



The Bible Speaks

ARE THE DEAD ALIVE?

A small lad, making his way through a graveyard, stopped to read an inscription on the head stone marking a grave. He was intrigued by the following epitaph: "Stop, my friend, as you go by. As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, you soon shall be. So prepare yourself to follow me." The boy stood there for some time thinking. Then, taking a piece of crayon from his pocket, he wrote this message: "To follow you I'm not content, until I know where you went." The message he wrote may be somewhat prosaic, but the thought expressed is a profound one.

Every person should be interested in what will happen to him at death. He should know just where he goes when the last breath leaves his body, for every living person faces the mystery of death, sooner or later.

The Bible pictures death as an enemy of mankind. God tells us that the last of our enemies that will be put down is death. The Bible teaches that death came into the world because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. In Romans 5:12 Paul writes, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." God had made provision that man should eat of the Tree of Life and live forever. When man disobeyed God, he was deprived of this privilege. Genesis 3:22, 23.

Since the first death Satan has worked long and hard to confuse the mind of man in understanding the plan of salvation and its relationship to death. The Bible teaches in a simple way what God wants us to know about death and its remedy. When we understand God's plan in death and in the resurrection, the sting of death will be removed.

Let us lay aside all preconceived theories and let God guide us now as we learn of His teaching about death from His book.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

1. Where do all the dead go at the time of death? **Job 30:23; Job 17:13**

The Bible Answer: _____

2. What two elements were used by God to make man a living soul?
Genesis 2:7

The Bible Answer: "And the Lord God formed man of _____
_____ and breathed into his nostrils the _____
_____ and man became a living soul."

3. What happens to the body of man at death? **Genesis 3:19; Eccl. 12:7**

The Bible Answer: _____

4. What happens to the "breath of life," or the "spirit," at death? **Ecclesiastes 12:7**

The Bible Answer: _____

Note: This spark of life is called the Spirit or breath of life. These terms are used interchangeably and only denote the element of life, not consciousness or intelligence. See the following texts: **Job 27:3; Genesis 2:7**

5. What happens to man's ability to think at death? **Psalms 146:3,4**

The Bible Answer: _____

6. How much does man know during the time of his death?
Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6

The Bible Answer: _____

7. How much of man's knowledge remains when he is in the grave?
Ecclesiastes 9:10

The Bible Answer: _____

8. What does the Bible say about the possibility of the dead praising the Lord?
Psalm 115:17; Psalm 6:5

The Bible Answer: _____

9. What did Jesus call death? **John 11:11-14**

The Bible Answer: _____

10. If there were no resurrection, what would happen to all of the dead?
1 Corinthians 15:16-18

The Bible Answer: _____

11. If we believe in the resurrection of Christ, when can we look forward to the resurrection of our dead? **1 Corinthians 15:22-23**

The Bible Answer: _____

12. How many are to be resurrected by God? **John 5:28, 29**

The Bible Answer: _____

13. What does Paul say will happen to the righteous dead at Christ's second coming? **1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17**

The Bible Answer: _____

14. How will all of the righteous be changed at the coming of Christ?
1 Corinthians 15:51-54

The Bible Answer: _____

15. How will the bodies of the Redeemed be changed?
Philippians 3:20, 21

The Bible Answer: _____

16. What must we have in order that we might obtain immortality? **1 John 5:12**

The Bible Answer: _____

Only through Christ do we have the hope of a future life. If God had not been willing to give His Son to die in our stead, death would have been the end of man's existence. Since Christ came, lived a perfect life of obedience, died in our place, and was resurrected, we now have the hope of a future life - a glorious life in which sin, sickness, sorrow, and death will be forever banished.

God's plan for those who die before the coming of the Lord is well illustrated in the experience of Lazarus. Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus was asleep and then proceeded to show that He was speaking of the death of his friend as a sleep. When Christ told Martha that Lazarus would live again, Martha said, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." John 11:24. She had listened to Christ's teachings. She looked forward to the final resurrection. Christ then demonstrated what would happen when He returns the second time.

Standing at the open door of the tomb, he called, "Lazarus, come forth." The Bible says that Lazarus obeyed the voice of the Life-giver and came forth, still bound in his grave clothes.

Christ proved that He had gained the victory over death by His own resurrection. This was the sign that His sacrifice had been accepted and that He had gained the victory over death and the Devil, for Paul tells us, "Forasmuch then as children as partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death, he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil," Hebrews 2:14.

Thank God that the victory has been gained and it can be ours by merely accepting the Victor as our Saviour. His death paid the price for our sins. Won't you accept Him today and be assured of eternal life when the trumpet of God sounds at the coming of our Lord?

(If you wish to respond to the following question, place a cross in the boxes.)

I understand God's teaching about death and want to be among those who will receive immortality at the second coming of Christ.

I desire further material on this subject.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____