

The Resurrection of the Dead - 4

From where will the dead be raised?

(first study)

Randall Hardy - Creation to Revelation - 15 April 2022

amen.org.uk/ctr

Luke 16:19-31

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ‘for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

What is this passage? Is it preparing people for life after death? Is it a parable? Or is it something else?

The issue before us is what happens to Christian believers between their death and the return of Jesus to rule on this earth?

Three (main) options:

- Believers immediately go directly to heaven to be alongside Jesus who is in the Father’s presence;
- Believers and unbelievers go to a two part holding place which is neither heaven or hell, but where they are fully conscious - some believe Jesus will like Abraham will be in the “paradise” section;
- Believers and unbelievers are normally unconscious in “the Grave” unaware of the passage of time, and regain consciousness when Jesus returns to rule on earth.

To help us grapple with this we need to look (briefly) at two issues:

- Body, Spirit and Soul;
- A term which doesn’t occur in Scripture - “soul sleep”.

Body, Soul & Spirit - a collection of diagrams from the internet

Genesis 2:7
And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground (body), and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (spirit); and man became a living being (aka soul).

Not “Soul Sleep” (*These are my own comments.*)

Soul sleep is a non-Biblical term which is commonly ill-defined.

It is usually included in Seventh-Day Adventist and Jehovah’s Witnesses teaching, but they have different versions. Some Bible believing Christians do subscribe to it, even though it is a minority conviction.

From what I understand JW’s include “conditional immortality” in with the term - i.e. unbelievers will not be raised.

Without going into all the differences (which I haven’t done in depth) I do need to make clear here that **I do not believe that “soul sleep” is a teaching derived from the Scriptures.**

As explained, from Genesis 2, I believe that human life begins when a body and the Breath of God - the Spirit - come together. At that moment humans become a “living life/being/soul.”

When the body and spirit are separated, the body begins to return to its natural condition (dust); the spirit - as we shall see - returns to its Maker.

The Scriptures however do *not* speak of a place where the post death the soul goes.

I suggest that this is so because when body and spirit are no longer united **there is no independent life/soul.**

I have come to this view by piecing together from the Scriptures an understanding which is once the body and spirit separate, that the life / soul which they jointly possessed no longer exists.

Further it seems the majority of human spirits are kept safe by The LORD in a place the Bible calls “the Grave” (Sheol in Hebrew, translated as Hades in Greek.) [*Reason for not pushing balloon analogy above too far!*]

The term “disembodied spirit” is often used critically, but as we shall see the New Testament is clear that we are not provided with our resurrection bodies until Jesus returns.

If, as I suggest, our spirit needs a body to be a life/soul then we should ask *what is it whilst it is between bodies?*

There is one clear indication in the New Testament that “the Grave” is a place where people spirits are kept. However, this is in a passage which most people consider to be a very difficult one to understand. I’m not a person who chooses to shy away from the issues raised by such passages.

1 Peter 3:18-20

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,*

19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

4:4-6

4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

* Concordant Literal Version: v18

“seeing that Christ also, for our sakes, once died concerning sins, the just for the sake of the unjust, that He may be leading us to God; being put to death, indeed, in flesh, *yet vivified in spirit*,”

I suggest that normally, human spirit is dormant when it is separated from a body, but The LORD can override whenever He wishes.

[Concordant Publishing Concern - Translating Scriptures - <https://www.concordant.org>]

Asleep & Sleep - New Testament (14 times)

Matt 27:52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

Acts 7:60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 13:36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;

1 Cor 11:30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

1 Corinthians 15

:6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

:18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -

1 Thessalonians

4:13-15 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

5:10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

2 Pet 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

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A different asleep and awakening!

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

Notes on Eph 5:14

Ephesians 5 - Gill's Exposition - Bible Hub - <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/gill/ephesians/5.htm>

Wherefore he saith,.... Either the man that is light in the Lord, who reproveth the unfruitful works of darkness; or else the Holy Ghost by Paul, who here speaks after the manner of the prophets; or God, or the Spirit, or the Scripture; see [James 4:6](#); but where is it said? some think the apostle refers to [Isaiah 9:2](#); others to [Isaiah 26:19](#); others to [Isaiah 60:1](#); some are of opinion the words are cited out of an apocryphal book of Jeremy, or from some writing now lost; and some have thought them to be a saying of Christ, that was fresh in memory: it may not be improper to observe what Maimonides says (m), that

"the blowing of the trumpet in the beginning of the year had an intimation in it, as if was said, "awake ye that sleep", from your sleep, and ye that slumber rouse up from your slumber, and search into your actions, and return by repentance, and remember your Creator;"

(m) Hilchot Heshuba, c. 3. sect 4

Maimonides Hilchot Teshuva 3:4 - <https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/15039?lang=en>

Mishneh Torah, Repentance 3:4

(4) Even though the blowing of the shofar on Rosh HaShanah is a Biblical decree, it hints at something, i.e., "**Wake up, sleepers, from your sleep! And slumberers, arise from your slumber! Search your ways and return in teshuvah [repentance] and remember your Creator!** Those who forget the Truth amidst the futility of the moment and are infatuated all their years with vanity and nothingness that will not help and will not save -- examine your souls and improve your ways and your motivations! Let each of you abandon his wicked ways, and his thoughts which are no good." Therefore a person needs to see himself all year long as if he is half innocent and half guilty, and also [see] the whole world - half innocent and half guilty. If he sins one sin - he has tilted himself and the whole world to the side of guilt and caused its destruction. If he does one mitzvah - he has tilted himself and the whole world to the side of innocence and caused redemption and rescue, as it says, the righteous are the foundation of the world (Proverbs 10:25). This refers to a righteousness that has tilted the whole world to innocence and saved it. And for this reason the whole House of Israel has a custom to increase charity and good deeds, and to engage in mitzvot from Rosh HaShanah until Yom Kippur, more than the rest of the year. And everyone has the custom to wake up during the night on these ten days and to pray in the synagogue with words of pleading and words of surrender until daylight.

Who Was Maimonides? - My Jewish Learning - <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/who-was-maimonides>

Maimonides - Wikipedia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maimonides>

...With his fathers - Old Testament (41 times)

- 1 Kings 1:21 "Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king **rests with his fathers**, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders." (N.B. Bathsheba, passing on Nathan's warning to David, when Adonijah the son of Haggith rebelled and assumed the crown.)
- 1 Kings 2:10 **So David rested with his fathers**, and was buried in the City of David.
- 1 Kings 11:21 So when Hadad heard in Egypt that David rested with his fathers, and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me depart, that I may go to my own country."
- 1 Kings 11:43 Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 14:20 The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. So he rested with his fathers. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 14:31 So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. Then Abijam his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 15:8 So Abijam rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 15:24 So Asa rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 16:6 So Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah. Then Elah his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 16:28 So Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. Then Ahab his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 22:40 So Ahab rested with his fathers. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 22:50 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 8:24 So Joram rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 9:28 And his servants carried him in the chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the City of David.
- 2 Kings 10:35 So Jehu rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 12:21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.**
- 2 Kings 13:9 So Jehoahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Joash his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 13:13 So Joash rested with his fathers. Then Jeroboam sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.
- 2 Kings 14:16 So Jehoash rested with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. Then Jeroboam his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 14:20 Then they brought him on horses, and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the City of David.
- 2 Kings 14:22 He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.
- 2 Kings 14:29 So Jeroboam rested with his fathers, the kings of Israel. Then Zechariah his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 15:7 So Azariah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.**
- 2 Kings 15:22 So Menahem rested with his fathers. Then Pekahiah his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 15:38 So Jotham rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 16:20 So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 20:21 So Hezekiah rested with his fathers. Then Manasseh his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 21:18 So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.
- 2 Kings 24:6 So Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Chron 9:31 Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Chron 12:16 So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. Then Abijah his son reigned in his place.
- 2 Chron 14:1 So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years.
- 2 Chron 16:13 So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign.
- 2 Chron 21:1 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place.**
- 2 Chron 25:28 Then they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the City of Judah.
- 2 Chron 26:2 He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.
- 2 Chron 26:23 So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which belonged to the kings, for they said, "He is a leper." Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.**
- 2 Chron 27:9 So Jotham rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

2 Chron 28:27 So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem; but they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

2 Chron 32:33 So Hezekiah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper tombs of the sons of David; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem honored him at his death. Then Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

2 Chron 33:20 So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.

Old Testament

Job 3:11-19

“Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb? Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; then I would have been at rest with kings and counsellors of the earth, Who built ruins for themselves, or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver;

Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, Like infants who never saw light? There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. There the prisoners rest together; they do not hear the voice of the oppressor. The small and great are there, and the servant is free from his master.”

Job 14:7-15

“For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its tender shoots will not cease. Though its root may grow old in the earth, and its stump may die in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant.

But man dies and is laid away; indeed he breathes his last and where is he? As water disappears from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dries up, so man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep.

“Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands.”

Psalm 90:1-6

A Prayer of Moses the man of God.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

You turn man to destruction, and say, “Return, O children of *men**.” For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night. You carry them away like a flood; they are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up: in the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers.

* *Heb: Adam (Strong's H119 - see below)*

Psalm 146:1-4

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.

His spirit departs, he returns *to his earth**; in that very day his plans perish.

* *Strong's H127 'adamah'; from H119; soil (from its general redness)*

H119 adam'; to show blood (in the face), i.e. flush or turn rosy: - be (dyed, made) red (ruddy).

Ecclesiastes 9:1-6

For I considered all this in my heart, so that I could declare it all: that the righteous and the wise and their works are in the hand of God. People know neither love nor hatred by anything they see before them. All things come alike to all: One event happens to the righteous and the wicked; to the good, the clean, and the unclean; to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good, so is the sinner; He who takes an oath as he who fears an oath.

This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":

While the sun and the light, the moon and the stars, are not darkened, and the clouds do not return after the rain;

In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men bow down;

When the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows grow dim;

When the doors are shut in the streets, and the sound of grinding is low;

When one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of music are brought low; also they are afraid of height, and of terrors in the way;

When the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails.

For man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets.

Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well.

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

To be continued...