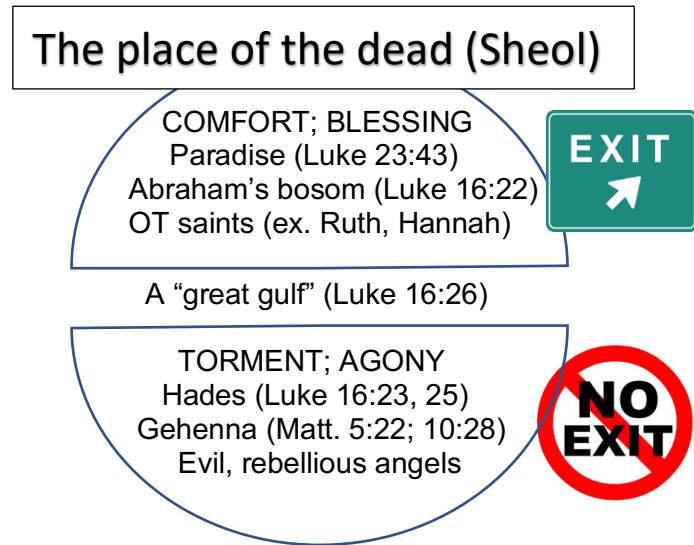


What Happens When Someone Dies?

Part C—from the rest of the New Testament March 19, 2023

Does the Bible teach humans are made up of two parts (dualism) in such a way that we can come apart and survive bodily death?

Q. What did Jesus do between Good Friday and Easter Sunday?



A. One **possibility** is that Jesus died and descended to proclaim His victory over death, sealing the fate of the ungodly below, taking the faithful to be with Him, thus emptying the top part!! (see Acts 2:27; 1 Peter 3:18-22; also 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6)

Q. What sort of body did Jesus have after He was raised?

A. Jesus walked, talked, and ate normal food (Luke 24:13-43); He was not a ghost, but had "flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39-40); Jesus appeared in a room without opening locked doors (John 20:19,26) and showed His scars from the crucifixion (John 20:20,27).

Q. Will our resurrected bodies be like Jesus' resurrection body?

A. **Yes**, in many ways (Philippians 3:20-21; also 1 John 3:2)

Q. How did Jesus' resurrection body differ from Lazarus' body?

A. Lazarus came back from the dead in the same old body, raised to life again (John 11:43-44). Lazarus later died. Jesus' body was a brand new creation, made from His old body, similar in ways except that He will **never** die again (Romans 6:9).

Q. What passages support the view that the souls of believers who die are immediately in the presence of **Christ** ?

A. Paul says being with Christ is better by a long shot (Phil. 1:23) and he prefers to be "present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8). John writes that Christ will take us "to be with Him" (John 14:3). Our communion with fellow believers (Heb. 12:23), and with Christ, is not interrupted by death (Rom. 8:38-39).

Q. If the souls of Jesus' followers are taken **immediately** to be with Him forever, why do they need a resurrected body?

A. In the intermediate state, we do not have physical bodies. We are discarnate, non-fleshly beings possibly(?) like a photograph. Nice; recognizable, but you can't hug 'em. At the final resurrection, God will reunite our souls and bodies for purposeful work and worship in the new heavens and new earth (Isaiah 65:17-25).

Q. What's the **difference** between a Christian's natural body and a spiritual body described in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44?

A. Paul uses three contrasting pairs of adjectives to describe the difference. Duration: one perishes, the other doesn't. Value: one is dishonored, the other glorious. Power: one is animated by breath naturally, the other animated by the Spirit of God. We will not be zombies, living dead. Our resurrection bodies will be imperishable, glorious and spirit-powered like Jesus' raised body (1 Cor. 15:49).

Q. Who enjoys the pearly gates and golden streets (Rev. 21:21)?

A. Only those whose names are written the Book of **Life** will survive God's judgment (read first Rev. 20:11-15 then 21:1-4).