



WHERE DO WE GO WHEN WE DIE ?

Study 10 Resurrection of Dead

Where do we go to when we die? That's a question that enters everyone's mind whether they like to admit it or not. Not surprisingly, people have come up with all sorts of theories. Here are some of them, including what some Christians have thought, but they are not what the Bible says.

1/ Everybody goes to Heaven. Most cultures and religions believe in a heaven by some name or another; so does the Bible. (John 14:1-3) But does that mean everybody goes to heaven? (See 1 Corinth. 6:9-10)

Everyone goes

Not everyone goes

2/ Death is simply the end. This is of course what an atheist would say. Others believe that the righteous go to heaven but evil people are terminated at death - not sent to hell. This theory ignores the fact that every person's 'spirit' is immortal. (See River study 8)

3/ We come back to earth in a different form, as an animal or bird, or some other living thing. This is an eastern concept (reincarnation) and is unheard of in scripture. If carried to its logical conclusion it means we could not eat meat, or even kill a cockroach.

4/ We continue life on earth in spirit form. To prove this mediums and spiritualists claim to communicate with the spirits of the dead. Apart from the fact that this practise is forbidden (Deuteronomy 18:10-12) such communications are really demons, since the dead are under the control of God, and are not free to contact the earthly realm. (Revelation 1:18)

THREE THINGS ARE FOR SURE

There will always be plenty of theories about the future life, but what does the Bible say? The Bible teaches that there is a difference between what happens to certain people at death, but firstly there are several things which are true of everyone. There are three great appointments awaiting us, saved and unsaved alike.

Death

Read Genesis 3:19 then complete Ecclesiastes 12:7 below:

"And the dust _____ it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."

Death is basically a separation of the spirit from the body and this happens to all of us. Our body goes to the ground, and the spirit falls into the hands of God, to be consigned to wherever he may send it. (See Acts 7: 59, Luke 23: 46)

Resurrection

Look up Daniel 12:1-2, John 5:28-29, Acts 24:15. A day is coming when the bodies of all who have died, great and small, righteous and wicked, will be raised to life again. This means that the body will be recreated from its original elements and reunited with the spirit, wherever or wherever not our spirit may be. (Refer James 2:26, Job 19:25-26)

Apart from the scriptures mentioned, what other proof do we have that there will be a rising of the dead? _____

Judgement

The Bible has dozens of statements about a future judgement. It is a serious prospect for all of us, no matter how 'good' we think we might have been. This matter will be discussed more fully in the next study, but in the meanwhile, please finish Hebrews 9:27 here:

"People are destined _____"

WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO AREN'T SAVED?

The fate of the unsaved leaves our hearts disturbed. We are saved; but for those who are not, the question is, "not saved from what?" Follow these verses through the diagram to find out what happens.

(Psalm 146:4, Luke 16:22-23, Revelation 20:11-14. Note: In Luke 16 the word 'hell' is more accurately translated 'hades' which is a place of custody, similar to, but not actually hell itself.)

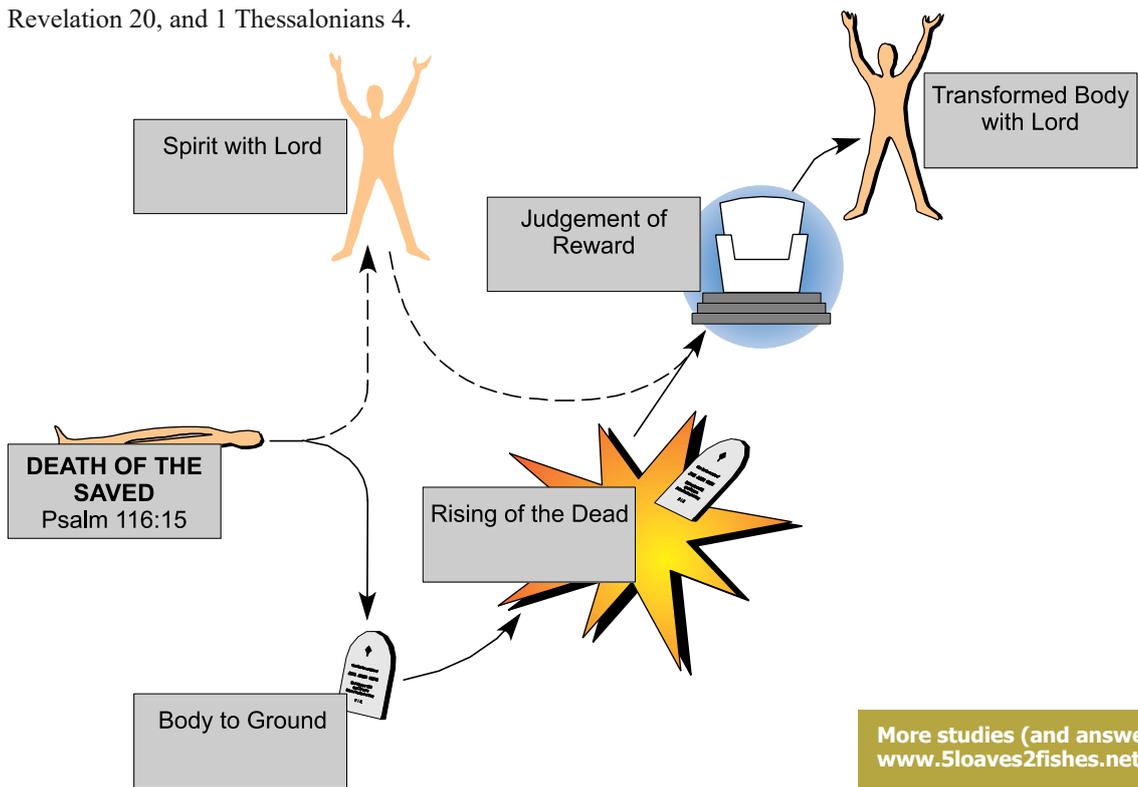
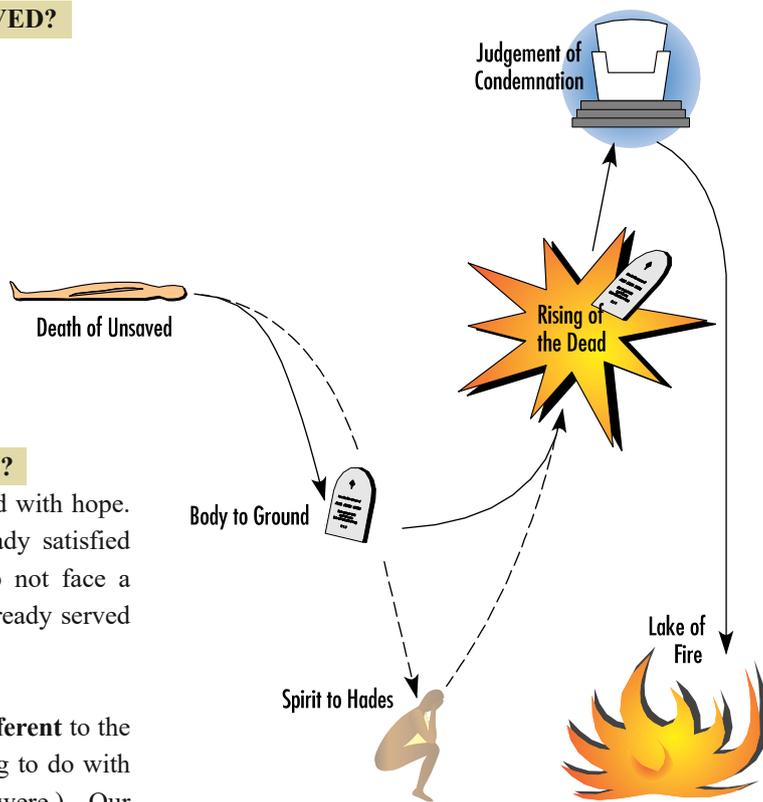
WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO ARE SAVED?

The death of the Christian, on the other hand, is filled with hope. In Rock study two we saw how the cross has already satisfied God's justice concerning our sin. Therefore we do not face a judgement of condemnation again since Christ has already served our sentence for us.

It is important to understand that our judgement is **different** to the judgement of those who are not saved. It has nothing to do with 'guilty' or 'not guilty.' (although we admit that we were.) Our judgement is a judgement of **reward** for the quality of service which we have given to him. (See 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

So the death and judgement of the Christian, though sobering, is really a positive and blessed hope! We will rise to receive our reward, then live forever, together with the Lord. Study these verses then complete the diagram boxes below. (Psalm 116:15, Ecclesiastes 12:7, Matthew 16:27, John 5:28-29, 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, Philippians 3:20-21)

For more details concerning the general subject of the RESURRECTION, read the whole chapters of 1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 20, and 1 Thessalonians 4.



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