

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
BIG PICTURE: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?	3
Death: Before Jesus' Ascension	3
Death: Between Ascension and 1 st Resurrection.....	5
Death: Between 1 st and 2 nd Resurrection	6
DEATH	7
Temporal Death: Separation of Spirit from the Body	8
Spiritual Death: Temporal Separation of Man from God.....	8
Eternal Death: Permanent Separation of Man from God	9
LIFE.....	10
Eternal Life: Man's Eternal Union with God	11
INTERMEDIATE STATE: Hades, Paradise and Heaven	12
Hades	13
Paradise.....	15
Heaven	17
Transfiguration of Jesus	19
Mysticism, Deceptions and Error	20
FINAL JUDGMENTS	21
First Judgment: "Bema" Judgment of Believers.....	21
Second Judgment: Great White Throne	23
RESURRECTION: UNION of ETERNAL BODY and SPIRIT	24
Jesus: The Resurrection First-Fruit.....	26
The 1 st Resurrection: Bodily Glory for Believers	26
The 2 nd Resurrection: Great White Throne Judgment	29
Miraculous Resurrections: Unique Status	29
FINAL STATE.....	30
Hell: Gehenna; Lake of Fire; 2 nd Death.....	31
Hell: Skotos; Black Darkness or Outer Darkness.....	33
The Abyss: Abussos; Bottomless	35
Tartaroo	36
Salvation Prior To Jesus	37
Final State of the Saved	40
APPENDIX LINKS	41
RELATED STUDIES	41

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

INTRODUCTION

What happens when you die? One must wonder if there is a more fundamental question than that for we all must have thought about or at least asked someone we believe could answer that question. If you are like most people, you've probably received as varied an answer to that question as there are people upon the planet. There are a lot of opinions floating around, so is this simply a rhetorical question, not one you should expect a meaningful answer to?

Not if you're a bible believing Christian. That question may be one that many people *hope* is rhetorical, especially when the answer has such a dramatic impact upon us and our loved ones, whether alive or dead. Philosophies and many world religions exist because the answer to this question represents an innate burning need to know deep within us all. But, you may ask, can anyone really know for *certain* what happens when you die? Many say NO, because you *cannot verify* what happens after death. Some say YES, because *God reveals* to man his eternal state after death. Still others say MAYBE because through certain channels you can communicate with the dead. Which is truth? Which is fiction? Which is deception?

Would you accept the teaching from someone who *verifiably died* and *verifiably came back* three days and three nights later? The bible does indeed teach what happens when you die and the 66 books of the Protestant bible (39 Old Covenant, 27 New Covenant) are the *inspired, reliable, and authoritative* Word of God. You can have complete confidence upon the things God reveals to humanity in Scripture. The teachings and claims of Jesus as Messiah, God incarnate and His Resurrection from the dead are true historical events and theological truths. Therefore, these documented proofs are events in human history, reliable and a faithful source to believe what happens at death. (*Authority of the Bible* <http://www.thelordschildren.org/authority.htm>)

This study will address eschatology - the study of last things - from a *personal* perspective and hence the name *Personal Eschatology*. We will not in this study address the varied global eschatological events of when the Christ, Messiah Jesus returns to mark the end of the temporal age of man, for those studies are available in the Related Studies section at the end of this paper and should answer many of those questions for you. We seek to answer the question, "*Where will you go if you die tonight?*" That answer depends upon your answer to this question: Are you Saved?

Saved from what some might ask? A legitimate question ... Human Salvation is escape from the Wrath of God upon a defiant, evil, and sinful humanity. Most of you probably never heard it put quite that way that Salvation is God's way of delivering you from His Wrath; God reveals in His Word that Salvation is escape from the Judgment of Eternal Death. Eternal Life is through God Incarnate; Messiah Jesus, the Theanthropos God-man as the only means to Salvation.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Due to the many competing views on what happens after you die, it is appropriate to show the big picture first; then follow with the explanations afterward. Various views on death and life after death range from the occult, fiction, deception, absurd, the truth and variations of all the above.

BIG PICTURE: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?

Both Old and New Testaments are consistent with their teaching on what happens when you die. Scriptures discuss where you go after death during three specific periods of time.

1. When Does Death Occur?

- Death *before* Jesus' **Ascension** (1st Coming)
- Death *after* Jesus' Ascension up to **1st Resurrection** (2nd Coming)
- Death *between* 1st and **2nd Resurrection** (Final Judgment)

2. What Is Your "Spiritual Status" At Death?

These two questions form the framework to answer the question of what happens when you die. Many difficulties emerge when people confuse and therefore improperly apply biblical teaching from one time period to another. Doing so will only serve to *muddy the waters* by not rightly handling God's Word of Truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, [accurately handling the word of truth](#).

All humanity since Adam up to and including the last human born God will judge in accordance to His standards and your spiritual status at death. We will verbally summarize and illustrate graphically what happens when you die whether saved or unsaved during each of the three periods outlined above. The proof Scriptures will be disclosed in the Appendices or when we examine each specific topic and sub-topic.

Death: Before Jesus' Ascension

This first time period examined are deaths during [Old Testament and written Torah, Mosaic Law](#). The New Covenant began at the death of Jesus but for the purpose of Personal Eschatology (where you go when you die) the key event is Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. The Tables below list key events of past or future human history and the corresponding impact upon believers and non-believers. We will cover and define all these specific events and terms in this study.

Some falsely conclude that those who died before the birth of Jesus are lost, consigned to Hell, but the bible teaches no such thing because the [sacrifice of Jesus](#) for Salvation

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

is *applied back in time* as well as *forward in time*. To address these key events, let's take two characters from the Old Testament, Cain and Abel, the first two children born to Adam and Eve and insert them into our first table. Both Cain and Abel died prior to the Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. How one is saved prior to Jesus is discussed in the section entitled *Salvation Prior to Jesus*. For the purpose of this study let's presume Abel is saved and Cain is unsaved. Where are they now?

Table 1: Death Prior To Ascension of Jesus

AFTER DEATH	ABEL: SAVED	CAIN: UNSAVED
Intermediate State	Goes to Paradise	Goes to Hades / Sheol
Ascension of Jesus	Taken up to 3 rd Heaven	Remains in Hades / Sheol
2nd Return: 1st Resurrection	Returns with Jesus	Remains in Hades / Sheol
Bema Judgment of Saved	Judged: Eternal Reward	Remains in Hades / Sheol
Millennium	Reigns with Jesus	Remains in Hades / Sheol
2nd Resurrection	N/A	Resurrected
Final Judgment	Judges Men & Angels	Hell: Gehenna or Skotos

Cain the Unsaved: God is the sole Judge for Salvation but let's assume Cain is unsaved. At death, Cain entered his intermediate state of existence in Hades, or in the Old Testament Hebrew: *Sheol*. Sheol is simply the place of the dead and the Old Testament people did not have a complete revelation of the afterlife disclosed to them, but through Jesus, we know this place to be Hades. When Jesus ascended into heaven, Cain remained in Hades - Sheol, where he awaits Final Judgment. **Cain and the unsaved dead have no participation in any of the significant events listed above except for Final Judgment.** At Final Judgment, God will determine based upon how Cain lived his life what degree of punishment he will suffer in the Fire or Darkness of Hell. Hell is called "Gehenna," "Lake of Fire," "Second Death," **"Skotos" pronounced skot'-os which is Greek for Darkness;** "Outer Darkness" and "Black Darkness" where there will be a weeping and gnashing of teeth. Skotos may be the "Abyss," "Tartaroo" or some other place of darkness not specifically mentioned in Scripture. What we do know from Scripture is the degree of punishment in Hell is commensurate with the degree of sin, evil and wickedness committed while a flesh and blood human.

Abel the Saved: At death, Abel also entered his intermediate state of existence but in *Paradise*, the place for the righteous dead. Paradise was not heaven as we understand heaven: the Throne of God and abode of the elect angels. Messiah Jesus makes clear what and where Paradise is for that is where Jesus went when He died and preached to the entire population of saved spirits captive in Paradise. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He literally took with Him Paradise and all the saved spirits in Paradise and are now in the third heaven above with God, Jesus and the elect angels. When Jesus returns to the earth for the second time, he will bring with Him Abel and all the saved in heaven along with the angels of God. Abel will then have His "Bema" Judgment by Jesus as will the rest of the saved dead who came with Him. This Bema Judgment of Christ will determine the degree of reward Abel receives as will the rest of God's faithful

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

servants who came with Him at His Second Coming. The Second Return of Jesus marks the 1st Resurrection of Believers, when Abel and the other saved souls will receive their reward of an eternal body with the commensurate glory based upon their works while alive upon the earth. Abel and the rest of the saved will rule with Jesus upon the earth for 1,000 years: The Millennium. Abel and all the other saved will be a judge of men and angels in the Final Judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment of God. The saved are quite a busy and active group whereas the unsaved live a life of gloom, doom, punishment and torment.

Death: Between Ascension and 1st Resurrection

This second time period accounts for all deaths under the New Covenant that occur *between* the **Ascension** of Jesus and prior to the **1st Resurrection** at the 2nd Coming of Jesus. The New Covenant began at the death of Jesus but for the purpose of Personal Eschatology, the two key events for this time period are Jesus' Ascension into heaven and the 1st Resurrection at His return. This is the timeframe that you and I live in now as of the date of this writing, February, 2006. Let's continue with a similar scenario like we did earlier and select two New Covenant characters that died after the Ascension. I'll select Mary the earthly mother of Jesus and Judas Iscariot. While the judgment of these two souls is the sole prerogative of God, Scriptures do reveal that Judas is lost or unsaved.

Table 2: Death Between Ascension and 1st Resurrection

AFTER DEATH	MARY: SAVED	JUDAS: UNSAVED
Intermediate State	Taken up to 3 rd Heaven	Goes to Hades
Ascension of Jesus	N/A	N/A
2nd Return: 1st Resurrection	Returns with Jesus	Remains in Hades
Bema Judgment of Saved	Judged: Eternal Reward	Remains in Hades
Millennium	Reigns with Jesus	Remains in Hades
2nd Resurrection	N/A	Resurrected
Final Judgment	Judges Men & Angels	Hell: Gehenna / Skotos

Mary the Saved: Mary died sometime after the Ascension of Jesus and at her death Mary's intermediate state was immediately with the Lord in heaven. Mary and all the saved who die after the Ascension go immediately to the 3rd heaven with God and will return with Jesus at His 2nd Coming along with Abel and the rest of the saved. Mary will then be judged by Jesus along with Abel and the rest of the saved at the Bema Judgment of the Lord. Mary, like Abel and the rest of the saved will receive her just reward for the things she did while a flesh and blood human. Mary's reward will reflect her deeds while in the flesh and she will receive her eternal body with its appropriate glory at the 1st Resurrection like Abel and the other saved saints. Both Mary and Abel will govern with Jesus upon the earth during the 1,000 year Millennial Rule and will judge men and angels at the Final Judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment of God.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

For those who are saved and remain alive and at the one and only 2nd Coming of Jesus, the Apostle Paul calls a mystery because they will not all sleep, that is experience death the same way others do, but will be changed. Their *change* from temporal, mortal life of flesh to Eternal Life in their new spiritual body will happen as a near simultaneous event, instantaneously, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye as recorded in 1 Corinthians 15:49-58. The rapture is an invention of man and a wholly non-biblical event for there is no such event in Scripture. Rapture is a cheap imitation for the 1st Resurrection of those who remain alive at the 2nd Coming of Jesus. Scripture teaches Resurrection, not rapture. The saved who remain alive in temporal, mortal flesh when Jesus return participate in the 1st Resurrection of the saved. That is the teaching of Jesus, all the Apostles and all Scripture.

Judas, the Unsaved: At death, Judas like Cain entered his intermediate state of existence in Hades, the abode of the unsaved dead who await Final Judgment. Hades is a place of torment and punishment but it is not as severe as Final Judgment. Neither Judas nor Cain has any active participation in any of the significant events apart from waiting their Final Judgment before the Great White Throne of God. God will determine the eternal fate of Judas, Cain and the rest of the unsaved dead based upon their deeds as a flesh and blood human. All the souls in Hades will go to Hell for eternity either in Gehenna, the Lake of Fire the Second Death or Skotos, the Black Darkness or Outer Darkness, possibly the Abyss or Tartaroo.

Death: Between 1st and 2nd Resurrection

This third time period accounts for all deaths under New Covenant that occur after the 1st Resurrection up through Final Judgment. Nobody knows the day or hour of the actual reality of its key events, the 1st Resurrection of believers and Final Judgment. There can be no characters depicted for this scenario for it is highly probable that the people who live and die during this period of time may not as yet be born.

Table 3: Death Between 1st and 2nd Resurrection

AFTER DEATH	SAVED	UNSAVED
Intermediate State	Taken up to 3 rd Heaven	Goes to Hades
Ascension of Jesus	N/A	N/A
2nd Return: 1st Resurrection	N/A	N/A
Bema Judgment of Saved	N/A	N/A
Millennium	Remains Alive or Dies	Remains Alive or Dies
2nd Resurrection	Resurrected	Resurrected
Final Judgment	Judged: Eternal Reward	Hell: Gehenna / Skotos

Now that the Big Picture is disclosed, let's begin to drill down into some important concepts and events that we need to have a firm handle upon. We'll begin with the subject of death.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

DEATH

Death is a frightening subject to broach with many people. Perhaps the *finality* of death makes it a common taboo and therefore rarely thought about or discussed. The mantra of many seems to be, "Why be so morbid? Life is meant to live so why obsess over or become consumed with the subject of death?" The simple truth of the matter is death is as much a part of life as going to school, getting married, working, playing, and loving.

Knowing what death is does also know what it is not. Many cultures and religions have competing views and understandings on what they believe death is with some even denying the reality of death itself. The Christian view on death establishes that physical death is reality and a *transition* into another mode of being.

Hebrews 9:27

And inasmuch as it is **appointed** for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,

The cessation of temporal life as a flesh and blood creation and our Judgment by God will determine where and how we spend the rest of eternity. The Judeo-Christian bible rejects many false understandings associated with death like: materialism, annihilation, reincarnation, and soul sleep. A fundamental tenet of Judeo-Christianity is *immortality* of the soul, the spirit in man that separates from the body at death. God teaches us in the book of James chapter 2, verse 26 that *the body without the spirit is dead*.

Not all concepts of immortality are compatible with Scripture. There are fundamental differences between the Greek philosophical concepts of immortality (Plato) with those of Judeo-Christianity. Platonic *dualism* is prevalent in Western culture and even some Western churches teach body and soul as two distinct and separate entities in spite of Scriptural Authority. An analogy for *Dualism* prescribes *what a rider is to the horse is what the soul is to the body*; and salvation is deliverance of the soul *from* the body. Dualism conflicts with Judeo-Christian beliefs for Scriptures teach *unity in being*.

A Scriptural analogy: what shape/form is to matter - spirit is to the body. *The soul is the unified existence of spirit and body*. Salvation is therefore not saving the soul *from* the body but Salvation is *in* the body for our *resurrection* is *both* body and spirit. The final state of man has a bodily existence beyond this temporal life. We'll discuss this further in the section called Resurrection and Final State.

Scriptures not only speak to the reality of Physical Death as the separation of the spirit from the body, but also speaks of five distinct forms of death. For a New Testament Exegesis on Death, please see Appendix A: Death-New Testament Exegesis http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/pdfs/death.pdf. For the purposes of Personal Eschatology, we need only examine three forms of death.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Temporal Death: Separation of Spirit from the Body

The reality of Temporal Death: physical death is attested to in both Old and New Testaments.

Genesis 35:18a

It came about as her **soul was departing** (for she died)...

2 Corinthians 5:8

we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be **absent from the body** and **to be at home with the Lord**.

Jesus and the New Covenant writings bring clarity and focus to the subject of life, death and life after death for both the saved and unsaved. Physical or Temporal death are synonymous terms and a reality for all people, good or bad, evil or righteous, sinner or saint.

Spiritual Death: Temporal Separation of Man from God

Scriptures have much to say about the other types of death but especially **Spiritual Death**, which is the separation of man from God due to sin. Spiritual death began with the sin of Adam.

Genesis 2:17

but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it **you will surely die.**"

Death is an early concept introduced to the first two humans created in the image and likeness of God. Adam and Ishshah (Eve's name before expulsion from the Garden) sinned by defying a clear command of God to not partake of the knowledge of good and evil. Transgressing God's command brought about immediate death: **Physical, Spiritual** and **Eternal**. Death is separation: a penalty for defiance to God. We could spend much time in the book of Genesis for the entirety of the Redemptive Plan of God is subtly found there, but we shall not do so in this writing.

Man's sin in the Garden caused evil and death to enter actual reality. Spiritual death is the separation of man from his holy and priestly service to God. God was continuing the creation of His "like qualities" in man in the Garden of Eden by completing development of God's *likeness* in man's nature. Man's sin caused evil to actualize into reality and become infused into man's nature. This act arrested man from any further development of God's likeness in his nature. For more detailed information, see the bible study on Freewill, Sin, and Evil http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/pdfs/freewill.htm

Sin and evil now exist in man's nature; arrested man from continuing godly character development, the likeness of God in man; forced man out of the Garden; and denied man further access to Eternal Life, represented by the Tree of Life.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Genesis 3:22, 24

22 ¶ Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the [tree of life](#), and eat, and [live forever](#)"—

24 So [He drove the man out](#); and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to [guard the way to the tree of life](#).

All humanity since Adam enters life spiritually dead: Spiritual Death is the natural state of man; complete and total separation from God. Some church denominations *improperly* refer to this state of being as *original sin*, but it is in reality the infusion of sin and evil into the nature of man. The tragic result: temporal death while in the state of spiritual death is eternal death; permanent separation from God in Hell for all eternity. The only remedy for this is God's saving grace through Jesus Christ and that remedy is applied to people as far back to Adam and perpetually forward to include the last born human. [Spiritual death is therefore the state of man's separation from God during temporal life](#). Let's now discuss the next type of death revealed in Scripture, Eternal Death.

Eternal Death: Permanent Separation of Man from God

Eternal Death is intimately connected to Final Judgment for only after Final Judgment is one sentenced to Eternal Death, the permanent separation from God for all eternity. Final Judgment is synonymous with Great White Throne Judgment, Second Death, and the Lake of Fire (Gehenna – Hell).

Revelation 20:11-15

11 ¶ Then I saw a [great white throne](#) and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life; and [the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds](#).

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one [of them] according to their deeds.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. [This is the second death, the lake of fire](#).

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Eternal Death waits for all who die in the state of spiritual death. All humanity is born spiritually dead and therefore in need of Redemption and Salvation from the sting of death. Only through Jesus, the Son of God is one rescued from the curse and sting of eternal death.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

LIFE

Life seems to be a better subject to discuss for most people, but in the fallen and sinful condition of humanity ... spiritual death ... there will naturally be issues with the quality of life and whether it is worth living as seen through the eyes of the spiritually dead. Jesus Himself in one verse of Scripture crystallizes the contrast between spiritual, temporal and eternal death.

Luke 9:60

But He (Jesus) said to him, "[Allow the dead to bury their own dead](#); but as for you, go and [proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God](#)."

Allow the spiritually dead under the sentence of eternal death to bury the temporal dead who are now sealed in eternal death. Those who pass from death to life, the spiritually alive shall be servants of God and live their lives to and for God. Spiritual deadness speaks loudly why temporal lives are not what God created life to be nor is it what most people would have it be. Life for the spiritually dead is shrouded in darkness, despair, doubt and susceptibility to all sorts of evil and spiritual deceptions.

2 Corinthians 4:4

in whose case the **god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving** so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

John 8:12

¶ Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "[I am the Light of the world](#); he who [follows Me will not walk in the darkness](#), but will have the [Light of life](#)."

There is a false god of this world (Satan) who disguises himself as a deceiving angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) who blinds the minds of the non-believing spiritually dead into believing they are right with God and are walking in the light of God ... but are not.

Matthew 6:23

"But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

We all have opportunity to come to the true Jesus of Scripture if we let the Word of God speak to us and the Light of God guide us.

1 Peter 2:2

like newborn babies, [long for the pure milk of the word](#), so that by it you may [grow in respect to salvation](#),

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Scriptures define all death as separation, moving away from God and all Life as drawing closer to God, in union and in close fellowship. (See Appendix B: Life Exegesis http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/pdfs/life-a.pdf).

Eternal Life: Man's Eternal Union with God

Eternal Life and Spiritual Life are synonymous with each other and is fully the work of God, not man. Spiritual Life is Eternal Life and Eternal Life is Spiritual Life and God's gift to man during his temporal life as a flesh and blood human being. Spiritual life is God's gracious gift of drawing spiritually dead human beings into an eternal relationship with Himself. Man's role is volitional acceptance or rejection of God's precious gift of Life. Eternal Life is Salvation by the Triune God; The Father's grace through faith in The Son by the power of The Holy Spirit. We must be drawn to God by God who calls us to life through His Son, Jesus.

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may **know Him** who is true; and we are **in Him** who is true, in **His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.**

There simply is no other name by which we can be saved, not Allah, not Buddha, not Mohammed or any other god of this world and absolutely not something of our own doing but only by and through the name and person of Messiah Jesus alone.

John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Those who *believe* will have Eternal Life and those who have Eternal Life will *obey* God and Jesus. Obedience and Love is the fruit of Life in Jesus.

John 14:31a

so that the world may **know that I love the Father, I do exactly** as the Father commanded Me.

We know we have the love of Jesus and the Father in us (Eternal Life) if we obey the spiritual commandments of God and His commandments are not grievous or burdensome. There is so much richness to a discussion of Eternal Life and love that an in-depth discussion would be much too exhaustive for the purpose of this study. Nonetheless, to minimize the impact and truth of Eternal Life is a grievous miscarriage of God's Truth and Justice.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

John 3:16 is frequently quoted and appears in the unlikeliest of places by so many people that it appears to some as unwittingly subjected to abuse through overuse thereby obscuring the profound truth and message it contains. That may or may not be true but the weight of John 3:16 is impossible to neglect or ignore.

John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who **hears My word**, and **believes Him** who sent **Me**, **has eternal life**, and **does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life.

Rather than my words speaking on Eternal Life, God Himself says it best with His Words.

John 17:3

"**This is eternal life**, that they may **know You, the only true God**, and **Jesus Christ whom You have sent**.

1 John 5:11

And the testimony is this, that **God has given us eternal life**, and this **life is in His Son**.

John 6:40

"For this is the **will of My Father**, that everyone who **beholds the Son** and **believes in Him will have eternal life**, and **I Myself will raise him up** on the last day."

We briefly covered death and life as it relates to Personal Eschatology. While we live our life as temporal beings, Scripture teaches that we either have Eternal Life in Jesus or remain Spiritually Dead under the sentence of Eternal Death. For those with Eternal Life, at temporal death they pass *immediately* into life with Jesus in heaven and await the Resurrection of their eternal bodies. What kind of existence do we have between temporal death and Resurrection?

The saved and unsaved both have a period of existence referred to as the *Intermediate State*. While both saved and unsaved have an intermediate state, this state of being is in diametric opposition to each other. Let's examine what God teaches about the intermediate state.

INTERMEDIATE STATE: Hades, Paradise and Heaven

We covered three forms of death: Spiritual Death, Temporal Death and Eternal Death and two forms of life: Temporal-Physical Life and Eternal-Spiritual Life. Our spiritual status at death determines our Intermediate and Eternal States after death. Most people believe, at least in Western culture, that at death good people go to Heaven and bad people go to Hell. While this may not be a bad teaching, it is not an entirely

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

accurate one either for it bypasses the intermediate state of the unsaved dead and the Final State of the saved.

Intermediate State Defined: The condition or state of *conscious* being for all humans that have died and await their resurrection and judgment. All Scriptures on the intermediate state, whether it be Paradise, Heaven or Hades teach consciousness in being as we shall now see. Jesus teaches consciousness after death and His direct statement in Matthew is a case for consciousness, *not annihilation* and *not soul sleep*.

Matthew 22:31-32

31 "But regarding the *resurrection of the dead*, have you not read what was spoken to you by God:

32 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? *He is not the God of the dead but of the living.*"

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all have conscious existence in their intermediate state. Many believe that Final Judgment occurs for each person immediately upon death but the truth is Final Judgment does not happen until 1,000 years or so after the 2nd return of Jesus. This 1,000 year reign of Jesus upon the earth is called The Millennium. After the Millennial Rule of Jesus come the 2nd Resurrection and Final Judgment. We will discuss the 2nd Resurrection and the Judgments a little later in the study. Let's begin our examination of the Intermediate State with Hades.

Hades

The New Testament is the primary source for our understanding on Hades as the intermediate state of the unsaved dead and Heaven as the intermediate state for the saved dead. The intermediate state of the unsaved dead in Hades receives equal weight in Scriptures with that of the final state of the unsaved in Hell: 11 verses mention Hades and 13 Hell: Gehenna Fire and Tartaroo. Tartaroo is the "Black Darkness" within the "Abyss" and the holding cell for rebellious angels awaiting their Final Judgment. We will discuss Hell later in the study. Understanding the intermediate state appears to be as important to God as our Final State, so I think that alone makes it worth knowing.

Knowing the distinctions between the intermediate and final states has practical importance, especially to those bereaving the death of a loved one. Lying to people about the status of departed loved ones is common practice with some religious groups though God cannot be pleased with that practice from those purporting to be His servants. God's servants (ministers) must answer to God on how we teach His Word and His revealed truths. Servants of God do not have authority to alter God's Word or usurp God's authority as Judge and must exercise prudence in telling the bereaved where their loved ones are after death. It is one thing for most people to choose to believe their departed loved ones are in heaven with the Lord, but an entirely different matter for those claiming to be God's servants to do the same. The shepherds of God should simply state the criteria for Hades and Heaven: if your loved one is born again in Jesus with an indwelling of God the Holy Spirit they are in heaven with the Lord and if

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

not they are in Hades awaiting Final Judgment. To say otherwise may be usurping the authority and prerogative of God. God has a very strict judgment for His servants and not one that should be taken cavalierly.

Jesus reveals Hades as the intermediate state for **all** the unsaved dead since the beginning of time. The Old Testament Hebrew word *Sheol* is the only term used in the Old Testament and has been translated as grave, pit and Hell and is synonymous with Hades in the New Testament. Confusion on the intermediate state of the unsaved dead in Hades probably comes from most bibles translating the Hebrew *Sheol* and the three Greek words *Hades*, *Gehenna* and *Tartaroo* all as Hell. All three represent different states and places of punishment and by translation all as Hell confusion, obscurity and apparent conflicts in distinguishing between the intermediate and final state of men and angels are created. **All the unsaved dead are in Hades and will remain in Hades until their Resurrection and Final Judgment before the Great White Throne of God at the end of the age.** There are no humans in Hell at this time. Jesus reveals Hades as the intermediate state for all the unsaved dead in Luke 16 with Lazarus and the rich man.

Luke 16:23-25

23 "**In Hades** he lifted up his eyes, being in **torment**, and *saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in **agony** in this **flame**.'

25 "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in **agony**.'

Jesus reveals Paradise as a place of comfort and bliss and Hades as a place of **TORMENT... AGONY ... FIRE ...** though nothing like the punishment of the final, eternal state of Gehenna Fire or the Black Darkness of Tartaroo which is much worse. Jesus also teaches that right now, in this life is our time to decide where and how we spend eternity.

Luke 16:26

'**And besides all this**, between us and you there is a **great chasm fixed**, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and [that] **none may cross over** from there to us.'

Paradise was located *adjacent* to Hades and *separated* by a great impassable and impenetrable gulf. There is simply no crossing over after temporal death for the saved and unsaved. Jesus reveals that *now* is the time for us to cross over from death to life, *now*, while there still remains breath in our lungs. The rich man made his choice as we will all make ours.

My analogy for Hades is what jail is to prison, Hades is to Hell; the holding cell before final sentencing. God puts no one in Hades who has any possibility for eternal life. All

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

those in Hades haven't chosen separation from God and will continue to choose separation for the alternative (life with God) seems worse than Hell for those who prefer separation (death) from God. Yes, all may hate their status in Hades but they hate serving God even more. There is no turning or repentance after this life, not because God will not allow it, simply because men will not do it.

Paradise

Paradise was the place the righteous dead, metaphorically Abraham's bosom, the heaven of the **Old Covenant**. Jesus lived under the Old Covenant, specifically during written Torah also called Mosaic Law. No one could go to the 3rd heaven, the Throne of God before Messiah Jesus opened the door to eternal life. This is taught directly by Jesus Himself through the Apostle John.

John 3:13

"**No one has ascended into heaven**, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

John 1:18

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

John 5:37

"And the **Father who sent Me**, He has testified of Me. **You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form**.

Paradise was not located in the 3rd Heaven with God the Father nor could it be for Jesus alone is the means to Salvation and eternal life.

John 14:6

Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father but through Me**.

If Salvation and Eternal Life could be achieved apart from Jesus, why then did Jesus have to come to earth, suffer and die? Paradise was below, adjacent to Hades and separated by a great impenetrable chasm or gulf. A Messianic purpose of Jesus was to reveal God the Father to humanity, offer Himself as propitiation to The Father for sin and open the door to Eternal Life so man could stand before The Father in the 3rd Heaven as an eternally saved child of God. When Jesus died He went to Paradise to proclaim the gospel to those **captive in Paradise** waiting for their Redeemer. The words of Jesus to the thief on the cross:

Luke 23:42-43

42 And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"
43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, **today you shall be with Me in Paradise**."

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Jesus knew where He was going and why:

Luke 4:18

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO **PREACH THE GOSPEL** TO THE POOR. **HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES**, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,

1 Peter 3:19

in which also **He went and made proclamation to the spirits** [now] in **prison**,

Many teach the understanding of the words *captive* and *prison* to mean Hell but this is not an accurate teaching. The captive spirits were those in Paradise and Jesus brought both Paradise and the spirits in Paradise away from its location near Hades up to the 3rd Heaven **at His Ascension**. The words of Jesus to Mary **after** His Resurrection show He did not go to The Father in the 3rd Heaven:

John 20:17

Jesus *said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for **I have not yet ascended to the Father**; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

The other occurrences of Paradise in 2 Corinthians 12:4 and Revelation 2:7 are after the Ascension and attest that Paradise is now in the 3rd Heaven with Jesus; God's Throne; the elect angels; and the saved dead.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4

1 ¶ Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to **visions and revelations of the Lord**.

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the **third heaven**.

3 And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—

4 was **caught up into Paradise** and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

Both this man and the Apostle John were **caught up** to the third heaven for the expressed purpose of Revelations and Visions. The book of Revelation is the visions John received from Jesus in the 3rd Heaven, the Throne of God, the abode of elect angels and the saved. Paradise is no longer adjacent to Hades like it was at the time of Jesus but is now located in the 3rd Heaven because Jesus brought Paradise with Him at His Ascension. For an in-depth teaching on Paradise and Heaven, please see the study *Where did Jesus Go When He Died?* <http://www.thelordschildren.org/jcHell.htm>

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Heaven

Heaven is now the intermediate state of the saved under the New Covenant. Jesus brought Paradise and all the souls in Paradise up to the 3rd Heaven, the Throne of God at His Ascension. All the saved who die go directly and immediately to be with Jesus. The Revelation of Jesus to John the Apostle demonstrates a *conscious existence* in the 3rd Heaven.

Revelation 6:9-11

- 9 ¶ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw *underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain* because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;
- 10 and *they cried out with a loud voice*, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"
- 11 And *there was given to each of them a white robe*; and *they were told that they should rest for a little while longer*, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

Only those who are conscious can speak, be spoken to and given a garment to wear. The saved spirits in heaven questioned Jesus how long they must continue to wait until the 1st Resurrection when Jesus returns to the earth to rule as King of kings and Lord of lords to avenge and administer the Wrath of the Lamb.

Revelation 6:16

and they *said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the *wrath of the Lamb*;

The Apostle Paul was longing to depart this earthly life to be with the Lord. Paul wants to be with the Lord because he knows he will consciously and immediately be with the Lord and not sleeping somewhere waiting to be with the Jesus.

Philippians 1:23-24

- 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, *having the desire to depart and be with Christ*, for that is very much better;
- 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

2 Corinthians 5:8-9

- 8 we are of good courage, I say, and *prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord*.
- 9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, *whether at home or absent*, to be pleasing to Him.

Heaven is not the final state of the saved but the intermediate state. We will show this in the Resurrection sections and the Final state later in the study. The Throne of God is

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

called the 3rd heaven in 2 Corinthians 12:2. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd heavens are taught in both Old and New Testaments. All demonstrate three practical designations for heaven.

The 1st Heaven: Earth's Atmosphere; the Abode of the birds and clouds.

Genesis 1:20

¶ Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and **let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.**"

Acts 14:17

and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you **rains from heaven** and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

The 2nd Heaven: The Universe; Abode of the moon, sun, stars, galaxies and planets.

Genesis 1:14-15

14 ¶ Then God said, "Let there be **lights in the expanse of the heavens** to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;

15 and let them be for **lights in the expanse of the heavens** to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

Genesis 15:5

And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the **heavens, and count the stars**, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Mark 13:25

AND THE **STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven**, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

Hebrews 11:12

Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, [as many descendants] AS THE **STARS OF HEAVEN** IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.

The 3rd Heaven: Throne of God; Abode of elect angels, the saved and Jesus.

Genesis 28:12, 17

12 He had a dream, and behold, **a ladder** was set on the earth with its top **reaching to heaven**; and behold, the **angels of God were ascending and descending on it.**

17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than **the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.**"

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Matthew 5:34

"But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by **heaven, for it is the throne of God,**

Revelation 6:9

¶¶ When **the Lamb** broke the fifth seal, I saw **underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain** because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

(See Heaven Exegesis http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/pdfs/hvn-parA.pdf)

Transfiguration of Jesus

The transfiguration identifies Jesus as the prophesied Messiah, God incarnate but also reveals valuable information concerning the intermediate state (Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36). The transfiguration also reveals insights into the glorified bodies of Jesus and the glorified bodies of the saved in their intermediate state.

Matthew 17:2

And **He was transfigured before them**; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

Mark 9:4

Elijah appeared to them along **with Moses**; and **they were talking with Jesus**.

Luke 9:31

who, **appearing in glory**, were **speaking of His departure** which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and spoke with Jesus. We not only see consciousness in the intermediate state, conversing with Messiah Jesus, but also a glorified body. The bodies of the saved in their intermediate state are lesser in glory when compared to the eternal state of the body's glory after resurrection. Draw comfort in knowing your glory in Salvation begins immediately in this body of flesh, continues in glory during your intermediate state in heaven and ends with your eternal glory after resurrection and judgment. We'll discuss the eternal glorified bodies later in the Resurrection section of the study.

The transfiguration of Jesus also seems to dispel some popular myths about the intermediate state. There is no indication that Elijah and Moses had any comprehension of the presence of Peter, James and John. It seems Jesus transfigured Himself to be visible to and converse with those in the intermediate state. It seems highly improbable that anyone in the intermediate state can observe or have any knowledge of the temporal lives of those upon the earth unless specifically disclosed to them by God, Jesus or through His elect angels.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Mysticism, Deceptions and Error

Channeling and other forms of mysticisms are **satanic deceptions** and **experienced only by unbelievers**. The testimonies of those who had near death experiences, out of body experiences, communication with the dead, and other mystic experiences are evidence of demonic deceptions and not the truth of God.

1 Timothy 4:1

¶ But the **Spirit explicitly says** that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits** and **doctrines of demons**,

Demonic deceptions are very real and will continue to increase in frequency and intensity as we draw nearer the Second Coming of Jesus. Jesus and the Apostles warn us of coming deceptions:

Matthew 24:24

"For **false Christs** and **false prophets** will arise and **will show great signs and wonders**, so as **to mislead, if possible, even the elect**.

Mark 13:22

for **false Christs** and **false prophets** will arise, and **will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray**, if possible, the elect.

2 Thessalonians 2:9

[that is,] the one whose coming is in accord with the **activity of Satan**, with all **power** and **signs** and **false wonders**,

Unfortunately, many pseudochristian groups have immersed or shall I say baptized themselves into the deceptions of Satan and the doctrines of demons. They now entice susceptible souls with their false teaching and false signs and wonders movement for such as these disguise themselves as ministers of Light and servants of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

13 For such men are **false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ**.

14 No wonder, for even **Satan disguises himself as an angel of light**.

15 Therefore it is not surprising if **his servants also disguise themselves** as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

The desires of the flesh and the taboo areas of the mysterious unknown are prime targets for deception. For most people what can be more desirable than direct appeals to fleshly desires or more unknown than what happens when you die? Rather than near death experiences being offered as a proof for what happens when you die they are offered as proof of the realities of demonic and satanic deception. Only God has the power to raise a person from the dead. The "return from the dead" experiences are not

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

true death experiences but deception to spiritually darkened minds. A human spirit returning to the body it departed is resurrection and only God can resurrect.

The out of body, mystical and apparent miraculous signs and wonders experiences are from those who are non-Christian and pseudochristian. This personal experience only supports non-Christian and bob-biblical beliefs. God will not resurrect a person whose life denies the reality of God's existence and/or contradicts His Word and His Truths.

Scriptures teach Resurrection ... not reincarnation. [Reincarnation is mysticism, very commonplace with Eastern religions](#) that teach after death the human spirit will attach itself to another body of flesh and return to live another life on earth, sometimes human, sometimes not. [Reincarnation defiles](#) the image and likeness of God in man and nowhere in Scripture does such ungodly heresy exist. Reincarnation is a doctrine of demons and wholly inconsistent with Scripture, Christianity and Judaism.

Many other unbiblical doctrines emerge from competing theologies and denominations that are Scripturally unjustified. There is No Purgatory ... No Annihilation ... No Soul Sleep ... and No Rapture. There is at this time only two intermediate states people go at death: A conscience existence in Hades or a conscience existence in Heaven. Prior to the New Covenant established by the blood of Jesus on the cross at Calvary, the righteous dead had their intermediate state in Paradise as we already covered. The NASB95 bible is to be commended for not translating Hades as Hell but leaving it untranslated as Hades for by doing so it removes obscurity and confusion by retaining proper distinction for the intermediate state.

FINAL JUDGMENTS

You may be surprised to know there are many judgments in Scripture. There is the believer's judgment of self and of unsaved men and angels at Final Judgment; and the 7 Judgments of God. (See *Judgment and Hell* and *Judgment Scriptures* in the Related Studies section of this paper). For the purpose of Personal Eschatology, we will only concern ourselves with the two Final Judgments of God: The Bema Judgment of believers at the 2nd Return of Jesus and The Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the age.

First Judgment: "Bema" Judgment of Believers

2 Corinthians 5:8-10

- 8 we are of good courage, I say, and [prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.](#)
- 9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, [whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.](#)
- 10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat <bema> of Christ**, so that each one may be [recompensed for his deeds](#) in the body, [according to what he has done, whether good or bad.](#)

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

The Bema Judgment of Christ is only for the believers who are resurrected by God (1st Resurrection) at the second return of Jesus and the first of two Final Judgments by God. These three verses in 2 Corinthians are absolutely addressing born again believers. Why then do some groups claiming Christianity insist on teaching there is no judgment for believers? God is teaching in verse 10 ... **we must all appear:** with the **WE** being **ALL** born again believers; **before the judgment seat of Christ:** judgment upon all our deeds in the flesh ... *including our sins*; **so that each one:** each one meaning every single born-again believer individually and *without exception*; **may be recompensed:** recompensed means compensated, rewarded or justly paid; **for his deeds in the body:** the things we have done while alive; **according to what he has done:** God will demand an answer for the things we have done in the flesh; **whether good or bad:** whether it be sinful acts or good deeds.

All believers will stand before God in Judgment for to give an account for everything we have done (sins included) upon the earth. How can anyone say there is no judgment of believers for sin when God says there is?

Romans 14:10

But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For **we will all stand before the judgment seat <bema> of God.**

Not subject to the *penalty* for sin ... eternal death because of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary is not the same as being exempt from Judgment. Scripture is very clearly teaching that ALL believers must stand before God to give account for their deeds in the flesh, whether good or bad. This Judgment is the 1st Resurrection for believers at the one and only 2nd Coming of Jesus.

Revelation 20:4-6

- 4 **Then I saw thrones**, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. **And I saw the souls of those** who had been **beheaded** because of their testimony of Jesus and **because of the word of God**, and **those who had not worshiped the beast or his image**, and had **not received the mark** on their forehead and on their hand; **and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**
- 5 **The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.**
- 6 **Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection;** over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Some inappropriately apply what happens to believers who remain alive at the Second Coming of Christ to the non-Scriptural and apostate teaching of rapture. (See *The Rapture of Rapture* in the Related Studies section). Born again believers alive upon the earth will participate in the 1st Resurrection of believers without having to die a typical temporal death. Paul refers to this as a mystery that we will not all sleep but we will all

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. This depicts the reality that all believers, alive and dead, are participants of the 1st Resurrection, a truly miraculous and spectacular event even for all born again believers who remain alive upon the earth at the Second Return of Jesus.

Immediately after the 1st Resurrection Jesus will defeat the armies of the earth amassed against Him and throw Satan and his minions, the beast and false prophet into the Abyss, into the Black Darkness of Tartaroo.

Revelation 20:1-3

- 1 ¶ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the **key of the abyss** and a great chain in his hand.
- 2 And he **laid hold of the dragon**, the serpent of old, who is the **devil and Satan**, and **bound him for a thousand years**;
- 3 and he **threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it** over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, **until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.**

The binding of Satan for 1,000 years is the Millennial Reign of Jesus upon the earth with all His saints, the born again believers raised and judged at the 1st Resurrection. When the Millennium is completed, Satan and his cohorts will be released from the Abyss to deceive the nations once again and amass a great army against the Lord and His holy ones, but they will be defeated again. After this final battle, called Gog and Magog comes The Great White Throne Judgment of God.

Revelation 20:7-9

- 7 **When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released** from his prison,
- 8 and will come out to **deceive the nations** which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to **gather them together for the war**; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.
- 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and **surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city**, and **fire came down from heaven and devoured them.**

Second Judgment: Great White Throne

Believers and non-believers will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment. Not the born again believers judged in the 1st Resurrection, the Bema Judgment of Christ, for they already received their reward: glory of their eternal body. The believers raised in the 1st Resurrection will be judges with God and Jesus over men and angels at this 2nd Resurrection, the Great White Throne Judgment.

1 Corinthians 6:3

Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

First, Satan and all his demons are judged and sentenced to join the beast and false prophet for all eternity in Gehenna, the Lake of Fire: Hell.

Revelation 20:10

And **the devil** who deceived them was **thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be **tormented day and night forever and ever**.

Second: all non-believers since the beginning of time will be resurrected from Hades. They will be judged along with all the believers who were not raised in the First Resurrection. These will all stand before the Great White Throne of God for Judgment. Hades and death is thrown into the Lake of Fire fo after Final Judgment there will be no further use for Hades, for all will have their eternal destiny established. The saved with their eternal body of glory will be with the LORD forever; the unsaved in their eternal shame and torment separated from God forever. This life, heaven and earth will all be renewed to reflect this new reality of life.

Revelation 20:11-15

- 11 ¶ Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.
- 12 **And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne**, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the **dead were judged** from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.
- 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and **death and Hades gave up the dead** which were in them; and **they were judged, every one of them** according to their deeds.
- 14 Then **death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire**. This is the **second death, the lake of fire**.
- 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The believer's names that are written in the book of life will receive their eternal reward and join the saints of the 1st Resurrection; those not written in the book of life will join Satan and the rebellious angels in Hell, the Lake of Fire, Gehenna. This is the second death, the eternal state of the unsaved.

RESURRECTION: UNION of ETERNAL BODY and SPIRIT

Both New and Old Testaments teach a bodily resurrection. In fact the very definition of resurrection must be that of the body for it is the body that dies and decomposes, not the spirit. The body is made from the dust of the ground and will return to the dust at death.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Ecclesiastes 12:7

then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

The spirit at physical death will go to its intermediate state of existence. It is therefore the body that is raised. Resurrection implies immortality of the spirit for we see consciousness in the intermediate state and a conscious judgment after resurrection. Both New and Old Testaments teach the immortality of the spirit in man and the resurrection of man. In fact, resurrection is dependent upon the immortality of the spirit in man for without immortality there is no resurrection.

1 Samuel 2:6

"The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

Resurrection is a type of re-creation for if the spirit was not immortal there would be no resurrection but a creation of something that did not have prior existence. Resurrection is dependent upon a prior existence. While it is not the purpose of this study to prove immortality, Scriptures are clear in teaching the immortality of spirit.

Job 19:25-27

25 "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.

26 "Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;

27 Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!

Resurrection is re-union of the spirit with a *new* resurrected body of glory or shame. There is no resurrection without an immortal spirit and body.

2 Timothy 1:10

but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

The spirit of the "saved" return to the LORD and will remain with the LORD for all eternity and the spirit of the "lost" go to Hades where they await Final Judgment. Immortality does not mean indestructible by nature. The spirit in man is not destroyed by God because it cannot be annihilated but because God has determined He will not annihilate because man bears the very image and likeness of God himself.

Matthew 10:28

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are **unable to kill the soul**; but rather fear Him who is **able** to destroy **both soul** and body in Hell.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Jesus: The Resurrection First-Fruit

The Resurrection of Jesus is the first-fruit of all future resurrections; fulfillment of prophesy; proof that we too shall rise with Jesus. (Mt 28:5-10; Lk 24:5-6; 1Cor 15:6)

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 ¶ But now **Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits** of those who are asleep.

21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the **resurrection of the dead**.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ all will be made alive**.

23 **But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,**

Jesus is fulfillment of the Old Covenant holy day called Feast of First Fruits. Its celebration called for a wave sheaf offering on the first day after the Sabbath, the very day and time Jesus rose from the dead in 31AD after three full days and three full nights buried in the tomb. (See the study on *Crucifixion to Resurrection Timeline* in the Related Studies section).

Leviticus 23:10-12

10 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land which I am going to give to you and reap its harvest, then you shall **bring in the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest**.'

11 'He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD for you to be accepted; **on the day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it**.'

12 'Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, **you shall offer a male lamb** one year old **without defect for a burnt offering** to the LORD.'

Jesus was prophesied to rise from the dead on a Sunday, the first day of the week as evidenced through God's commanded Holy Day observances under written Torah or Mosaic Law. This sacrificial offering of the Lamb without spot or blemish represents the sinless life of Jesus acceptable to God as fulfillment, propitiation and redemption. The Resurrected Jesus is the first-fruit of God's Redemptive plan for man.

The 1st Resurrection: Bodily Glory for Believers

Only the saved in Christ, those with an indwelling of God the Holy Spirit will be Resurrected and Judged at the return of Messiah Jesus.

Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and **My reward [is] with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done**."

A reward of the believers will be our resurrected body and the glory of the body will be commensurate to our deeds while in the flesh. Much information on the Resurrection of

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Christ, the 1st Resurrection of believers, both the dead in Christ and those alive at His return is in 1 Corinthians 15 also called the Resurrection chapter; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is also 1st Resurrection for those alive upon the earth when Jesus returns.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-15

13 But we **do not want you to be uninformed**, brethren, about **those who are asleep**, so that you will **not grieve** as do the rest who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus**.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain** until the coming of the Lord, **will not precede those who have fallen asleep**.

Despite the proclamation of God for believers to not be uninformed, these three verses of Scripture which speak of 1st Resurrection have been twisted, maligned, and distorted to misinform, mislead and distort the truth of God by teaching soul sleep and rapture, neither of which are biblically based teachings. Asleep and sleep are metaphors for death and not indicative of a soul "sleeping" after death while awaiting the resurrection to life for we have reviewed a number of Scriptures that teach consciousness in the intermediate state.

Scriptures Teach Resurrection ... not rapture. All these verses teach when God returns to raise the dead, the living shall also be raised ... changed ... into eternal bodies of glory to be with the Lord always and forever. Let's continue with the flow of 1 Thessalonians 4 and pick this up again beginning with verse 16:

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a **shout**, with the **voice of [the] archangel** and with the **trumpet of God**, and the **dead in Christ will rise first**.

The Lord descends from the heavens with a shout (not a secret first rapture to take the church away) the voice of an archangel which is very loud as is the trumpet of God. A loud proclamation by God because this 1st Resurrection represents the **pinnacle** of the **Christian faith ... The First Resurrection of Believers! ... The dead rise first.**

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we who are alive and remain will be **caught up together with them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Unfortunately, the **RESURRECTION** is being **substituted** by some **cheap, non-biblical imitation** called **rapture**. This is the 1st Resurrection of believers who remain alive at the one and only second coming of the LORD to RESURRECT the dead first, then those who remain alive. First Corinthians 15 gives further details of the 1st Resurrection of believers who are alive upon the earth at the one and only Return of Jesus.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

1 Corinthians 15:51

¶ Behold, I tell you a **mystery**; **we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,**

The context and flow of 1 Corinthians 15 is FIRST RESURRECTION of believers at the one and only Return of Jesus. What is Paul calling a *mystery*? The fact that not all born again believers have to die ... **we will not all sleep** ... is the same as saying **we will not all die** ... to participate in the 1st Resurrection. God is saying what will happen to believers who **remain alive** at the one and only return of Jesus to Resurrect His faithful servants ... **we will all be changed** ... Why will those who remain alive at the one and only Second Coming of Jesus need to be changed? Because flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God and the mortal must change to immortal.

1 Corinthians 15:50-51

50 Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit** the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 ¶ Behold, I tell you a **mystery**; **we will not all sleep,** but we will all be changed,

Flesh and blood represent man's mortal, sinful nature and death. God's Kingdom represents immortal sinless life. Our eternal bodies will not be flesh and blood but immortal, eternal bodies of glory! The mystery that God brings to Light through Paul is some born again believers will not need to experience the pangs of death and burial to receive their Eternal Body of Glory at the 1st Resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:52

in a moment, in the **twinkling of an eye,** at the **last trumpet;** for the trumpet will sound, and the **dead will be raised imperishable,** and **we will be changed.**

Instantaneous change ... a moment ... the twinkling of an eye ... these terms expresses immediate change ... Faster than the blink of an eye, faster than a snap of a finger will the change come. This is the FIRST RESURRECTION ... the dead in Christ will rise first ... then those who remain alive will instantaneously change into their **imperishable bodies** ... **eternal glory** ... **1st RESURRECTION.**

1 Corinthians 15:53

For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The change that happens in the 1st Resurrection is the saints of God inherit their reward of an immortal, spiritual, and eternal body. Bodies of glory that will never die, never get sick, never decompose, wrinkle, fade, slow down, become ill, weak or break; one that will shine in glory forever. We can get an indication of the glory of the resurrected body by reviewing once again the depiction of glory in the transfiguration of Jesus in Matthew 17:2 and the glory of the angelic realm (Luke 2:9; Acts 12:7). Our bodily glory will probably be somewhere between the glory of the Lord and the glory of the angels.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Paul indicates our resurrected bodies will have a glory in 1 Corinthians 15:35-50. I will only provide a few verses here:

1 Corinthians 15:35, 40-42, 49-50

35 ¶ But someone will say, "**How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?**"

40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the **glory of the heavenly** is one, and the [glory] of the earthly is another.

41 There is one **glory** of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42 **So also is the resurrection of the dead.** It is sown a perishable [body,] it is **raised an imperishable** [body,]

49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the **image of the heavenly.**

50 Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit** the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The glory of the heavenly, eternal body at the 1st Resurrection is awesome indeed! Please dear children I beseech you ... do not accept the false and cheap substitute of rapture over the glory and eternal truth of the Resurrection! God's way is the better way and the foolishness of God is greater than the foolish wisdom of man. Just keep repeating until the truth and reality of God sinks in ...

Resurrection ... not rapture

RESURRECTION ... Not rapture

RESURRECTION ... NOT rapture

The 2nd Resurrection: Great White Throne Judgment

At the 2nd Resurrection all the unsaved since time began will be raised and stand before the Great White Throne of God for Judgment. There is no glory to the bodies of the unsaved for theirs is a foreboding of gloom and darkness or the Fires of Gehenna. There will be various degrees of punishment in Hell commensurate to their contempt for the Lord and their willful surrender to sin, wickedness and evil. The saved who did not participate in the 1st Resurrection will also stand before God in judgment to receive their just reward: eternal bodies of glory to be with the Lord for all eternity with all the rest of the saved of the 1st Resurrection.

Miraculous Resurrections: Unique Status

Jesus miraculously raised the dead as an evidence of His Messiahship, and Divinity.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Luke 7:20, 22

20 When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, '**Are You the Expected One**, or do we look for someone else?'"

22 And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: [the] BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, [the] lame walk, [the] lepers are cleansed, and [the] deaf hear, [the] **dead are raised up**, [the] POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.

The miracles, divine healings, raising the dead were evidences of the Deity and Messiahship of Jesus. The miraculous raising of the dead by Jesus and His Apostles and Disciples is **not an example** of the Resurrection of believers to Eternal Life. Those who were miraculously raised from the dead were raised in the same body of flesh and blood they had before they died. They lived the remainder of their after resurrection life as a mortal flesh and blood human, died and will rise again in the 1st Resurrection for I very seriously doubt miraculous resurrections of God would be of those who are lost.

Even the 1st Resurrection of Jesus had a special and unique purpose as the Lamb of God. Jesus was raised from the dead with the same body He died in and not His ultimate body of glory we see in Revelation 1:13-16.

John 20:27

Then He *said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

Jesus had the visible wounds of His crucifixion in His raised body. The description by Paul of our glorified bodies in 1 Corinthians 15 is clearly not the same but may be similar to our flesh and blood body. We will not bear the image of the earthy but the heavenly and I believe we will be recognizable to those who knew us as flesh and blood humans.

FINAL STATE

Eternal Death is Eternal Separation and the Final State of the lost souls who reject God and Jesus as the only means to Eternal Life. Hades is the *intermediate* place and state for unsaved souls awaiting Final Judgment. Hades is a place of torment and all those now in Hades will either be cast into **Gehenna**, referred to as the Lake of Fire and Second Death or into the Eternal Darkness or **Skotos**. The degree of punishment in all three places is consistent to the degree of wickedness, sin and evil as a flesh and blood human being. While some argue that Hades, Gehenna and Tartaroo is Hell, it becomes problematic to do so for Scripture draws distinction between the intermediate state of Hades with the eternal state of Hell, whether it be Gehenna Fire or Skotos, Darkness.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

We covered Hades already and will not rehash it again here, but rather discuss the other possible eternal states and places of punishment mentioned in Scripture. Final Judgment is after the Millennial Rule of Jesus with His saints and after the final rebellion of Gog and Magog led by Satan the Devil.

Revelation 20:7-8

- 7 When the thousand years are completed, **Satan will be released** from his **prison**,
- 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

Final Judgment before the Great White Throne of God is for the all the unsaved dead for all time; the angels who sinned and rebelled against God; all the saved after the 1st Resurrection. Let's now look at biblical punishments of unsaved men and angels.

Hell: Gehenna; Lake of Fire; 2nd Death

Scriptures have quite a bit to say about the Hell Fire of Gehenna which is synonymous with the Second Death and the Lake of Fire. Let's begin this section with the teachings of Jesus on Final Judgment as recorded in the synoptic gospels.

Fear of the Lord: The first lesson Jesus wants us to know concerning our final state.

Matthew 10:28

"Do not **fear <phobeo>** those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather **fear <phobeo>** Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in **Hell <geenna>**.

While it is quite the fad to say that fear of the Lord is reverence of the Lord, and it is, it is also genuine fear for the power, might and ability for Lord God to pass Judgment with the means to cast you into Hell. The Greek word translated as fear is φοβέω *phobeo* (fob-eh'-o) where we get our English word phobia. This fear is a real fear to flight due to terror, alarm and a fearful impetus for obedience. It is wrong for the so-called shepherds to distort this truth of God and teach it means exclusively reverence, for it does not. Phobeo appears about 100 times in the New Testament and is most certainly worth the time and effort to look up in your concordances to ascertain how it is used in Scripture. You will see it means real fear in addition to reverence.

A metaphor that Jesus uses to teach us about the seriousness, magnitude and the horrors of Hell is for us to *metaphorically* rip out a body part that is cause for sin. Coming to heaven a cripple is better than going to Hell intact. Jesus is absolutely not teaching us to dismember ourselves but is using the horror of dismemberment as an illustration of the greater horrors of Hell. There is very little fear of the Lord and even less fear of the reality and punishment of Hell being taught by professing Christian ministers and churches.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Matthew 5:29

"If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into **Hell <geenna>**.

There is such a serious and disturbing complacency in contemporary Christianity that I am genuinely troubled and fearful of the spiritual status of some claiming Salvation in Jesus. I am more fearful about the *shepherds* who are supposed to be teaching the Ways of the Lord. Woe to you says The LORD.

Jesus reveals the reality of *Spiritual Torah* as a rule of life for New Covenant Christians. The New Covenant Spirit of the Law that Jesus and the Apostles teach seems to be a non-existent entity in this era of apostasy and pseudochristianity. I can only pray the sleeping virgins awake before it is too late to realize they have no oil in their lamps which is symbolic for not having the Holy Spirit as our source of Light for Salvation. Read the Parable of the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins of Matthew 25, for it pictures the contemporary church.

Matthew 5:22

"But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery **Hell <geenna>**.

Spiritual Law of Christ magnifies the spiritual intent of Old Covenant written Torah. Though written Torah is dead, it died with Jesus upon the cross at Calvary; the Spirit of Torah is brought to Life and magnified through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 10:9-10

- 9 then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL." **He takes away <anaireo>** the first in order to establish the second.
- 10 By this will we have been **sanctified through the offering** of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Greek verb translated as *takes away* is *ανααιρεω anaireo* (an-ahee-reh'-o) which means to Kill, Slay, and put to death. Written Torah was killed when Jesus died and Spiritual Torah came to Life. (See the study on *Tithing: A New Covenant Doctrine?* <http://www.thelordschildren.org/tithe.htm>). Spiritual Torah is the way of life for New Covenant Christians, or at least should be.

Jesus has a special place in His heart for His true spiritual servants and teachers; and also has a special place reserved in Hell, the Black Darkness or Blackness of Darkness for the false teachers. Jesus holds His servants to a high standard and demands from them fruit commensurate with His special gifts. Jesus lambastes the Scribes, Pharisees and Sanhedrin, the spiritual leaders of Old Covenant Israel for their double standard and failure to feed God's children the truth of God's Word and the Ways of the LORD.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Matthew 23:15, 33

- 15 **"Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites**, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of **Hell <geenna>** as yourselves.
- 33 **"You serpents**, you **brood of vipers**, how will you escape the sentence of **Hell <geenna>?**

This is sobering for what will Jesus say and do to the shepherds of the New and better Covenant who do greater harm than the Old? If all that is not bad enough, look at the culprit that leads the march into the Fires of Hell.

James 3:6

And the **tongue is a fire**, the *very world of iniquity*; the tongue is set among our members as that which **defiles the entire body**, and **sets on fire** the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by **Hell <geenna>**.

Goodness, is there anyone else frightened by the Truth of God? Who among us has tamed his tongue? Dare I go into the litany of verses that demonstrate the evil of our words and the hurt and pain it causes us and others? Speaking the Word of God in truth and love causes' pain that leads to repentance, and the LORD says that is good.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

- 9 **I now rejoice**, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made **sorrowful to [the point of] repentance**; for you were made sorrowful according to [the will of] God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.
- 10 the sorrow that is according to [the will of] **God produces a repentance without regret**, [leading] to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Hell: Skotos; Black Darkness or Outer Darkness

The Greek phrase "*zophos skotos*" appears in two verses of Scripture and is translated as Black Darkness or Blackness of Darkness depending upon your bible translation. Here is the translation from the NASB95:

2 Peter 2:17

These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the **black <zophos> darkness <skotos>** has been reserved.

Jude 1:13

wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the **black <zophos> darkness <skotos>** has been reserved forever.

Both Apostles Jude and Peter confirm that there will be a conscious existence in a Black Darkness or Blackness of Darkness in Hell for men who deceive and pervert the Word of God or engage in doing so for personal profit motives. This is the place where

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

false teachers and false prophets, yes, the phony baloney televangelists, cultists, deceivers and the like who twist, distort and otherwise pervert the true Word of God are destined to spend eternity unless they repent. The doctrines specifically mentioned to earn Hell are those who deny to Divinity and Humanity of Messiah, the Theanthropos, the God-man; those who bring in destructive heresies; indulge in fleshly desires and corruption; who despise authority; are greedy and engage in marketing the gospel for personal profit; falsely teach grace as license to sin without fear of Judgment or penalty ... all popular teachings among pseudochristian groups.

From the context and descriptions of Black Darkness, it appears those sentenced here will be devoid of all forms of light and glory. Their eternal bodies will have absolutely Zero Glory! ... No GLORY or illumination to their eternal body and no light whatsoever in zophos skotos. I shudder at the thought and am incapable of imagining the torment associated with a place and existence totally absent and devoid of any light or glory. This is truly Hell! I get chills just thinking about it for this is punishment for men in my called vocation. Now this Scripture has greater weight and meaning:

James 3:1

¶ Let not many [of you] become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a **stricter judgment**.

Stricter Judgment is an understatement for sure. Be diligent in teaching the things of the LORD. Jesus also teaches an *exoteros skotos*, Outer Darkness, eternal punishment in Hell.

Matthew 8:12

but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the **outer <exoteros> darkness <skotos>**; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 22:13

"Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the **outer <exoteros> darkness <skotos>**; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 25:30

"Throw out the worthless slave into the **outer <exoteros> darkness <skotos>**; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Sons of the Kingdom refer to the teachers of Old Covenant written Torah specifically and Old Covenant Israel generally. Jesus and the Apostles include the Teachers under New Covenant, and Spiritual Israel as well. There are two places in Scripture Skotos could be referring to: Tartaroo is the likeliest candidate or it could also be referring to the Abyss. Both of these locations are exclusively for the imprisoned angels, but that will all change at Final Judgment. Let's begin with examining Scripture on the Abyss.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

The Abyss: Abussos; Bottomless

The Abyss is mentioned in eight verses in Revelation and once in Luke and Romans. The Abyss has the sense of being a jail or prison for angels who sin against God by rebellion and also possessing human beings, a very serious crime in the angelic realm. While I will not go in-depth on this subject of the punishment of angels in this writing, I plan to publish a future study on the angelic realm to hopefully bring to light the true biblical teaching on angels, dispel myths and false doctrines concerning angels, especially those that teach men will become angelic beings after death, for that is pure poppycock ... Scriptures teach no such doctrine.

It appears the penalty for angelic possession of humans is the Abyss or Tartaroo which is another prison or cell deep within the innermost and darkest place of the Abyss. Both places appear to be jail for incarcerated angels awaiting Final Judgment. We get a hint of this with the demonic spirits called Legion who speaks with Jesus in Luke 8.

Luke 8:31

They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the **abyss** **<abussos>**.

Legion is many demonic and evil spirits who plea to Jesus not to sentence them to the Abyss before their appointed time of torment. A single Word from Jesus puts these demonic spirits away, unlike the fiction of Hollywood where it seems the demons possess the power. Jesus shows mercy even to the demons and allows them to enter the swine and occupy their carcass. The book of Romans also makes reference to the Abyss. This verse in Romans is quoting Deuteronomy 30:13 as translated by the LXX (Septuagint) and probably reads differently from your Old Covenant Scriptures.

Romans 10:7

or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE **ABYSS <abussos>?**' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)."

In context, this section of Scripture is referencing the powers and prerogatives of God with the Resurrection and Second Coming of Messiah Jesus. The intent is for believers to not concern themselves with the work and workings of God for God is Faithful and True. God will see to our deliverance and security upon death and our Resurrection to Life exactly as He did with Messiah Jesus. The primary message is our Salvation is based upon faith in God the Faithful and True.

Hebrews 13:20

Now the **God of peace**, who **brought up from the dead the great Shepherd** of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, [even] Jesus our Lord,

The Abyss is the location of very evil spirits and the Beast of Revelation whose Lord and Ruler is the "Angel of the Abyss," Abaddon (Destruction) or Apollyon (Destroyer).

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

Revelation 9:11

They have as king over them, the **angel of the abyss**; his name in Hebrew is **Abaddon**, and in the Greek he has the name **Apollyon**.

The Abyss is the abode of the Beast and the place where Satan, the Red Dragon will be bound 1,000 years and can no longer deceive the nations and peoples of the earth.

Revelation 20:1-3

1 ¶ Then I saw an **angel coming down from heaven**, holding the key of the **abyss** and a **great chain** in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years**;

3 and he **threw him into the abyss**, and **shut it** and **sealed it** over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, **until the thousand years were completed**; after these things he must be released for a short time.

At Final Judgment, it seems all the inhabitants of the Abyss are removed for Final Judgment and are sentenced to Gehenna for their eternal punishment and torment. Could the Abyss and/or Tartaroo which will both be emptied at Final Judgment become the place of Outer Darkness spoken about by Jesus and the Black Darkness of Peter and Jude? Both eternal Fire and Darkness are places of punishment for man.

Tartaroo

Tartaroo is presented as the subterranean region of the deepest and darkest location within the Abyss; incarceration for angels who left their first domain and sinned against God.

Jude 6

And **angels who did not keep their own domain**, but **abandoned their proper abode**, He has kept in **eternal bonds** under **darkness <zophos>** for the judgment of the great day,

Angels leaving their first domain appears to mean demonic possession of humans, a most grievous crime in the angelic realm. Tartaroo incarcerates fallen angels guilty of highly serious offenses and crimes against God and man until Final Judgment and sentence to Hell Fire for all eternity.

2 Peter 2:4

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, **but cast them down to Hell <tartaroo>**, and delivered *them* into chains of **darkness <zophos>**, to be **reserved unto judgment**;

There is no intermediate state for angels as there are for humans in Hades but there are equivalent holding cells while they await Final Judgment and for some angels Tartaroo appears that place. Tartaroo is the place of Well-Fed or Fattened σιτευτος

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

siteutos (sit-yoo-ros') Darkness, translated as chains in 2 Peter 2:4. The sense of this description is consistent with the punishment described as Black Darkness of Tartaroo and the Darkness of the Abyss.

Jude 1:13

wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the **black <zophos> darkness <skotos>** has been reserved forever.

2 Peter 2:17

These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the **black <zophos> darkness <skotos>** has been reserved.

Tartaroo is the most likely the place of confinement and punishment for angels who left their first estate before they go to their Final Judgment in the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:10

And **the devil** who deceived them was **thrown into the lake of fire** and brimstone, where **the beast** and **the false prophet** are also; and they will be **tormented** day and night **forever and ever**.

Salvation Prior To Jesus

Some people improperly believe all those who lived and died prior to the Jesus are eternally lost. This is false for Scripture themselves demonstrate there is Salvation prior to Jesus. All humans regardless of when they lived obtain Salvation without exception in the exact same manner: by *grace* through *faith* in *Messiah Jesus*.

The Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus and our Redemption to Life by Jesus goes as far back to the first man created, Adam and unendingly forward to the last human born covering everyone in between. Let's examine Scripture to see how this is accomplished.

We know through Scripture that Torah (written Law, Mosaic Law) did not save anyone for the sacrifice and blood of goats and animals could not cleanse from sin only identify their filth in sin.

Hebrews 10:4

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Those who say there was an Old Testament means to Salvation and a New Testament means are unlearned in Scripture and the Ways of the Lord. Jesus has a specific beginning in His incarnate human birth, then if no one was saved by Torah, Mosaic Law and Jesus has a specific beginning in space and time, then how could people possibly be saved before Jesus' Incarnation? A fair question and one that God answers in His holy Word the bible. It is very clear in Scripture that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, Moses and some others have Salvation for they are specifically and prominently recorded in New Testament Scripture as saved.

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

How is it they are saved for they all died prior to the birth of Jesus? And what about the heathens who never heard the name Messiah or Jesus, are any of them saved? The answer is YES! ... According to the Word of God and the Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35) as affirmed by Jesus. I will briefly overview what Scriptures teach concerning Salvation of the Patriarchs of the Old Testament and those who never heard the name of Jesus. Let's begin with Abraham.

Genesis 15:6

Then he believed in the LORD; and **He reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

Romans 4:3

For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS **CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**"

God **credited, reckoned or accounted** the **faithful acts** of belief and obedience to the Salvation side of the ledger where the sacrifice of Jesus will be applied or accounted for Salvation. Preceding Jesus in life means waiting on Jesus for grace and Life. **Salvation is a pure act of God's grace**, for no one, including those of the New Covenant is free from sin.

Romans 3:9-10

9 What then? **Are we better than they? Not at all**; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;
10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

Anyone under the New Covenant who claims they are without sin because of grace God calls a liar and says the His Truth is not in them.

1 John 1:8

¶ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

We have already demonstrated that all human beings that have ever lived will stand before God in Judgment and give an accounting for all we have done in the flesh. Since the time of Adam, God made known a *coming* Redeemer who will restore man to his right relationship with God.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

Oral traditions as passed down from Adam spread throughout the earth. That is why and how other cultures have similar beliefs and traditions to the origins of man and the truths of God while others stand in stark opposition to God and His Ways. God has

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

always provided humans regardless of when they lived general or specific revelation of Him, that He exists and is a rewarder of those who believe and follow Him.

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His **invisible attributes**, His **eternal power** and **divine nature**, **have been clearly seen**, being understood through what has been made, so that they are **without excuse**.

God will hold to account all people commensurate to the degree of revelation He provides. Condemnation and Salvation is appropriate to all people for all time. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone, so who are we to place limits upon God's grace and the eternal name of Jesus? God credited Noah and his family earthly salvation from destruction and graciously applies the Sacrifice of Jesus to him for Eternal Salvation. They are not alone for there are others before and after that God in His abounding grace will apply the blood of Jesus for Salvation, not ever knowing the name Jesus themselves. Man's limitations do not limit upon God.

Acts 4:12

"And there is salvation in no one else; **for there is no other name under heaven** that has been given among men by which **we must be saved**."

It is the name of and person of Jesus who saves. If God chose to withhold that name to someone does that limit the name and person of Jesus from saving the one whose name God withheld? No, it does not as long as the person walks in faith in accordance to what God has revealed, for it is only by grace through faith that any are saved.

Romans 4:16

For this reason [it is] **by faith**, in order that [it may be] **in accordance with grace**, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

For those who lived by faith before the name of Jesus and act in faith to believe God and obey God by what He has given them God applies the name of Jesus to their account. This truth of God precedes the name and faith of Abraham as well.

Romans 5:19

For as through the **one man's disobedience the many were made sinners**, even so **through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous**.

The fact of God's grace is this: No one has the right to *claim grace* for God is under *no obligation* to give grace ... ever! For if God is under obligation then grace is no longer grace but payment for earned works and something to be claimed. Grace is a pure Freewill act of God and nobody has the authority to demand from God why or why not His grace. If any of you believe you have a *claim* upon saving grace you will have your

Personal Eschatology: What Happens When You Die?

opportunity to state your case before the Lord at Judgment, but I suggest you think long and hard about that before you do.

Final State of the Saved

A whole new reality of life is established by God after Final Judgment. The ending of God's redemptive plan of Salvation is a new beginning for man. There will be a new heaven and earth for the former ones has passed away.

Revelation 21:1-5

1 ¶ **Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth**; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer [any] sea.

2 And I saw the **holy city, new Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "**Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men**, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

4 and **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes**; and there will **no longer be any death**; there **will no longer be any mourning**, or **crying**, or **pain**; the first things have passed away."

5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "**Write, for these words are faithful and true.**"

This is merely a hint of our new reality of life where there is no more death, pain, suffering, weeping for the fallen world of sin, death and evil are no more ... GONE.

What this new reality of life is we cannot even imagine or conceive but it is superior to and greater than any fantasy our minds can conceive.

1 Corinthians 2:9

but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND [which] HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

Amen!

APPENDIX LINKS

A-Death Exegesis http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/pdfs/death.pdf
B-Life Exegesis http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/pdfs/life-a.pdf
C-Heaven Exegesis http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/pdfs/hvn-parA.pdf

RELATED STUDIES

Main Bible Study http://thelordschildren.org/bible_study/biblestudy.htm
Topical Studies http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/topical.htm
Expository Studies http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/exposit.htm

Where Did Jesus Go? <http://www.thelordschildren.org/jcHell.htm>
Crucifixion-Resurrection <http://www.thelordschildren.org/Fri-Sun.htm>
Paradise & Heaven http://www.thelordschildren.org/bible_study/pdfs/hvn-par.pdf
Judgment and Hell <http://www.thelordschildren.org/judgment.htm>
 A-Judge Scriptures <http://www.thelordschildren.org/judge.htm>
 B-Annihilation or ... <http://www.thelordschildren.org/Hell.htm>
 C-Sheol OT <http://www.thelordschildren.org/Hell-ot.htm>
 D-Hades NT <http://www.thelordschildren.org/Hell-nt.htm>
Rapture of Rapture <http://www.thelordschildren.org/rapture.htm>
True Blessed Hope <http://www.thelordschildren.org/blessedhope.htm>
Tribulation-Elect <http://www.thelordschildren.org/trib-elect.htm>
Resurrection Index <http://www.thelordschildren.org/resurrection.htm>