

Defending the Faith

Lesson 5

What Happens When You Die?

1. The Bible speaks of some people in the Old Testament dying and “gathered” to their people.

- Where were they gathered? THAYERS HEBREW LEXICON gives this definition of “gathered:”

To be gathered to one’s people, to one’s father; used of entering Hades, where the Hebrews regarded their ancestors as being gathered together. This “gathering to one’s fathers or one’s people,” is distinguished both from death and burial.

THAYERS goes on to explain that this rendering is not to be confused with the word meaning of gathering the dead bodies of those slain in battle for burial.

- Gen. 35:8 – Abraham was “gathered”
- Gen. 25:17 – Ishmael “gathered”
- Deut. 32:50 – God tells Moses he will be “gathered”
- Deut. 34:6 – no one knows where grave is, so “gathering” cannot mean the graveyard
- Judges 2:10 – whole generation “gathered”

2. God is God of Spirits:

- Num. 27:16 – God of spirits of all mankind
- Heb. 12:9 – God, Father of our spirits
- Zach. 12:1 – God forms the spirit of man within

3. Spirit returns to God:

- Eccl. 12:7 – spirit returns to God who gave it
- Luke 23:46 – Jesus committed His spirit

4. Jesus set the Captives free:

- Isa. 61:1 – promise for redemption
- Eph. 4:8-10

5. What would happen to Paul at death?

- Phil. 1:22-24 – wuld choose to be with God
- 2 Cor 5:1-9 – Paul describes himself , living in a tent

6. At resurrection, changed to immortality:

- 1 Cor. 15:49-57 – receive body like that *of* Jesus
- John 2:19-22 - Jesus' body raised
- 1 Thess. 4:13-17 – rapture and resurrection

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: The soul: man is a soul and ceases to exist at death. Spirit: means "breath." In God's memory are those deserving a resurrection onto the new earth. The 144,000 have instant resurrection at death in a spirit body, where they will reign with Christ forever, and govern those living on the New Earth.

MORMONS: Soul: Used interchangeably – also contradictory. Mormonism teaches pre-existence of spirits and children of heavenly parents awaiting bodies. The Pearl of Great Price teaches spirits "had no beginning" as did Joseph Smith until he changed the doctrine just before he was killed.