

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DIE?

Most say after death comes judgment, which is true because there is no repentance in the grave. So the state you die in, as it pertains to God, is the state you spend eternity in. But what exactly occurs from the time you die and the time of Judgment, because Judgment doesn't come immediately? For instance, those that die outside of Christ will have to wait one thousand years after his return before being judged (Rev 20:12). Nevertheless you're dead, so what goes on?



You actually go to hell, which according to the usage of the transliterated words, also mean grave. In other words, hell is not a place where only bad people go, but it is also a place where all dead go. What we don't know is that hell (grave) is divided into two main parts - one for the righteous and another for the unrighteous. The word hell was made popular by the unrighteous part; nevertheless, in hell there are two main parts that are separated by a fixed gulf.

For instance, at my school's campus across the street is a construction of a luxury High rising waterfront Condominium. Then not far away is the main Jail in Broward County; one beachfront area with two separate buildings of different kind of residences. One has prisoners that live in relative torment under confinement, while the other has upper class citizens enjoying the luxury of freedom. This is much how hell is. But don't take my word for it, here is the scripture reference from the word of God:

"There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And 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 thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Lk 16:19-31).

This is not a parable, as most think, but rather an actual event. Reason being, in parables names are not mentioned; parables are typifications. Jesus, who is God, can look and see any and every-

where simultaneously (Jer 23:24). Now, what had happen here was that Lazarus, a beggar, died and a Rich man died also. Both ended up in the grave as related here, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom" (v 23). But to the rich man's surprise he saw that hell had two parts - torment and Paradise - and he was in the torment section. Note that he was in a state of consciousness and felt the pains of torment though not relieve from it. Then to add to the fact that this was real, he beckoned to the famous Patriarch of Old, Abraham; who was in the Paradise section of hell. But notice that Abraham told him that between them is a great gulf fixed that anyone from either side cannot cross to or from. Similar to the jail and luxury condo's on Las Olas Blvd, down town Ft. Lauderdale. A jailer cannot get up and walk to the condo's, neither can anyone just walk into a jail. The policemen represent the angels that have diplomatic immunity; to take people who have died to their respective waiting quarters, awaiting trial in the resurrection (Rev 20).

Another surprising thing is the last request of the rich man. When he saw what had happen to him he begged Abraham to send someone from the dead to his brothers to warn them, perhaps seeing someone from hell they would believe. But Abraham said, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets [Bible], neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (v 31).

Never has a saying been so true, because despite the fact that Jesus Christ went to hell, came back and showed himself to many, still you have people today that will not repent; even though "one went unto them from the dead" (v 30), as the rich man puts it.

My friend it is certain that death awaits and by this simple explanation of hell, you are left with a decision. Whether to go on living without repenting or feel convicted and decide to make a change. With the first you'll definitely end up in torment for a long while and cry out to me on the other side to bring you some water, when I simply cannot help you then. I have the chance to do so now, by telling you this truth. If you're smart and choose to repent, that is, make up your mind to follow Christ and turn your back on your former life, then here is what you must do, "be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). You'll find information at the bottom of his tract to aid you.

**Note:** Often times hell, 'hell's fire' and the lake of fire are use interchangeable to mean the last place for sinners, but from the above you get the picture of hell (the grave), which is divided into relative paradise and torment - waiting places. The key is to go to the grave circumcised, which today means being born again; "all of them slain, fallen by the sword, which are gone down uncircumcised into the nether parts of the earth...which are gone down to hell" (Eze 32:24). The latter part of Ezekiel 32 back up this expository and shows some of the facets in hell. However, "hell's fire" is not the final abode of the wretched soul, just a waiting place of torment. The final abode, which is distinct from hell, will be "the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone" (Revelation 21:8). This is not hell's fire, but a place reserved for satan, his angels and those that are judge out of those things which are written in the lamb's book. When time is ended, the party for the saints will not be in hell or amongst the wicked, but all true believers will dwell in the celestial city that descended from the sky to the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:10).

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