LIVETH"(1 Samuel 1:22,28). In Psalm 48:14 FOREVER means until death. Burning FOREVER in the fire means that man burns until he dies.

Luke 3:17            **FIRE UNQUENCHABLE**

Jerusalem was destroyed with unquenchable fire (Jeremiah 17:27), but it is not still burning today. 2 Chronicles 36:19,21 says Jerusalem was burnt to fulfil Jeremiah's prophecy. Unquenchable fire cannot be PUT out, but it GOES out when everything is burnt up.

Matthew 25:41      **EVERLASTING or ETERNAL FIRE**

Jude 7 says God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with everlasting or eternal fire. And Peter says in 2 Peter 2:6 that the fire turned those cities into ashes as an example to those who live ungodly. So eternal and everlasting fire turns things to ashes and then goes out. It is everlasting in its EFFECT and not its DURATION.

Matthew 25:46      **EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT**

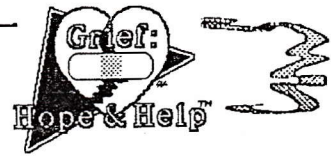
Note that it is not everlasting PUNISHING but rather PUNISHMENT. Paul says that the punishment for sin is DEATH (Romans 6:23). And Revelation calls this death the SECOND DEATH which the wicked die in the fire (Revelation 21:8). That death or destruction will be eternal because there is no resurrection from it.





# Grief: Hope & Help™ Seminar

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## THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN & LAZARUS Luke 16:19-31

A parable is a story to illustrate a point. It may be a true story or simply a fabricated illustration. Parables cannot always be taken literally (Judges 9:8-15)

Read Luke 16:19-31.

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:  
20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,  
21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.  
22 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;  
23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.  
24 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.  
25 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.

26 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.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

This parable cannot be taken literally because:

1. Abraham's bosom is **not** the home of the saved [heaven] (Hebrews 11:10,16). Abraham's bosom is a **figurative** representation of heaven. The representation of hell is also **figurative**. Both must be either figurative OR literal!
2. Those in heaven will **not** be able to talk with those in hell. Isaiah 65:17 says the former things will not even be remembered, and Revelation 21:4 says the former things are passed away, which includes hell.
3. The Bible indicates that the dead (good and bad), are in their graves (Job 17:13;21:30-32), and that they will hear Jesus' voice **from their graves** (John 5:28,29), and not from heaven or hell.
4. The Bible teaches that men will receive their reward at the second coming, and not at death (Revelation 22:11,12; Matthew 16:27).
5. It would make Jesus contradict himself (Matthew 13:38-42;16:27).

Note that even if taken literally, this parable would refute the idea of disembodied souls going to hell, for it describes the rich man with eyes, tongue, and lips. If taken literally, this parable would prove that men are cast into hell, soul **and** body at death.

Bodies of the dead have been exhumed after having been dead for months and the eyes are still in the body, hence the absurdity of taking the parable literally is further seen. The "eyes" are in the grave, not in hell-fire.

In this parable, Christ was simply using a common belief of the day to illustrate the truth of Luke 16:31: namely, if a man refuses to be guided by the Scripture, there is no hope for him.

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