



What Happens at Death?

- I. There is much confusion today about what happens to a person when he dies.
 - A. It is taught that you could go to heaven, hell, the grave, purgatory or float around in a spirit world.
 - B. Our question should be what does the Bible say?
- II. What happens to a man when he dies according to the Bible?
 - A. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it”. Ecclesiastes 12:7
 1. The dust is what our bodies are composed of and it returns to the earth.
 2. What is the spirit?
 - i. It is necessary to have the spirit (breath) to live. James 2:26
 - ii. The Bible says that the spirit is the breath of life. Job. 27:3
 - iii. The Greek word for spirit is “pneuma”, which means air or breath. We get English words from this, like pneumonia and pneumatic tires.
 3. Man is made up of body and spirit. Genesis 2:7
 - i. Man does not **have** a soul, man **is** a soul.
 - ii. It takes the body and spirit to make a soul.
 - iii. At death the body goes back to dust, the spirit (breath) goes back to God who gave it. Ezekiel 18:4, 20
 - B. The Bible teaches that the dead know not anything. Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10
 1. The spirit (breath) goes back to God; there is no remembrance of God. Psalm 6:5
 2. At death, man’s thoughts perish. Psalm 146:4

C. The Bible gives several examples of men who died or faced death.

1. Lazarus died and Jesus resurrected him.

i. Christ said death is like a sleep. John 11:1,3, 11-14

ii. Martha said she knew her brother would rise at the resurrection in the last day. John 11:20-25, 39,43,44

iii. Jesus called Lazarus to come forth. Jesus did not say come down. Jesus did not say come up. Jesus said come forth.

2. According to the Scriptures, David is not in heaven yet. Acts 2:29,34

3. What about the thief on the cross and the promise Jesus made to him? “And he said unto Jesus, Lord; remember me when thou come into the Kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee (,)today(,) thou shalt be with me in paradise”. Luke 23:42,43

i. The question is where to place the comma in the above phrase. Should it come before or after the word today?

ii. The original Biblical Greek did not have punctuation. The later Bible translators added it as they saw fit to help the readability of the Bible.

iii. The thief did not go to heaven that day. He did not even die that day. John 19:33

iv. Christ did not go to heaven that day either. After His resurrection, when He saw Mary, He said to her, “Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father”. John 20:17

III. The doctrine that a person goes to heaven or hell immediately when he dies is contrary to Scripture and would do away with the need of the following beliefs that the Bible teaches:

A. Resurrection. John 11:25; John 5:29; Revelation 20:5,6

B. Judgment. Revelation 14:7

C. Second Coming. Acts 1:11

IV. Only God has immortality. I Timothy 6:15,16

A. The devil’s first deception to Eve was: “Ye shall not surely die”. Genesis 3:4

B. The devil has continued this falsehood that man does not die ever since the first lie to Eve. Today the doctrine of spiritualism is believed by millions through the world.