

After Death

What then?



1----MAN: Body, Soul, and Spirit

2—Life and Death

3—The Hadean World

4—The Resurrection

5—JUDGMENT: Heaven or Hell

Prepared by:
DOUGLAS HAMILTON

2007

Lesson One

"MAN: Body, Soul, and Spirit"

PRELIMINARY

A Fact!

For most people, the last breath is something that can be fearful and even terrifying. What will be going through your mind the day you take your last breath? Do you know what waits on the other side? Are you prepared for what is ahead?

The purpose of this study is to enable us to better cope with the last breath, an inevitable part of all of our lives. We need to understand what occurs as the last breath is finished and our life fades away. Understanding the process of the afterlife will allow the Christian to live a life that is more faithful, more productive, more joy-filled and most of all, more evangelistic. The strategy of the study will be to cover fifteen facts that take us from the last breath to eternity.

4 States of Man's Existence

SAFE	<i>Faithful</i> CHURCH <i>Unfaithful</i>	COMFORT	HEAVEN
INNOCENCE	RESPONSIBLE	INTERMEDIATE	ETERNAL
SINNER	<i>Religious</i> WORLD <i>Non-Religious</i>	TORMENT	HELL

Fact #1

Our Being is Multi-Dimensional

Jesus said in **Matt 10:28** "**And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**" There are some in the religious world that teach there is no difference between the body and soul, but Jesus teaches contrary.

Paul states in **1Thes 5:23** "**Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" Paul, in referring to our sanctification, reveals to us that our being contains a spirit, a soul and a body.

The Hebrew writer recorded in **Heb 4:12** **For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** Once again, the implication is that the spirit and the soul are two different components of our being.

Fact #2

Our body is temporary

The body we have is the material encasement for our soul. In this life, our physical body will die, except in the occasion of the Lord's return prior to death. **1 Cor 15:51-52** 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 imperishable, and we shall be changed. This is why Paul refers to this body as the "body of our humble state" in **Phil 3:21**, for it is temporary.

Fact #3
Our soul is eternal

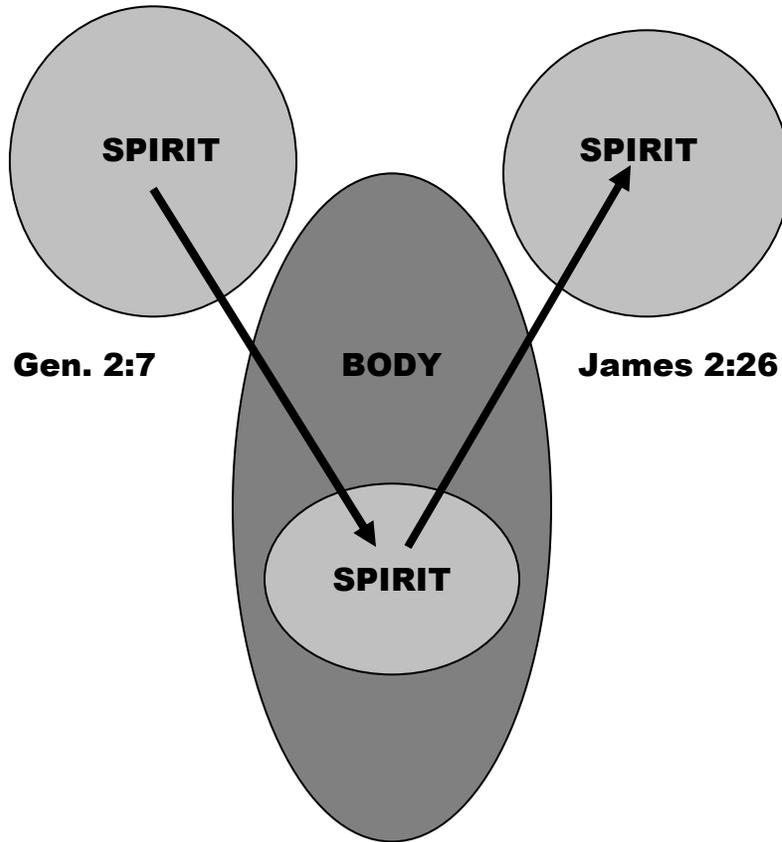
Our soul is our inner man and our body is the outer man. (2 Cor. 4:16—“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day). (Eph 3:16—“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man”).

It is the vessel for our personality, our thoughts and our passions.

- Preferences –Deut 12:20 ...I will eat flesh, because thy soul desireth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, after all the desire of thy soul.
- Sexuality –Song 1:7 Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth...
- Spirituality –Ps 63:1 O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; My soul thirsts for Thee...
- Intentions –Ps 86:4 Make glad the soul of Thy servant, for to Thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- Knowledge –Ps 139:14 I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well.
- Memories –Lam 3:20 Surely my soul remembers and is bowed down within me.

Long after we are gone from this world, our inner man will still be quite present and cognizant.

THE CREATION OF LIFE



ALIVE versus DEAD

Lesson Two

“Life and Death”

Fact #4

Our “spirit” is the life force for both body and soul.

The spirit that Paul refers can mean many things.

- (a) the wind –Heb 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. (KJV, NKJ)
- (b) breath –II Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (KJV)
- (c) a resurrected soul -1 Cor 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam {became} a life-giving spirit.
- (d) personal sentiment –Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Also Acts 17:16)
- (e) Intentions – Phil 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; (Also 2 Cor 12:18)
- (f) Holy Spirit –Acts 2:38 And Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Also Rom 8:27; Eph 2:18)

I am persuaded that none of the above definitions referred to is the “spirit” that Paul was referring to in 1Thes 5:23, but something else. Paul reveals to us that we not only have a body and a soul, but

also a spirit. Spirit cannot be body and cannot be soul, but spirit. What is the spirit that Paul is referring to? I am persuaded it is the "spirit of life."

The spirit of life is what was God breathed into Adam and made man a living soul. <Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.> The spirit of life is what was driven from all living things during the flood. <Gen 7:21-22 And all flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; 22 of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.> The "spirit of life" is the life force that energizes the body of mankind. The body cannot live without the spirit of life.

- Ps 104:29 Thou dost hide Thy face, they are dismayed; Thou dost take away their spirit, they expire, and return to their dust.
- Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- Job 34:14-15 "If He should determine to do so, if He should gather to himself His spirit and His breath, 15 All flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.

The body cannot live without the spirit of life and neither can the soul. When our physical body dies, the soul heads off to HADES, taking the spirit of life with it. We all go to the place of disembodied souls, which is called HADES. It is the spirit of life that keeps the soul alive, for it was what made man a "living soul". It is this "spirit of life" that God put in our souls that makes it possible to eternal life or eternal damnation.

TO CANAAN'S LAND I'M ON MY WAY #867

To Canaan's land I'm on my way, Where the soul (of man) never Dies;

My darkest night will turn today, Where the soul (of man) never dies.
Dear friends, there'll be no sad farewells, There'll be no tear-dimmed eyes,
Where all is peace and joy and love, And the soul of man never dies.

Fact #5

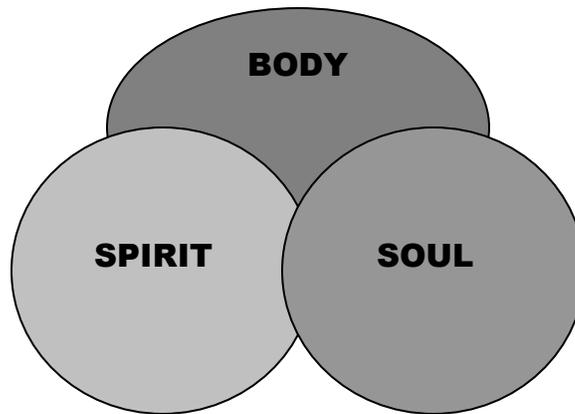
At death, our soul and the spirit of life, leaves our body

Since the “spirit of life” is the life force of both the soul and body, when the soul becomes disembodied, it takes the “spirit of life” with it to Hades. This is why the scripture many times use these phrases interchangeably.

- Gen 35:18 And it came about as her soul {Rachel's} was departing (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.
- IKing 17:22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.
- Luke 8:54-55 He, however, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Child, arise!" 55 And her spirit returned, and she rose immediately; and He gave orders for {something} to be given her to eat.
- Luke 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last. (Note: This is not the capital letter “S”pirit.)
- Acts 7:59-60 And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon {the Lord} and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" 60 And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And having said this, he fell asleep.
- Acts 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down and gave up the ghost: and great fear came upon all that heard it.(ASV)

- Acts 5:10 And she fell down immediately at his feet, and gave up the ghost: and the young men came in and found her dead.
- James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

THE MAKE-UP OF MORTAL MAN



Lesson Three

“The Hadean World”

Fact #6

All souls go to Hades at the point of death

There are two primary ideas concerning the afterlife, those who say the soul goes directly to heaven and those who say the soul goes directly to Hades. I am persuaded the Bible overwhelmingly teaches the latter. The definition of the word *hades* means the place (state) of disembodied or departed souls. The mere meaning of the name seems to indicate from the beginning that this is the destination of the soul that recently lost its body.

When Jesus died, He departed to Hades before coming out of the grave on the third day.

- Matt 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.
- Luke 23:43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."
- Acts 2:27 Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to hades, nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.
- Acts 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.
- Rev 1:18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.
- Heb 2:14-15 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

In the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man, it was to Hades that they departed at death.

- Luke 16:22-23 "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23 "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- Luke 16:30-31 "But he said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'" (Note: The implication from this verse is that they are there because of death.)

The dead going to Hades was the accepted Old and New Testament teaching.

- Hosea 13:14 Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death? O death, where are your thorns? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion will be hidden from My sight.
- 1 Cor 15:55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"
- Rev 6:8 "And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat

Fact #7

There are two sides to the Hadean world

The scriptures show us that there are two sides to the Hadean world we should know about, the good and the bad side. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus reveals the following.

- Luke 16:23-24 "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.'

Lazarus was being comforted while the rich man was being tortured. Was it a literal flame or a flaming agony? We do not know for sure, but whatever it is, it is bad news for the rich man.

Turning our focus back to Lazarus, he was doing well. There is abundant evidence to suggest that there is a restful side to the Hadean world for the saved.

- 1 Sam 28:15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?"...
- Mark 5:39 And entering in, He said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep."
- John 11:11-14 This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep." 12 The disciples therefore said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." 13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. 14 Then Jesus therefore said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,
- Acts 7:60 And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And having said this, he fell asleep.
- 1Thes 4:13-15 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 or this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- Rev 6:9-11 And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those

who dwell on the earth?" 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until {the number of} their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

Fact #8

Our present life has future implications

In the parable of "The Rich Man and Lazarus", Jesus reveals that a prior life has future implications concerning what happens following the last breath. Following His words:

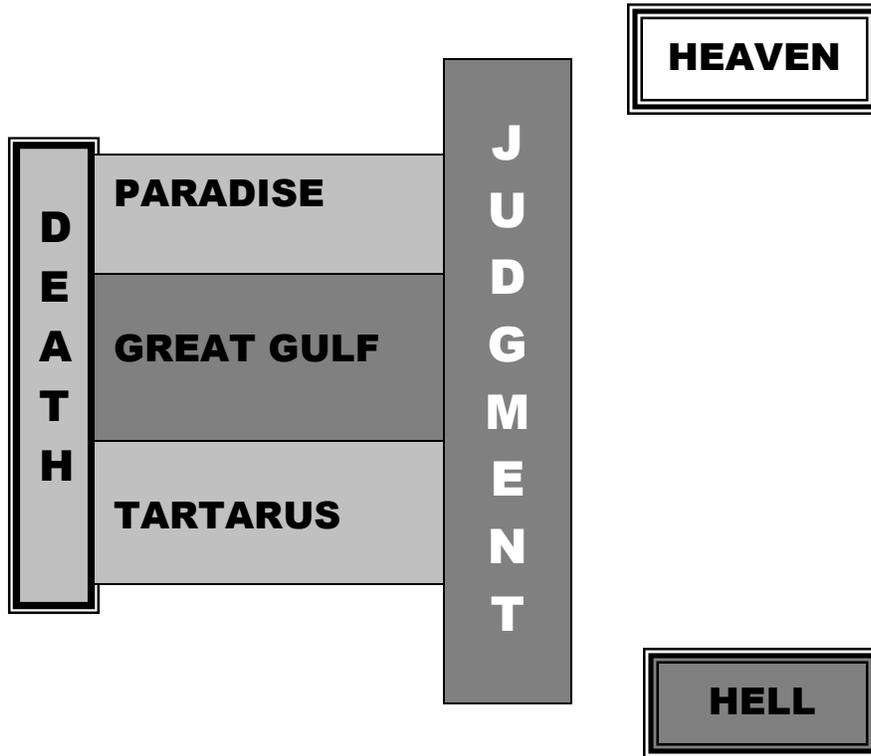
- Luke 16:19-21 "Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. 20 "And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21and longing to be fed with the {crumbs} which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.
- Luke 16:25 "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.
- 1 Tim 4:8 On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and {also} for the {life} to come.

On a tombstone in Ireland it reads:

*"Good all, as you pass by, As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, you all must be. Prepare yourself and follow me."*

A man was walking through the cemetery and happened upon the marker. He looked and meditated deeply, perhaps even thinking of the hadean world, he quoted the following. *"To follow you I'm not content, until I know what way you went."*

AFTER DEATH



To Make Notes

Lesson Four

“Resurrection and Judgment”

Fact #9

There are no switching sides once Hades is entered

There seems to be no switching sides once a person enters the Hadean world. The decision was final prior to the time of death, despite what the world may teach concerning purgatory or the like.

- Luke 16:26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and {that} none may cross over from there to us.'
- Heb 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this {comes} judgment,
- John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Fact #10

All will be resurrected from Hades

There will be a resurrection of **the saints**.

- Acts 24:15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.
- Phil 3:10-11 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
- Heb 11:35 Women received {back} their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection;

There will be a resurrection of the “Aints”

John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, 29 and shall come forth; those who did the good {deeds} to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil {deeds} to a resurrection of judgment.

Fact #11

The saved will receive a new body

This is what made the whole personal sacrifice for the Christian worthwhile, the new body! The Bible teaches us some of the following concerning this.

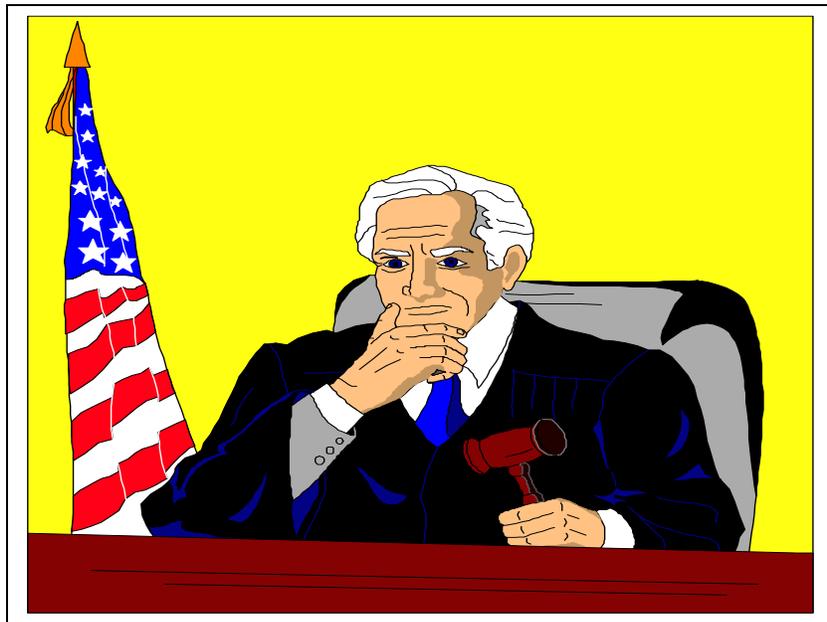
- 1 Cor 15:51-54 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory.
- Phil 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
- I Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.
- Rev 21:4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be {any} death; there shall no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Those who are dead will be the first to get the new body, then the saints who are still alive will be changed and join the others to spend eternity with Jesus.

- 1Thes 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of {the} archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall 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.

How does Jesus bring this about? It is through the Holy Spirit that Christ will bring our bodies back to life.

- Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you (*which He does*), He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead (*and He did*) will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you (*and He will*).



Fact #12
All will be judged before God

We seem to have a mindset in the church that we will not be judged. To a certain extent that is true, but not completely. Christians are presented for judgment, but “passed over” because of the blood of Christ. Jesus is our Passover.

- Matt 25:46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
- 1 Pet 4:17 For {it is} time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if {it begins} with us first, what {will be} the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
- Rev 20:12 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.

Fact #13
The lost will suffer a second death

The lost are resurrected for the purpose of punishing them with the second death, but the Christians will be spared.

- John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
- Rev 2:11 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'
- Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

- Rev 20:14-15 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- II Th 1:9-10 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

There is reason to believe that part of the torture for the lost may be related to not being given a new body in the resurrection. You will remember the following concerning the judged and condemned demons desperately seeking bodies to possess during the earthly ministry of Jesus.

- Luke 8:30-33 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 31 And they were entreating Him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and {the demons} entreated Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission. 33 And the demons came out from the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake, and were drowned.

To take Notes

Lesson Five

“Heaven or Hell”

Fact #14

The Christians will be taken care of

The church is an adorned bride

- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

God will dwell among them.

- Rev 21:3 ...and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them.

No suffering for the Christians.

- Rev 21:4 ...and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be {any} death; there shall no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

It is perfect protection

- Rev 21:12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names {were} written on them, which are {those} of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

It is the perfect existence.

- Rev 21:16 And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

- Rev 21:23-24 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp {is} the Lamb. 24 And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.

It is perfect nourishment, the River and Trees of Life

- Rev 22:1-2 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve {kinds of} fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Fact #15

The Christians will be a living doxology to God for eternity

What is the job description of the Christian? We are to praise Him!

- Matt 6:13 ...For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.'
- Rom 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him {be} the glory forever. Amen.
- Rom 16:27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.
- Phil 4:20 Now to our God and Father {be} the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- Eph 3:21 to Him {be} the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Tim 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, {be} honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Tim 6:16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him {be} honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

- 2 Tim 4:18 The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him {be} the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- Heb 13:21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom {be} the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Pet 4:11 Whoever speaks, {let him speak,} as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, {let him do so} as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Pet 5:11 To Him {be} dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 2 Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him {be} the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
- Jude 1:25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, {be} glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.
- Rev 22:20-21 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

The fifteen point review

- Fact 1: Our being is multi-dimensional.
- Fact 2: Our body is temporal.
- Fact 3: Our soul is eternal.
- Fact 4: Our spirit is the life force for both the soul and body.
- Fact 5: At death, our soul and the spirit of life, leaves our body.
- Fact 6: All souls go to Hades at the point of death.
- Fact 7: There are two sides to the Hadean world.
- Fact 8: Our present life has future implications.
- Fact 9: There are no switching sides once Hades is entered.
- Fact 10: All will be resurrected from Hades.
- Fact 11: The saved will receive a new body.
- Fact 12: All will be judged before God.
- Fact 13: The lost will suffer a second death.
- Fact 14: The Christians will be taken care of.
- Fact 15: The Christians will be a living doxology to God for eternity.

Praise Him! Praise Him!
(#300 Songs of Faith and Praise)

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim.
Hail Him! hail Him! Highest archangel in glory;
Strength and honor give to His holy name!

Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children;
In His arms He carries them all day long;
Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song.

