

The State of the Dead

Death is a subject that many find uninteresting, as they do not care to discuss the matter. Many accept beliefs about death that they have heard all their lives. There is much false information that is not scriptural.

God does not want us ignorant about death. He has given us much information about it in the scriptures. It should not be something that we are reluctant to discuss because God wants us to know about it and what happens to us after death.

Many people do not realize that God rejoices over the death of His people. Shocking!! Read Psa. 116:15 and you will see it says, "*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints*". Then again in Rev. 14:13, it says, "*...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...*" So if we are the Lord's, death is not a tragic thing.

I hope the following scriptures will be helpful in your study of this subject.

1. **If a man dies, will he live again?** Job 14:14-15

Many people ask whether there is life after death. What happens after death? The Bible explains very clearly; we need not be ignorant about the subject.

We find that Job makes two statements in these verses. He says he will wait, and he says God will call and he will answer Him.

Now this is very interesting. Where is Job going to wait and where will he be when he answers God's call? If Job is in heaven (as so many believe), then he isn't waiting.

Also, God would not need to call him, for he would be with God. So let us find out where Job was going to wait, where he would have to answer God when He called.

2. **Where was Job going to wait?** Job 17:13

Here Job tells us very plainly where he was going to wait. He was going to wait in the grave. The grave was going to be his house, his dwelling place, until the Lord called, when he would answer by coming forth. Different than what the world teaches, isn't it? But yet this is what the Bible teaches. How can the world be so confused when the Bible is so plain.

3. **Man will remain in the tomb.** Job 21:30-32

Verse 32 plainly tell us that man will remain in the tomb. Man does not go to a hell of fire or to heaven at death. He remains in the tomb until the Resurrection and judgment..

4. **Concerning Lazarus.** John 11:42-43

As you read the entire chapter, you will notice that Lazarus died and was dead four days. Compared with common teaching today, Lazarus would have already been in heaven. But notice the wording Jesus used. He did not say, "Lazarus come down from heaven." He said, "*Lazarus, come forth*". He wasn't in heaven, as so many teach today.

5. **How does the Bible speak of death?** 1 Thessalonians 4:13

The Bible speaks of death as a sleep, as in this verse. Now why does the Bible compare death to sleep? There is no accounting of time in sleep. When you go to sleep at night and when you wake up in the morning, it seems just a moment has past. So it is in death. Even though Adam has been dead for approximately 6,000 years, yet it will seem just a moment when God calls him forth from the grave.

Also, in sleep you know nothing of what is going on around you. So it is with the dead, they know nothing of what is going on around them, as we shall see a little later. So now we can see or understand why the Bible likens death to sleep.

6. **Did the people of the Old Testament know this?** Psalms 17:15

Notice that David says, "...when I awake..." He understood what death was like.

7. **Those who sleep in the dust.** Daniel 12:1-2

Verse 2 is the verse we want to notice, and it says those who sleep in the dust of the earth. This does not say they are in "hell" or "heaven"; they are sleeping in the dust of the earth.

8. **Job's wonderful hope.** Job 19:25-26

Even though Job knew that he would go back to the dust of the ground, someday he would come forth and see his God. He knew he would not get to see him until the Resurrection day.

9. **How many in the grave will come forth?** John 5:28-29

This tells us that all those who are in their graves will come forth. Everyone will be given a reward. Those who have lived for the Lord a righteous life will be given eternal life. Those who refused the truth and did not obey the Lord will be rewarded with the second death. So everyone in the graves will come forth.

10. **We return to the dust from which we came.** Psalms 104:29, Genesis 3:19

We came from the dust and we will return to the dust, if we pass away before the Lord comes.
Notice the first reference states all that God takes away from us is the breath. That is all he put into the body when He created it (Gen. 2:7).

11. **In the grave is no remembrance.** Psalms 6:5 Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

In the grave, we remember nothing. One can neither talk, nor remember, nor participate.

12. **Our thoughts perish.** Psalms 146:4-5

13. **The dead praise not.** Psalms 115:17

DOES THE SOUL GO TO HEAVEN?

14. **Soul that sinneth, it shall die.** Ezekiel 18:4

Our next lesson will reveal what a soul is. But this tells us a soul can die.

15. **Neither does it go to heaven.** Acts 2:29, 34

God spoke of David as a man after his own heart. He spoke favorably of David, yet the scripture tell us that David is not in heaven. So if David is not in heaven, then surely no one else is either. All are still in the graves (righteous and sinners) awaiting the Resurrection and the judgment.

SUMMARY

Contrary to the modern teaching that a person goes to heaven or hell at death, the scriptures tell us that we merely rest in the grave until the Resurrection. There is not one verse in the whole Bible that says we go to heaven at death. Which shall we follow: "the teachings of man" or "the teachings of the Bible"?