

WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This subject has, been much discussed by learned men
- B. I realize that this lesson will not put to rest all questions but maybe it will help us to understand more fully this perplexing question.

DISCUSSION:

I. IS DEATH ALL THERE IS (death means separation)

- A. Man has an immortal soul - an intity Or being that man cannot destroy Matt 10:28; 16:26
 - 1. Armstrongs; J. W.; Adventist; etc. notwithstanding
 - 2. "Plain Truth" (Armstrong) "The soul is earthly, temporal, transitory, fleshly and subject to death"
- B. From a study of the word "soul" (psuche) and "spirit" (pneuma,) from Vines & Thayer it is evident that these words can be variously defined.
 - 1. Soul = breath, a living being, seat of feeling desires, affections etc.
 - 2. Spirit = Wind, breath of nostrils and mouth, the vital principle, by which the body is animated.
 - 3. Definition according to Bible usage determined by context.
- C. Eccl 9:5 "Dead know not anything" must be kept in context.
 - 1. Context deals with this life. And remember death is a separation. When separated from this life we know nothing about this life
 - 2. Spirit is not dead and knows what is happening in the spirit realm.
- D. Rich man & Lazarus Lk 16:19-31 whether parable, allegory or historical account illustrates life after death for both good and bad.
- E. God is the God of the living not the dead
 - 1. Matt 17:3 these had been dead for many years
 - 2. Matt 22:31,32 as it relates to Ex 3:6
 - 3. "I am IN this tabernacle" - not I AM this tabernacle 2Pet 1:13,14

II. FIRST STATE OF SOUL OR SPIRIT OF MAN

- A. Spirit is united with a physical body in the kingdom of nature Gen 1:26
- B. In this kingdom the individual who reaches the age of accountability enters one of two kingdoms that exist within the kingdom of nature.
 - 1. Kingdom of Satan or power of darkness Col 1:13
 - a. Enter without effort Jas 1:13-18 simply a failure to obey the gospel 2Thes 1:8, 9
 - b. Leave by obedience to gospel or death.
 - 2. Kingdom of Christ Col 1:13 -
 - a. Enter by obedience Rom. 6:17 remain by faithfulness 2Pet 1:4-11
 - b. Die faithful or unfaithful
- C. Next state depends on which state we die in here.

III. SECOND STATE OF SOUL OR SPIRIT

- A. Death separates soul from body and from kingdom of nature Eccl 12:7
- B. Infant, alien, faithful & unfaithful enter by death
- C. Bible refers to this place as Hades (N. T.) Sheol (O. T.)
 - 1. Grave & Hades not the same Rev 20:14, 15 (ASV)
 - 2. Grave = the receptacle of the body - "grave" = a memorial or record; something done to preserve the memory of things and persons

- 3. HADES the unseen world Matt 16:18 (ASV); Acts 2:27,31 (ASV)
- 4. The deep Rom 10:7; Lk 8:31 Vines = the underworld the lower regions.-the abyss (bottomless pit) of sheol ("Sheol" Hebrew translated "grave in some passages)
- D. Two compartments in hades or the unseen realm - the receptacle of the disembodied spirit (Thayer)
 - 1. Paradise Lk 23:43 consider with Acts 2:27.31; 2Cor. 12:1-4
 - a. Paradise = park,- garden ground, oriental word denoting the parks of Persian kings & -nobles - used in reference to Garden of Eden in Gen 2:8 (in Septuagint version) #3 that part of Hades which was thought (by later Jews) to be the abode of the souls of the pious until the resurrection. #4 An upper region in the heavens (Thayer)
 - b. Rev 6:9,10 souls under the altar while some still on the earth.
 - c. Lazarus pictured in Abraham's bosom Lk 16:22 place of comfort while some still on earth
 - 2. Tartarus the name of a subterranean dark region ancient Greeks regarded as the abode of the wicked dead (Thayer) 2Pet 2:4 only place this word is used (several versions use "Tartarus" for "hell")
 - a. Rich man in torment Lk 16:23 - this is before the final judgement Lk 16:27-31
 - b. Chains of darkness 2Pet 2:4-9; Jude 1:6 NOTE: "reserved UNTO judgement"
 - c. The deep Lk 8:31 devils did not want to be cast there indicates an undesirable place.
- E. No chance for corrections or change in this state Lk 16:26

IV. THIRD STATE OF SOUL OR- SPIRIT (FINAL STATE)

- A. Resurrections reunites spirit and body (not fleshly body but spiritual one) 1Cor 15:35-53 Jhn 5:28,29; Acts 24:15; Rev 20:12, 13
- B. Enter this state after judgement or after the time of sentencing. Note: our life. determines the sentence received 2Cor 5:10; Matt 25:31,32; Acts 17:31
- C. This state divided into two compartments also.
 - 1. Wicked to hell Matt 25:41,46; Rev 20:15; 21:8
 - a. Gehenna Matt 10:28; 18:9; 23:33 = Valley of Hinnom, a valley outside Jerusalem so called because of the cries of little children thrown into the fiery arms of Moloc after this practice was abolished by king Josiah 2Ki 23:10 they used this valley as a garbage dump and even for criminals who were not burned. It burned constantly so the air might not become tainted with the putrefaction.
 - b. Fire never quenched Mk 9:43, 44
 - c. Everlasting punishment Matt 25:46
 - d. Outer darkness Matt 25:30
 - 2. Righteous go to Heaven - a word with various definitions or various usages to denote diff. places
 - a. O. T. rolling clouds, thin clouds, most used in reference to "heaved up things"
 - b. N. T. most used; sky, air 1Pet 1:4; Acts 14:17; 26:13 most N. T. references are dirivities of this same root word (ouranos)

- c. 1Thes 4:17 "air" comes from (aer) atmosphere
 - d. Thayer #2 the region above the sidereal (starry) heavens, the seat of an order of things eternal and consummately perfect, where God dwells and the other heavenly beings Matt 5:10,45
 - e. Kingdom prepared from foundation of world Matt 25:34
 - f. Life eternal Matt 25:46
 - g. Described in Rev 21
3. Hell is just as eternal as Heaven Matt 25:46

CONCLUSION:

- A. The only state or realm in which man has a choice as to which realm he desires to be in is kingdom of nature
- B. The question is: Do we really believe what the Scriptures say about the eternal abode of the spirit?
- C. If you believe it, then what preparations are you making toward insuring your soul's eternal happiness?
- D. Remember when you die your destiny is sealed and your soul will go to the appropriate holding place to await the judgement where the sentence will be passed
- E. What would your sentence be if you should die now?