

CALL to PRAYER -

Pray for the persecuted church - Congo

Intro - This is the fifth installment of LD&LAF. Today we continue trying to glean what the Scripture reveals about the kind of life the dead live. We will look at some more accounts that show a conscious existence with active mind, emotion, personal interaction. There is awareness, memory and the experience of the passage of time. I also want to point out that though the disembodied life is better for the believer there is still something missing. The departed spirits of the saints are made perfect, yet they are still incomplete. The City of Zion is full of emotion & commotion of city life but there still awaits the culmination of redemption in the bodily resurrection. The disembodied life is a temporal in-between state before the final eternal state.

Hebrews 12:22-24 - Life, Death, & Life After Death (part 5)

OTHER ACCOUNTS TO CONSIDER

1. **The Transfiguration** - Luke 9:29-31
 - a. 2 dead men - Moses & Elijah 9:30 (600 yrs apart on earth)
 - i. These long departed men were recognizable... Did they have name tags?
 - ii. 1 Cor. 13:12 (we will know & be known)
 - b. These 2 dead men were talking with Jesus. 9:30
 - i. There is communication and communion in the disembodied life
 - ii. M & E not contemporaries on earth but have a connection in heaven
 - c. What were they talking about? 9:31
 - i. They were talking to Jesus about the future...and God's plan
 - ii. These prophets had a clearer understanding of God's plan after they died
 1. "...we will understand it better by and by..."
 - d. Recognizable, personal interaction, awareness of happenings on earth & future...
2. **Rich Man & Lazarus** (Luke 16:19-31)
 - a. Recognition, emotion, memory, regret, concern, awareness of the future. (time)
 - i. 16:23 - He recognized Lazarus and Abraham (who live 2000 yrs before him)
 - ii. 16:24 - emotion and agony
 - iii. 16:25 - memory "...remember that during your life..." (regret)
 - iv. 16:27-30 - concern and awareness of the future
 1. This man understood the present state of his brother's souls
 2. The dead know more than the living
 - b. These human traits are not erased in death...only enhanced
 - i. Both redeemed & damned have active mind & emotion. There is rational existence and understanding of past, present and future.
3. **The Martyred Souls Under The Altar.** Rev. 6:9-11
 - a. 6:9 - these souls have left the body but are present with the LORD
 - b. 6:10 - they are praying.... with much emotion
 - c. 6:10 - They are praying for justice and God's vengeance (Rom. 12:19; Luke 18:7)
 - i. I wonder if that is what the beheaded Christians from Congo are praying

- d. The souls are aware of how they got there (martyrdom) remember/memory
 - i. They are also aware of what's happening upon the earth
 - e. 6:11 - these praying souls have to wait for their prayers to be answered
 - i. They experience time and patience
 - ii. They also better understand God's plan in persecution (future)
- 4. Repeated theme - the disembodied life has: conscious awareness with active mind & emotion. There is personal recognition & interaction. Memory of the past, awareness of the present and knowledge of the future. There is also waiting
 - a. Experience passage of time and anticipating a future time

PERFECT, BUT INCOMPLETE

- The redeemed dead experience an immediate transfer to a better place and a better state of existence, but it is not the final place or eternal state of existence
 - Immediate - Luke 23:42-43 2 Cor. 5:8
 - Better - Phil 1:23
 - Perfect Heb. 12:23
 - Perfect city life - Heb. 12:22
 - God's city.
 - The hustle and bustle of angels
 - Perfect church life Heb. 12:23
 - assembled with saints of all the ages who are enrolled in heaven
 - we will know and be known
 - perfect in soul & spirit - Heb. 12:23c
 - perfect but incomplete...something missing
 - body
- 2 Cor. 5:1-4
 - We live in our body (tent) our souls & spirit are wrapped in body (clothed)
 - Physical death = moving out of our body....absent from the body
 - Death = being unclothed - 5:3-4
- There is a nakedness in death, but the redeemed dead will be wrapped
 - Rev. 3:5
 - Rev. 7:9; 13-17
 - 7:15- "...spread His tabernacle over them..." wrapped with God's tent
- The departed saints are perfect, but incomplete
 - They await the culmination of redemption in the bodily resurrection
 - Phil. 3:20-21
 - 1 John 3:2 1 Cor. 15:42-44
- To look ahead we must look unto Jesus the Author & Finisher of our faith
 - He died....The Father received His spirit....That day in Paradise with thief
 - But it didn't end there....
 - There was a glorious resurrection of the body
 - 1 Cor. 15:21-23
 - 1 Thess. 4:14-18