



Where Are the Dead? 2 Corinthians 12:1-5

Physicians and psychologists and sociologists have made in-depth _____ of the subject of death and dying. We are concerned about what we can _____ from God's holy word, the Bible.

During our Lord's incarnation, He _____ several people from the dead; but the best known was Lazarus, many details are given in John 11. Lazarus had been dead for _____ days and his body had begun to deteriorate. Our Lord commanded him, "Lazarus, come forth," and the _____ man came forth from the grave. He walked and _____ with his family and with friends. Of course they had many questions to ask Lazarus, but inspiration says _____ about it; it isn't revealed to us. From what we learn in 2 Corinthians 12 we have a good idea that when Lazarus returned to his body, things that happened while he was dead _____ from his memory, and he couldn't have related them if he had wanted to. If _____ was forbidden to report what he saw and heard, surely those raised from the dead could not report their experiences.

What does the _____ say? Man is of _____ nature. He is _____, his body is of the earth. His _____ is of God, spiritual (2 Corinthians 4:16). From Ecclesiastes 12:7 we learn that at death the body returns to the _____ from which God formed it in the beginning and the spirit returns to _____ who gave it (Zechariah 12:1).

Jesus said to the penitent _____ on the cross, "today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). Though they both would _____ that day the spirit of each one of them would continue on in Paradise. Later Jesus cried "Father into Your hands I commit My _____. Having said this, He breathed His _____." His body became lifeless and was _____. As Stephen was being stoned to death he cried, "Lord, Jesus, _____ my spirit" (Acts 7:59). So people don't cease to _____ at death. The body goes to the grave and to ashes, and the spirit lives on _____.

Does the spirit go immediately to its _____ destiny, to Heaven or to Hell? The Bible teaches that there is to be a _____ judgment when all men will be judged (Matthew 25:31-32; Matthew 12:41-42; 2 Peter 2:9). Where are those who have died? They are somewhere _____ the same judgment in which you and I will appear. Are they in purgatory? The Bible has _____ to say about purgatory; neither the word nor the doctrine is found in Scriptures. Are they in Hades? We often hear the word "Hades" and "Hell" interchangeable, but they are not the _____. "Hades" is the _____ world of departed spirits. Even Jesus went to Hades for the three days and nights He was in the _____ (Acts 2:27-31). Jesus promised the thief that they would be in "Paradise," so Paradise is that part of, or a state in Hades in which the _____ go. But, paradise is not _____, if we mean the dwelling place of God, the eternal abode of the righteous.

Where are the unjust reserved? (2 Peter 3:9-10). They, too, are in Hades, in the place or state _____ Tartarus in Hades (2 Peter 2:4). Tartarus is in Hades, on the _____ side of "a fixed gulf" from Paradise (Luke 16:19-31; 2 Peter 2:4). It is not "Hell," the eternal abode of the unforgiven wicked dead; it is a _____ where they are held until judgment day.