

Study 6B – The Afterlife – What Happens to Man at Death?

A. The Intermediate State (Man's condition between his death and the Second Coming of Christ).

1. The bodies of all men return to dust and undergo corruption at death.
 - a) Read Genesis 3:19. What did God tell Adam would happen at his death?

 - b) Read Acts 13:36, 37. How are the deaths of David and Christ contrasted?

2. The souls of all men maintain consciousness and existence after death. The souls of believers enter immediately into a state of blessedness—heaven.
 - a) Read Job 19:26, 27. What did Job believe he would experience after his death?

 - b) Read Luke 23:43. What promise did Jesus make to the repentant thief?

 - c) Read 2 Corinthians 5:8. Where did the apostle Paul believe his soul would be at death?

3. The souls of the wicked (unbelievers) enter immediately into a state of torment—hell—at death.
 - a) Read Luke 16:19-31. Understanding that this is a parable, what does this passage teach about the state of the unbeliever after death?

 - b) Read 2 Peter 2:9. What does Peter tell us about the unrighteous between their death and the final judgment?

B. The Final State (Man's condition after the final judgment and Second Coming of Christ).

1. There will be one final judgment of both the saved and the lost, the dead and the living.
 - a) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. What happens to believers who have already died at Christ's return? _____ What happens to living believers? _____
 - b) Read 2 Corinthians 5:10. What does Paul say will happen to all at Christ's return?

 - c) Read Matthew 25:31-46. Describe the final judgment as pictured by Jesus.

2. The bodies of all the dead (saved and lost) will be raised up at Christ's return.
 - a) Read Daniel 12:2. What does this verse say will happen to the dead?

 - b) Read John 5:28, 29. What are the two types of resurrection mentioned here? Are these presented as separate events?

- c) Read Acts 24:15. Who will be involved in the final resurrection?

3. Believers, both those who have already died, and those who are alive at Jesus' final coming, will receive resurrection bodies and live with Christ eternally in His kingdom. Heaven is a real place and not merely a condition.
- a) Read 1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 35, 42, 44. What do these verses tell us about the body at the resurrection? _____

- b) Read Philippians 3:21. What will Christ do for the bodies of believers? Whose body will theirs be like?

- c) Read Revelation 21:1-4, 10-27 and 22:1-5. From these verses, what will heaven be like? _____

4. Unbelievers will be "resurrected unto judgment" (John 5:29) and will be eternally separated from Christ and eternally punished in hell.
- a) Read Matthew 13:41-42. How is hell described here?

- b) Read Matthew 8:11-12. What does Jesus say here about the future punishment of unbelievers (NOTE: In context, the "sons of the kingdom" is a reference to Jewish unbelievers)?

- c) Read Matthew 25:46. What adjective is used to describe the punishment of the wicked? _____
5. Both the righteous and the lost will receive degrees of reward or punishment respectively.
- a) Read Luke 19:11-26. In this parable, what does Jesus teach about faithful stewards?

- b) Read Luke 12:41-48. In verses 47 & 48, what does Jesus say will be the punishment of the willfully disobedient?
