

Program: SS Panel 2024 2 Q

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Lesson Title: #10 Spiritualism Exposed

Section title: Tuesday - Death in the New Testament

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Lesson 10

*June 1–7

Spiritualism Exposed

Sabbath Afternoon

Read for This Week’s Study: *Matt. 10:28; Eccles. 9:5; Isa. 8:19, 20; John 11:11–14, 21–25; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rev. 16:13, 14; Matt. 24:23–27; 2 Thess. 2:9–12.*

Memory Text: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, NKJV).

Tuesday

June 4

Death in the New Testament

Read John 11:11–14, 21–25; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Corinthians 15:51–54; and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. How does the New Testament writers' description of death compare with that in the Old Testament?

John 11:11–14 11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.”
12 Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.”
13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.
14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”

The resurrection at the last day

John 11:21–25 21 Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.
22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”
23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”
24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in **the resurrection at the last day.**”
25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

at the last day

John 6:39-40 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.
40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

at the last day

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

at the last day

John 6:54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Two resurrections

John 5:28-29 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

2 Timothy 1:10 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

this mortal *must* put on immortality

1 Corinthians 15:51–54 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

the dead in Christ will rise first

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 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 by no means precede those who are asleep.

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

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

Both the Old and New Testaments use the symbolism of death as a sleep. At least fifty-three times in the Bible the word "sleep" is equated with death. The Bible writers concur that there is no conscious existence in an immortal soul that leaves the body immediately after death.

The New Testament adds an additional dimension, one already hinted at in the Old: the glorious resurrection at Christ's return.

The Gospels emphasize that eternal life is in Christ alone. All the demons in hell cannot rob believers of their assurance of eternal life. Christ conquered death on the cross. The grave can no longer hold its victims. Christ's resurrection is the guarantee that all believers will one day be resurrected from the grave at His return.

****READ****

Look at these words of Paul: "For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished" (1 Cor. 15:16–18, NKJV). How does one make any sense of these verses if the dead, at death, are already in the bliss of heaven? What does Paul mean that they "have perished" if, in fact, they are already in heaven?

Instead, Paul's whole point is that Christ's resurrection is the foundation of our resurrection, and that without the resurrection, "your faith is futile; you are still in your sins," and the dead remain in the ground, perished.

These verses fit in perfectly with other Bible texts about the hope we have in the resurrection at Jesus' return, when we will receive the "inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Pet. 1:4, NKJV). If, however, the dead are already in heaven, why does Peter speak of an inheritance "reserved in heaven" for us? Clearly, New Testament believers eagerly looked forward to the coming of Christ and the resurrection of the dead, and this hope inspired them to faithfulness in the trials of life.

1 Corinthians 15:19-23 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

The Last Enemy Destroyed

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have [d]fallen asleep. 21 For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are Christ's at His coming.***

Why is the resurrection such a powerful hope for the Christian faith?
What if we had the cross but no resurrection? What hope would we have?
Why, then, is the resurrection such an important part of our faith?