

## ~ Where Are the Dead? ~

James asked, "What is your life?" He provided the answer, "For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." (James 3: 14) James says you *vanish* at death.

Many, however, claim otherwise – asserting there is life after life, a "beyond" to which you consciously go, and sometimes from which you may even return. They have seemingly documented case histories to support this idea. For many, the thought of life continuing on after death has strong appeal. Death is not an acceptable end to the glory of life! Who can accept death as the end? Somehow, the glory and honor of man speaks eloquently for something more than death as the final chapter in the book called "Life". Though James says that your life *vanishes*, there is hope beyond the grave. The theme of the Christian hope is that there "shall be a resurrection of the dead both of the just and the unjust". (Acts 24: 15)

Shall we accept the testimony of some who claim to have died or been near death and have reported life experiences in these conditions after being resuscitated? These accounts fail to tell that the vast majority of resuscitated people report no sensations of any kind while unconscious, or so-called "dead". Others under anesthesia have reported floating sensations and vivid dream-like encounters. What can you say to these things? Many have had these floating sensations and recognized them for what they are – dreams and nothing more.

The Bible says, "Let the prophet that has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully." (Jeremiah 23: 28) The advice here is not to mix dreams with Scripture. We cannot deny that many recall mental happenings while they supposedly were expired, but attempts to call these "soul journeys" and enlist Biblical support is where the problem arises.

The Bible deals with death in many places. Its testimony is complete and decisive. A few examples of the Scriptural *soul* follow.

1. At Makkeday and Debir, Joshua “destroyed all the souls”. (Joshua 10: 28, 29)
2. David said, “None can keep alive his own soul.” (Psalm 22: 29)
3. After the flood, God promised Noah, “Neither will I ever again destroy every living creature [soul; in Hebrew, *nephesh*] as I have done.” (Genesis 8:21) Even the animal creations were included in the souls that were destroyed.
4. “The soul that sins shall die.” (Ezekiel 18: 4)

These are the very words of the Lord. Clearly, the Bible speaks of the destruction of the soul and of death. The idea of the death of the body but the continuing of a soul in life is difficult to support with Scripture. The Bible has clearly described the state of death; “For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing... Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol [grave, hell, or pit], to which you are going.” (Ecclesiastes 9: 5, 10) This testimony is quite different from those who have claimed death encounters full of thought, feeling, and awareness.

Claim is also made that the resuscitation of individuals who seemingly expired or ceased breathing is really the resurrection power of Christ. If this claim were to be taken seriously, it would destroy the whole concept of the need of a Savior, for countless men and women, doctors and nurses have resuscitated people using only human resources – whether mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, pounding the heart, or electric shocks. No need for the power of Christ here. Not even prayer was needful in many cases. How weak and finite such attempts to fulfill the resurrection power as it is portrayed in the Bible. The voice calling mankind from the “sleep of death” will be none other than Christ Himself. “All who are in their graves shall hear his voice and come forth.” (John 5: 28, 29)

The subject of life and death are treated very extensively in the Bible. You will never really know unless you take the time to find out for yourself the complete Bible testimony. It is not easy to find all the answers you want to know by merely reading your Bible. You need to collect testimony from all parts of the Word of God. This has been done for you in the free booklet, *Where Are the Dead?* Whether you

want to know about the parable of the sheep and goats, the rich man and Lazarus, “hell”, “grave”, or “tartaroo” – it’s all there. Half a study on the subject is not enough! Find everything you wanted to know about your life and hope! Send for a free copy of *Where Are the Dead?* by clicking **REPLY**, and sending an e-mail asking for this publication. Include the name of this publication, your name and your mailing address. ♦