



# ***Ten Minutes* *after* DEATH**

*... are we Dead  
or Alive?*



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## Ten Minutes after DEATH

ONE man of all the sons of men has gone down into the prison-house of death, and has come forth again to tell us what it is, where it is, and the way of escape from it.

And from Him, and His living Word, with no vagueness, no circumlocution, we learn that death is not a modification of life. It is just the opposite of life.

Death is not a continuation of life in changed conditions.

Death is not a release into a fuller life somewhere else.

Death is not life in misery.

Death is not life in happiness.

Death is not life at all in any condition, whether good or bad.

To die is not to live. To die is to stop living. Death is a complete cessation of life.

I know this is not what we have been taught to believe. We cling to the idea of life so tenaciously that even when we look on the cold, still face of death, we continue to think of *life*, and in our world of imagination we

put our dead friends into some realm where they still live on.

This may be done in imagination. It is not done in reality.

Death ends life. So at death man does not go to heaven. He does not go to hell. He does not go to purgatory. He does not go anywhere.

In death there is no life. The soul does not live. The spirit does not live. There is no intelligence, no consciousness, no memory. All that composed the man is gone.

This is not to be interpreted as meaning that there will be no future life. There *will* be a future life.

The point insisted on here is the Bible doctrine that this future life is not a continuation of the life that now is. It is an entirely new life, a different life. And it begins, not at the time of death, but at the time of the resurrection from the dead.

Life ends at death. But life begins again at the resurrection from the dead. *In* death, and *during* death, there is no life, no consciousness, no intelligence, no memory.

This is the positive, unvarying teaching of the Word of God regarding the condition of man in death.

Study with me briefly and see.

Consciousness depends upon the union of the breath with the body. Consequently, when these two, breath and body, are separated at

death by the breath's leaving the body, a man's thoughts perish.

This is the explicit statement of Scripture. Ps. 146: 3, 4.

From this it follows that there is no intelligence, no consciousness, in death. The ability to think has come to an end.

In death there is no knowledge or remembrance of God, and those who are dead do not praise God. Ps. 6: 5.

That death results in an absolute cessation of conscious existence is taught plainly in Eccl. 9: 5, 6. These verses are worthy of close analysis. Their clear statements should be carefully noted.

"The living *know* that they shall die." There is intelligence, there is knowledge, with those who are alive.

"But the dead know not anything." Death is just the opposite of life. There is no intelligence, no knowledge, no consciousness, in death.

"The memory of them is forgotten." In death the scenes of life are not realized.

"Also their love . . . is now perished." While in life the love of a mother may have centred on an only child; yet, when she dies, her love "is now perished"; nor does she or her spirit return to hover over the object of her affection, for in death there is no love.

Nor does hatred continue in death. It, too, perishes there, as does envy.

And with anything that is happening in the earth the dead have nothing at all to do. "Neither have they any more a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun."

The dead, then, are completely unconscious of all that is taking place on earth.

How impossible it would be for any of God's people to be deluded by the lying claims of spiritism if these plain statements of truth were believed!

How impossible it would be for anyone to be deceived by so-called, but false, "spirits of the dead" if the great truth of man's unconsciousness in death, so plainly declared in this scripture, were confidently accepted!

In the Bible, death is given a name that means unconsciousness. It is called "a sleep." Ps. 13: 3.

Daniel agrees with David that death is a sleep. Dan. 12: 2.

Paul agrees with both David and Daniel that death is a sleep. 1 Cor. 15: 6; 1 Thess. 4: 13.

Our Lord says that death is a sleep. John 11: 11-14.

Turn and read the fourteenth chapter of Job, and notice how positively the writer states that until the day of the resurrection, the day when the heavens shall depart as a scroll (Rev. 6: 14), those who are dead will continue in unconscious sleep.

But notwithstanding all that is here written, death is not the end.

There is to be a resurrection from the dead. Read about it in 1 Cor. 15: 51-54.

This same blessed awakening from the tomb is spoken of in 1 Thess. 4: 13-17.

#### AWAKENING AT RESURRECTION

Notice how clearly this text sets forth the truth on this subject: "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

Then Paul shows that those who sleep in death are not in heaven, but are in their graves awaiting the resurrection. "This we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent ["precede," R.V.] them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

This was the time to which Paul was looking for his reward, not to death.

He declares in 2 Tim. 4: 8: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge,

shall give me," not at death, but "at that day [the day of judgment]: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."



"I go to prepare a place for you," said our blessed Lord.

He has gone. He is preparing the place.

"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself." John 14: 2, 3.

He will receive the blessed dead unto Himself from their graves.

They have not been with Him since their decease. They have been waiting in quiet and unconscious slumber for the call of the Life-giver.

When that call comes, at the return of our Lord, it will penetrate into the abode of the dead, into the sleeping ears of the saints, and bring them to life again.

It is then that the new life, the life beyond the grave, the future life, of God's people begins.

It is then that "the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

It is then, when corruptible shall be changed to incorruptible and mortal to immortality, that there "shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, *Death is swallowed up in victory.*" 1 Cor. 15: 51-54.