

LIFE AFTER DEATH

Bible Passage: Luke 16:19-31

Memory Verse: And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment - Hebrew 9:27

Introduction

Man is made up of body, soul and spirit. After death, the body perishes in the grave because it has always been just a container. The spirit (the real man/woman) never dies. Immediately after death, the spirit of a man separate from his body. The next steps are very important.

Description of life after death

After death believer's spirit goes to Paradise and unbeliever spirit goes to Hell. Paradise (Luke 23:43, Rev. 2:7) is a place of enjoyment for all that have receive everlasting life by accepting Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Hell is the place of punishment for those that died without Christ (Matthew 5: 22, 29, 10:28, 16:18). The three words used to describe hell (Acts 2:27) are *Sheol* (Hebrew), *Hades* (Greek) and *Gehenna* (Greek). It is a place of torment for those that died in sins and unrighteousness before the final judgment day (2Peter 2:4). Some believe that paradise is a part of heaven.

What about Rapture?

The Rapture (1Cor.15: 51-58, 1Thess. 4:13-18) is the sudden catching up or disappearance of faithful saint from the earth (without dying, like Elijah) to meet with Jesus Christ, our Savior in the sky. When Jesus appears in the sky at rapture, the Christian that have died (and are in Paradise) will rise first to meet Him in the sky and followed by all Christian that are still alive (John 5:25). Believers that died before Jesus comes will only experience one death and there are some believers who will never experience death at all but will be raptured.

What's next?

Heaven is God's dwelling place (Matthew 6:9, 1Kings 8:30, 39, 43, Eccl. 5:2) and prepared for all His saints (John 14: 1-3). Jesus came down from heaven (John 3:13) and returned there after ascension (Mark 16:19). It is also referred to as the kingdom of God (John 3:3). Heaven is the final destination of all faithful believers, who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The Second death happens after the final judgment, also called the White Throne judgment. The White Throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) is to judge all unbelievers and send them to their final destination – the Lake of fire. This is the second death. All that have their name written in the book of life will escape God's wrath at this judgment. On the contrary, all believers will be judge and rewarded at the Bema judgment Seat of Christ. This is the judgment of all believers where each person's work will be revealed, tested and rewarded (1Cor.3:13, Matthew 19:29). Lastly, all saints will assemble at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9)

Conclusion

1John 3:1-3 – No matter how we try to imagine the last days occurrences, it will never be totally clear until when it began to unfold. What is so certain is that it will all happen as prophesied (Matthew 5:18). Are you ready?

Scriptural Reading Assignment

Matthew 25:1-13, Rev. 21:8-27, 1Cor. 9:16-27