



The Book of Job Lesson 5 4Q 2016

Curse the Day

A Preface: Depression

- a. Dr. Wendell Moses is an orthopaedic surgeon, not a member of the mental health community – He is a poor spokesman for mental health treatment indications, recommendations or results
- b. Mental health should be treated like any other illness
 - Like any other organ system, there are structural, chemical and functional impairments that occur
- c. Historically many Christians avoid mental health care
 - Especially true of my heritage in the Seventh-day Adventist church
- d. There are organizations that can refer you to a Christian mental health professional should you need care

Texts for the Week:

- Job 3:1 - 10 Curse the day I was born, it isn't for rejoicing
- John 11:11 - 14 Lazarus is asleep (dead)
- Job 6:1 - 3 My life is miserable, I wish I could die (I need compassion)
- Job 7:1 - 11 My life drags slowly on without benefit, it is misery
- James 4:14 Your life is like a puff of smoke, here & then disappears
- Job 7:17 - 21 Why does God pay attention to me
- Psalms 8:4 - 6 What is man that God thinks of him? Pays him a lot of attention.

SABBATH

Memory Text: Revelation 4:11

"Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory, honor, and power. For you created all things, and by your will they were given existence and life." GNT

- Glory
 - 1. high renown or honor won by notable achievements.
 - "to fight and die for the glory of one's nation"
 - synonyms: renown, fame, prestige, honor, distinction, kudos, eminence, acclaim, praise
 - magnificence; great beauty.
 - "the train has been restored to all its former glory"
 - synonyms: magnificence, splendor, resplendence, grandeur, majesty, greatness, nobility
- Honor
 - High respect



- Power
 - That is the scariest attribute in the wrong hands
- We have two advantages that Job did not have:
 - Knowing how it ends
 - Knowing the background, the cosmic conflict operating behind the scenes.

Did Adam know of the conflict? Did he share it with anyone?

Bottom of the page:

“who among us, born of human flesh in a fallen world, doesn’t know something of the perplexity that tragedy and suffering brings, **especially** when we seek to serve the Lord faithfully and do what is right in His sight?”

Is it better in this life to be a Christian or not?

What are the advantages? What are the disadvantages?

Cosmically we know how it ends; the real question is personal... Will it end well for me?

- Jacob’s time of trouble?
- “Be careful lest ye fall”
- Luke 11:34 “Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.”
- 2 Peter 3:17 “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.”
- Philippians 4:6 KJV “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
- Philippians 4:7 KJV “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
- GNT : Philippians 4:6, 7 “Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God’s peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.”
- 2 Peter 3:17, 18 “But you, my friends, already know this. Be on your guard, then, so that you will not be led away by the errors of lawless people and fall from your safe position. But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen.”

We have forgotten, don’t believe, or misread Romans 8: All three members of the Godhead are working on our behalf

- The word with
 - Opposition, against (fight with his brother)
 - Participant (works with his father)



Romans 8:23 (GNT) “But it is not just creation alone which groans; we who have the Spirit as the first of God’s gifts also groan within ourselves as we wait for God to make us his children and set our whole being free.

Romans 8:31 - 35 “If God is for us, who can be against us? Certainly not God, who did not even keep back his own Son, but offered him for us all! He gave us his Son—will he not also freely give us all things? Who will accuse God’s chosen people? God himself declares them not guilty! Who, then, will condemn them? Not Christ Jesus, who died, or rather, who was raised to life and is at the right side of God, pleading with him for us! Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger or death?”

SUNDAY

Let the Day Perish

John Denver’s song: I’m Sorry

It's cold here in the city
It always seems that way
And I've been thinking about you almost everyday
Thinking about the good times
Thinking about the rain
Thinking about how bad it feels alone again
I'm sorry for the way things are in China
I'm sorry things ain't what they used to be
But more than anything else
I'm sorry for myself
'Cause you're not here with me
Our friends all ask about you
I say you're doing fine
And I expect to hear from you almost anytime
But they all know I'm crying
And I can't sleep at night
They all know I'm dying down deep inside
I'm sorry for all the lies I told you
I'm sorry...

Job 3:1 -10

Third paragraph:

“The world has no meaning. As we have seen, though, this answer doesn’t work for the believer in God. And for Job, a faithful follower of the lord, this answer didn’t work either.



But what was the answer, what was the explanation? Job didn't have one. All he had was his extreme grief and all the questions that inevitably accompanied it."

Can anyone know unless the "curtain" is pulled away?

4th Paragraph (right after the Read the Text section)

- Life, of course, is a gift from God. **We exist only because God has created us (Acts 17:28; Rev 4:11).**"
- God created life and gave this as a give of creatorship to man.
 - You were created by –
 - Act of love
 - Selfish indulgence
 - Rape / incest
 - Your genetic makeup was determined by inheritance

Bottom pink section:

"Have you ever felt the way Job felt here, that is, wishing you had never been born? Eventually, though, what happened? Of course, you felt better. How important it is for us to remember that, even in our worst moments, **we have the hope, the prospect, of things improving.**"

Often, not in this lifetime. Many of my patients and families will not have it any better until their bodies are made new in Heaven.

Many of the people living in devastatingly poor countries such as Haiti have little hope of things improving. Especially this is true after the recent hurricane.

I see little of "things improving" listed in Christ's sermon on the mount with His description of the beatitudes.

Christ said the life of the genetically blind was for the praise of God

- John 9:3 (GNT) "Jesus answered, "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him."
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 "But his answer was: "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me."



MONDAY

Rest in the Grave

Job 3:11 - 26

1st paragraph

“Job lost all his children. All of them. It’s hard enough to imagine the pain of losing one child. Job lost them all. And he had ten! No wonder he wished that he were dead. And again, Job had no idea of the background behind it all, **not that it would have made him feel better had he know, would it.**”

Did Job know any idea behind it all? Does knowing the background help us?

“Our Friends, we want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13

Does knowing the future always help us? In what way? Why do we have prophecy? To know what is going to happen?

No, to know that God is the kind of person HE truly is when things are fulfilled as HE has said.

- John 8:28
- Ezekiel 32:15
- Ezekiel 6:13
- Luke 21:28 (encouragement)
- Luke 21:31 (encouragement)
- John 13:19 (that Jesus is the Messiah)
- John 14:29 (that we may believe in Him)

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6 and John 11:11 - 14 The state of the dead

We usually don’t quote the clinically depressed with the maxims of life. Job’s descriptions of his demise is a poor basis for deep spiritual insights. The tired old king Solomon (author of Ecclesiastes) was discouraged after a life that was largely wasted with poor choices. He, also, is an unlikely leader of thought for all things spiritual.

It is not just one proof text which is the basis for my understanding on what happens with human “death”

- The beginning of creation of man
- The way the kings of Judah are described as sleeping in death
- The statements of Job and Solomon
- In the book of Isaiah, the dead do not praise God. Isaiah 26, 38, 41, 57
- The benediction by the angel to Daniel at the close of his book is for a reward for faithful



service at the resurrection and a meeting of Daniel with God then, no before.

- The description throughout the book of Psalms talks about the difference between praising God while alive, and absence of praise in death.
- All but one of Christ's statements on death describe the reward at the resurrection, not upon death.
- Christ's promise of eternal life in John 3:16 tells us that without this gift, we will not live forever.
- Peter describes David as still present in his tomb with the people of his day in Acts 2:29 & 34
- When Stephen was stoned he "fell asleep"
- Paul's reference to the church members dying as falling asleep.
- Paul's discussion regarding death and resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4 do not make any sense if there is immediate transport to heaven at death.
- In Philippians 3 Paul is looking forward to the resurrection from the dead, not meeting Christ before then.
- In Colossians 3:4 it is when Christ appears that we will appear with Him in glory. It is after the resurrection.
- In 1 Timothy 6 Paul states that only God is immortal.
- 2 Timothy 1:9, 10 It is through the gospel that immortality is revealed. We do not have the ability to live forever without it.
- In Hebrews 11, it is the resurrection that was the reward for the martyrs, not the immediate presence of God. "None of them received their reward." It will be given to them at the same time as the rest of us. Heb 11:39, 40
- Jude 6, 14, 15 There is a judgment and reward at the end of earth's history.
- Revelation 20:12, 13 Everyone is judged after the resurrection

Negro Spiritual: Soon-a Will Be Done

"No more weeping and a wailing
I am going to live with God"

TUESDAY

Other People's Pain

Third paragraph:

"We don't suffer in groups. We don't suffer anyone's pain but our own. We know only our own pain, only our own suffering."

And then the last sentence of the next paragraph: "every fallen being who has ever lived can know only his or her own pain and no more."

Bottom Highlighted area:



“Dwell more on this idea that human suffering is limited to each individual. How does this help you (if it does) to look at the troubling issue of human suffering in a somewhat different light?”

The string theory of human interaction is a bit bizarre to me, but to be human is to share in other people’s grief and troubles.

- “Bear one another’s burdens”

In the teachers comments on page 65:

“How can I maintain empathy in the face of nonstop news images that document human suffering around the world?”

- Desensitization
 - One of the ways we survive emotionally in the medical field is to make varying degrees of separation between ourselves and our patients
- We have to guard against a complete loss of human connection and sympathy
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 “All of us, then, reflect the glory of the Lord with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from the Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us into his likeness in an ever greater degree of glory.”
 - This works in both good ways and bad
 - This is how we are made
 - It is a natural law that we become like to what we pay attention.

WEDNESDAY

The Weaver’s Shuttle

Job 7:1 - 11

“I give up; I am tired of living. Leave me alone. My life makes no sense.” Job 7:16:

“How short you have made my life! In your sight my lifetime seems nothing. Indeed every living being is no more than a puff of wind” Psalms 39:5 (GNT)

“You don’t even know what our life tomorrow will be! You are like a puff of smoke, which appears for a moment and then disappears.” James 4:14 (GNT)

The lesson emphasizes the brevity of life from these texts. Read paragraph 5 “A Seventh-day Adventist woman wrote an article about. . .”

“Sometimes, amid our pain, reason and rationality go by the wayside, and all we know is our hurt and fear, and we see no hope.”



Highlighted area:

“How should your understanding of the Fall, of death, and of the promise of the resurrection help you to put into perspective the whole question of how fast life goes by?”

I do not think this is about understanding. This is about experiential living. Since we do not have an awareness of the future, all we have to see relatively clearly is the past. It is difficult to drive if all we look at is the rear view mirror.

THURSDAY

“Mah Enosh?” (What is Man?)

Read the first paragraph. Job didn't know what was happening. We don't either

“Why are people so important to you? Why pay attention to what they do? You inspect them every morning and test them every minute.” Job 7:17 - 21 (GNT)

- Mah Enosh - What is man?
- Who are we?
- Why are we here?

- Job's perspective:
- Why are bad things happening to him?
- What purpose to his life?

Full Definition of love (From Miriam-Webster Dictionary)

1. strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties <maternal love for a child>
2. attraction based on sexual desire : affection and tenderness felt by lovers
3. affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests <love for his old schoolmates>
an assurance of affection <give her my love>
warm attachment, enthusiasm, or devotion <love of the sea>
the object of attachment, devotion, or admiration <baseball was his first love>
a beloved person : darling —often used as a term of endearment (2) British —used as an informal term of address

unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another: as (1) : the fatherly concern of God for humankind (2) : brotherly concern for others

- a person's adoration of God
- a god or personification of love
- an amorous episode : love affair
- the sexual embrace : copulation
- a score of zero (as in tennis)
- capitalized Christian Science : god

John 3:16 & 1 John 3:1



Read last paragraph

Beholding God's love

- That is the best thing ever.
- That is endless
- That is the basis for God's government

Additional Notes:

Life and Death or the State of Man

The Biblical definition of death is different than what we typically understand death to be. Both in the old and new testament the concept of death is not portrayed as it is in our current culture and media.

John 8:51;11:25, 26 - Christ's followers will never die

John 11:11 - 14 Lazarus was asleep

Mark 5:22 - 43 Dead child was 'asleep'

Obviously, Christ's understandings of what constituted death is not the physical "death" of the human body.

Genesis 2:7 - body+breath of life = living being

Genesis 3:1-10 (serpent/devil said you will not die) The lie by the serpent/devil in Gen 3:4 of "you will not die" has been believed by many. It is not the truth.

Deut 18:10 - 12 You are not to 'practice black magic, be a fortuneteller, witch, or sorcerer,' "cast spells, ask ghosts or spirits for help, or consult the dead."

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10 The living know what is going on in the world but not the dead

Isaiah 26:14

"They are now dead, they live no more;

those departed spirits do not rise.

You punished them and brought them to ruin;

you wiped out all memory of them." What happens to the wicked in the end (at the end of this world/age). They are no more. Their spirits do not rise a second time. They are completely forgotten.

Isaiah 26:19-21

"But your dead will live;

their bodies will rise.

You who dwell in the dust,

wake up and shout for joy.

Your dew is like the dew of the morning;

the earth will give birth to her dead.

Go, my people, enter your rooms



and shut the doors behind you;
hide yourselves for a little while
until his wrath has passed by.

See, the Lord is coming out of his dwelling
to punish the people of the earth for their sins.

The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her;
she will conceal her slain no longer." The righteous dead are asleep and will live again in the future, at the close of time of Christ's coming.

Isaiah 38:10-20 describes living vs dead, dead do not praise God. They are not in His presence singing Hallelujah or any other praise.

Isaiah 41:11, 12 the wicked. dead disappear from the earth and cannot be found, the wicked will no longer exist

Isaiah 57:1, 2 The righteous person lies in rest in his deathbed asleep in peace (spared of evil - NIV)

Job 7:7-10 The dead do not come back again to the land of the living or to be recognized. They don't interact with the living. (verses 4 - 8 talk about his impending death) (think about this the next time you hear a ghost story; who or what are we seeing?)

Job 14:10 - 14, 12, 20, 21 Until the end of time, the dead will not know about earth's happenings. (I'll discuss verses 22 in section 3)

Job 19:25, 26, 27a - after my body is destroyed by worms I shall see God in the flesh, at the last day when my Savior shall stand on the earth. When does Job expect to see God? His expectation is for seeing God in the flesh at the last day, not as a spirit being upon his death.

Jobs hope and confidence was for the resurrection. He, like Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4, placed his trust in God and was encouraged by the hope of the resurrection. If he believed he would be instantly with God at death, the resurrection would not have been his focus.

Job 34:14, 15 - When God takes back the breath of life we die (perish)

Psalms 6:5 - in the world of the dead, no one remembers God or praises Him. We do not go to heaven immediately!

Psalms 9:5, 6 - when the wicked are destroyed they will not be remembered and even their names will be forgotten. (They are not writhing in pain forever somewhere.)

Psalms 30:9 - in death we neither give God thanks or praise Him (The implied answer to the question is no.)

Psalms 37:10, 20 - soon the wicked will disappear & can't be found. They will disappear like smoke.(They are not in hell.)



Psalms 88:10 - 13 - while alive I will praise the Lord since I can't do that after I'm dead

Psalms 104 - Describes Gods support of all creatures. In v. 29 it describes death as when God removes their breath and (in v. 30) life as when He gives of his Spirit (breath). (At the end of the chapter the wicked are "consumed" and "are no more." They aren't in Hell.)

Psalms 115:17 - "The dead do not praise the Lord, Nor do any who go down into silence;" - those who are dead do not praise the Lord, the grave is silent. Those who die do not go the heaven and then praise God.

Psalms 146:1 - 4 - "When they breathe their last breath, they return to the ground. On that day their plans come to an end."

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10 - Whatever presents itself for you to do, do it with all your might, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or skill in the grave where you are going."

Ecclesiastes 12:6, 7 - "Then the dust of mortals goes back to the ground as it was before, and the breath of life goes back to God"

Daniel 12:1 - 3 - at some day in the future those in the dust (ground) will wake up and arise" They are not awake and doing anything now. That will happen in the future.

Daniel 12:13 - Daniel was told that he would "rest" until the end of time, and then he would rise for his reward (he is not getting his reward in heaven now)

Malachi 4:1 - 3 "It won't leave a single root or branch." Hell is all-consuming. Nothing will be left after the flames have burned up everything that will burn. "The wicked will be ashes beneath your feet." (They are not going to be burning after the fire is finished with its work.)

Matthew 25:21, 31, 41 - 46 - After a future judgment those will receive according to the judgment rendered. (The wicked do not receive their reward/judgment at the point of death.)

Matthew 27:51-53 - "At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people." Have there been anyone resurrected? Yes. Are there a few righteous people in heaven? Yes. Enoch, Elijah, and these that were 'first fruits' of the saved who witnessed to the truth of the resurrection after the resurrection of Christ. (It doesn't say this, but they were undoubtedly taken back to heaven when he ascended and their testimony of Christ was no longer needed on earth.) See Hebrews 11:35 regarding a "better" resurrection with eternal life rather than the resurrection to this mortal life as demonstrated by Elijah/Elisha and the little boy. (1 Kings 17 & 2 Kings 4)



Luke 14:14 (14:12-14) Luke 14:14 "God will repay you on the day the good people rise from death." Jesus says you will receive your reward when the dead come back to life (resurrection of the righteous). Not at death. Here and elsewhere, the rewards of the righteous are given at the end of time following the resurrection, but not upon death.

John 3:16 Christ was given to mankind to give us eternal life (this implies that our souls / spirits do not already have eternal life)

John 5:25-29 - Those in the tombs/graves will hear His voice and come back to life (a time in the future, up to that time they have not heard His voice) That means that those who were dying then, were not going to heaven or hell. They are not hearing Christ's voice in heaven after they die. Heaven and hell were in the future.

John 6:39, 40, 44, 54 - When the righteous will come back to life will be on the last day (not immediately when they die; they are asleep like Lazarus & Jairus' daughter were)

The righteous will be given eternal life. They do not already possess it.

John 6:53, 63 - God (not humans) possess eternal life. It is by partaking of Him on a daily basis that we have eternal life.

- He will bring them back to life on the last day, not when we die. We do not continue on living, but are restored on the last day.

John 8:51 - Christ's followers will never see death. Christ must be talking about something else. A different kind of 'death.' It seems his disciples will experience 'sleep' but not 'death.'

John 14:1-3 - The assurance that Christ gave his disciples. He will bring the righteous into his presence when He comes back to earth again, not at their death.

Acts 2:29, 34 - David died but did not go to heaven ----- In discussing the scriptural supports for Jesus as the Messiah, Peter states that since David was not in heaven at the time, the prophecy had to be about Christ. Why was David not in heaven? He was 'asleep' in his tomb awaiting for the resurrection.

Acts 7:60 - when Stephen was stoned he 'koimao' (fell asleep)

Acts 17:31 - (judgment) there is a time in the future in which God will judge the world. It doesn't make sense for heaven or hell to be administered until after the judgment.

Romans 2:6, 7 - "For God will reward every person according to what he has done. Some people keep on doing good, and seek glory, honor, and immortal life; to them God will give eternal life." A person does not have eternal life unless given by God. We will not live forever unless we are saved by God. The wicked will not burn in hell forever. God 'rewards righteous' with eternal life, they do not have eternal life already.

The reward of the righteous. Is The. resurrections in a new body (Romans 8::8-11)



1 Corinthians 11:30 - "That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep." Paul referred to death as sleep even when talking to the New Testament church. Many modern translations go ahead and change the word to 'died' since sleep is understood to be death in this situation.

1 Corinthians 15:16 - 18 "For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished." If there is immediate transport to heaven, this discussion would make no sense.

1 Corinthians 15:52-54 "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." At 'the last trumpet' death will be vanquished for the righteous, not before. We currently do not possess immortality. That is going to happen in the future.

At the resurrection of those that sleep in Christ will be raised with new bodies. Note that in both of these passages from 1 Corinthians 15, it is not until the second coming of Christ that the saints will be CHANGED INTO something that will not die. They do not have the immortality until this change.

Philippians 3:8-11 - "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." Paul's goal was to achieve the resurrection, not completion of his life. Paul did not expect to see God until his resurrection.

Colossians 2:4-5 - "I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is." Paul was absent in body but present in spirit with the Colossians. Here he uses the very same terminology he uses elsewhere to discuss his desires. He has not gone somewhere else yet.

Colossians 3:4 - "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." 'When' Christ is revealed, 'then' we will be with Christ. It is after the resurrection.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18 - "13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. [Hope in what or whom?] 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep 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 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. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words." It is the resurrection to which Paul & 1st century Christians looked forward. Not immediate transport to heaven @ death. This comforting passage would make no sense if the righteous were already in heaven with their Lord and Saviour. It is the corpses that will be made live again. If Paul was talking about a spirit he would not have needed to reassure believers in this way. (compare this passage with Isaiah 26:14, 19)

1 Thessalonians 5:10-11 - "He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Here Paul speaks of death as a sleep (just as Christ did). If he believed in believers going immediately to heaven, he would not have expressed his encouragement in this way.

1 Timothy 6:15-16 - "God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen." Only God has immortality, not humans. Compare this with Satan's lie in Genesis 3:4.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 - "This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Immortality is revealed by the gospel, we do not have it inherently.

2 Timothy 2:15-18 Two believers are here described as disruptive and lost their way due to the belief that those that had died have come back to life. Life after death does not occur until the resurrection at the end of the world.

Hebrews 11:35 "Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;" When the children of God looked forward to their reward, they did not look forward to their death, but to their resurrection. If they were to be united with Christ / God / their fellow family and saints at their death, they would not be described as looking forward to their resurrection. It is at the resurrection that the righteous are brought to their Lord and Saviour and reunited with family and friends.

Hebrews 11:39-40 - "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect." The righteous will not receive their reward until we do at Christ's second coming. All these men and women of faith listed in Hebrews 11, have not gone to heaven and received what God has promised. They are awaiting their reward until the second coming.

Jude 6, 14, 15 There is a judgment and subsequent administration of judgment at the last day of this earth. People do not receive their reward (by going to heaven or hell) now, but only after the judgment



which will be at the end of the earth's history.

Revelation 16:14,16 - "They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. . . .

Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon." Who are these spirits that we see doing real things in the 'land of the living.' They are spirits of the devil (fallen angels) who are trying to misguide the whole earth.

Revelation 20:12, 13 Revelation 20:12-13 (NASB Strong's) "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.

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. Everyone is judged at the end of time according to their deeds. The land and the sea give up the dead to be judged." This appears to happen before the rewarding the righteous eternal life and the wicked eternal obliteration.

In the Bible death is often characterized as sleep: Job 14:12; Psalms 13:3; Jeremiah 51:39, 57;

This misunderstanding all began with the serpent's lie in Genesis 3:4 "you will not surely die." What will happen to the wicked? Are they burning somewhere now in hell?

Obadiah 1:16

"Because just as you drank on My holy mountain,
All the nations will drink continually.
They will drink and swallow
And become as if they had never existed."

1 Samuel 28 vs Hebrews 11:39, 40 (1 Chron 10:1,13) This is the story of Saul consulting with a medium trying to talk to Samuel regarding plans for battle. Yet we are told that the dead do not talk to us. Bible heroes will receive their reward when we do (they are not in Heaven now). So how did this happen? If we apply what we read in Revelation 16, then this was probably a fallen angel/demon that was impersonating the prophet for the purpose of deception.

John 11 -- The story. Of Lazarus death and resurrection

-- Jesus said "Come out", not down, not up

- no mention is made of what wonderful things Lazarus saw when he was dead - there was nothing to tell

- resurrection was something good, not bad (if you truly loved someone, would you want them to leave God and heaven)

What will happen to the unrighteous?

Matthew 8:29 - there is a time in the future when the wicked, demons & Satan will be punished.



Hebrews 9:27 everyone dies once, and then they are judged.

John 5:25-29 reward of life or death is when we come from the graves in response to Christ's voice (see 1 Thess 4:13-18)

2 Peter 3:7, 10-12 ungodly to be destroyed at the end of the world. (Destroyed, not dangled in a non-consuming fire. The fire will completely destroy the wicked.) See also Matthew 8:29 & Mark 5:7)

Revelation 5:13 "And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." (there is no one in hell crying and no discordant voices)

Isaiah 26:14 The dead will not live again, all remembrance of them will be gone. (these chapters from Isaiah 26 through 27 are about the end of time with the reward of the righteous and the wicked)

Isaiah 34:2 "For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter" The Lord will destroy the wicked. (destroy completely)

Ezekiel 18:4, 20 - "the sinner, he shall die" (he/she won't live forever in agony - he will die.)

Ezekiel 33:11 "As I live, declares the Almighty Lord, I don't want wicked people to die. Rather, I want them to turn from their ways and live. Change the way you think and act! turn from your wicked ways!"

Malachi 4:1 they shall be stubble. "It won't leave a single root or branch."

2 Peter 3:10 the earth will melt

Psalms 11:6 fire and brimstone from God will consume them.

What about other passages that seem to say there are spirits or that there is 'life after death' other than at the resurrection?

Job 14:22 (NIV1984)

He feels but the pain of his own body

and mourns only for himself." The whole chapter up to this point is of how the person ceases to exist in this life once death occurs, but then ends with this verse. This appears to be poetic language similar to Judges 9:8 - 15 where inanimate objects (trees and bushes) speak lessons or ideas. We see this in other areas of scripture as well.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NASBStr)

"Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are



absent from the Lord — for we walk by faith, not by sight — we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." A quick reading of this passage sounds like a spirit like life after death as is often taught. However, a reasoned approach to this passage would lead one otherwise. In 2 Corinthians 5:1 Paul talks about the earthly body as a tent (temporary dwelling) and a heavenly body (permanent dwelling). In verse 2, he goes on to say he (we) would rather be in our permanent/eternal heavenly body, and in verse 3, not in a state of nakedness (without our earthly or heavenly bodies). In verse 4 he expresses a desire not to be naked (dead) and to be clothed with our heavenly bodies. If he was going to be with God in this body-less state, he would not object and wish so strongly to be clothed with his heavenly body. In verse 6, he acknowledges that for as long as we are in our earthly body, we are away from our heavenly body. In verse 8, he expresses the wish to be away from this earthly body and present with The Lord in his heavenly body. In verse 9, Paul goes on to say that whether we are at home with God (in our heavenly body) or absent from Him (in our earthly body) we are to be pleasing to God. Paul is expressing his desire to be translated without seeing death (being naked). He yearned to be with God, which from this passage (verses 2 - 4) was not possible until he was clothed with his heavenly body. This is echoed in Paul's statements in Romans 8:22, 23 in which he states our redemption is when we have redemption of our bodies. This is also stated in similar language in Philippians 1:20-24 with Paul's need to remain in his mortal body/flesh for the benefit of the infant Christian church, but his desire to be in heaven in his heavenly body.

In another passage, 1 Corinthians 5:3, Paul talks about being absent in body, but present with the believers in Corinth. He clearly does not imply that he is out of his earthly body, but rather his heart and mind are thinking of his Christian children and yearning to be with them to assist them in their administrative needs.

If Paul really believed that a believer was transported to heaven at death, he would not have answered the Thessalonians concerns as he did in 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18. There he gives as encouragement the hope of Christ's return and the joyful resurrection. He terms those who have passed away as "asleep in Jesus" (v 14). He does not teach as the many current preachers that we are instantly in heaven, but await the return of our Lord to awaken his children.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NASBStr)

"so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints." Some have portrayed that this shows Christ is second coming is portrayed as accompanied by disembodied spirits. Rather, Paul is wishing for the Thessalonian Christians to be holy at the time of Christ's coming, just like all the other of Christ's followers will be at His coming. This is a time of reckoning and judgment and Paul's fervent wish is for his spiritual children to be ready.

Philippians 1:21-26 (NASBStr) "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your proud



confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again." As we have seen in the discussion of 2 Corinthians 5, this is another expression of Paul's desire to glorify God. If God would be glorified by his life and work, so be it. But if his martyrdom would be to God's glory then that would be OK, too. He is hemmed in with the two possibilities, to live for Christ or die for Him. In his other statements he has clearly described death as sleep for the saints (1 Corinthians 15:51, 1 Thess 4:13 - 15, and Christ's statements in Mark 5:39 & John 11:11). The tired apostle is torn between the desire to serve and the desire for rest.

Luke 23:43 (NASBStr)

And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." This was stated by Christ to the thief on the cross. Christ promised the thief that he would be with him in heaven. In John 20:17, Christ says that he has not been to heaven yet, so if this statement is as transcribed, there was something wrong with one of these two statements. In the original scripts, there is no punctuation. Punctuation was not inserted until the 13th - 15th centuries. It is placed to assist the reader and is dependent on the understanding of the transcriptionist.

Here are two examples of how comma placement makes an extreme difference in meaning.

Example #1:

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind, thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you. I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart. I can be forever happy--will you let me be yours?

Jane

vs

Dear John:

I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind, thoughtful people, who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me. For other men, I yearn. For you, I have no feelings whatsoever. When we're apart, I can be forever happy. Will you let me be?

Yours,

Jane

The second common illustration is:

An English professor wrote the words, "Woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed his students to punctuate it correctly. The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing." The women wrote: "Woman: Without her, man is nothing."

A third illustration:

Originally posted by Silence Dogood:

Someone in czarist Russia was given a prison sentence. He happened to come upon the sentence written: "Pardon impossible, to be sent to Siberia." The man stealthily erased the comma and put



another one in: "Pardon, impossible to be sent to Siberia." He was freed.

Getting back to the original text from Luke 23:43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." could also legitimately be written And He said to him, "Truly I say to you today, you shall be with Me in Paradise." This would provide no conflict between this text in which Christ promises the thief eternal life, and John 20:17 where He states he has not been to the Father yet. He was laid in the tomb, and like other humans rested until his Father called Him.

Matthew 25:46 (NASBStr)

These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Here the extent of the punishment is eternal. The results last for eternity. Just like the extent of the life for the redeemed is eternal. There is not a time of retribution after which the person will inherit eternal life. There is no second chance or signs of a purification process whereby the lost can then be saved. It is eternal death.

Luke 16:19 - 31 The story of the rich man and his beggar Lazarus.

Matthew 13:34 (NASBStr)

"All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable." Christ used parables to teach us and reveal to us things of the kingdom of God. Only to the disciples did he speak directly without the use of parables. (John 16:29, Mark 4:33,34) In parables, the object lessons were to be made from the familiar to the reveal that which was unknown. The central lesson was truth with the details of the parable used to illustrate something that was understood by those that were listening. In this parable, Christ is warning His listeners that "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead." Luke 16:31 To believe every detail of this story as Biblical truth would have us to believe that when we die we are not transported to heaven as many believe, but we will be 'transported by angels to Abraham's bosom,' and that Abraham will talk to those in torment despite a 'great chasm fixed' between the two entities. Christ had just emphasized the importance and permanence of the Old Testament (Luke 16:16 - 17). He here continues the importance of heeding it's instruction. If we were to take everything in Biblical parables at face value, we would promote dishonest bookkeeping (Luke 16:1-9), that slavery was valued in heaven (Mark 12:4), or that trees talk to each other (Judges 9:7-15). The whole of scripture speaks to the state of the dead and to the resurrection of the righteous being the goal of the redeemed of God, and the eternity of life with the Saviour. Clearly, we are to listen to the Word of God and have 'Ears that hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.'

The confusion over the true nature of man, the state of the dead, and the misunderstanding of about the end of sin and sinners has many people under a great delusion. It has led many to doubt in a loving God and a misunderstanding of the ultimate reality: that God is Love. He wants the best for His children. And he is returning to bring back to Him those who trust in Him and are His friends.