



What Happens When I Die?

(Luke 16:19-31)

- Introduction:
1. How many times have we heard someone say, typically at a funeral, that the family of the one deceased can take comfort in the knowledge that the deceased is now in Heaven with God?
 2. Certainly, it's what we would all like to think, and it is what many have always believed, but is it true?
 3. The question is not whether the faithful deceased will ever be with the Lord, the Bible promises us they will. Rather, it is a question of timing.
 - a. How can anyone be in Heaven or Hell before the judgment day?
 - b. How can the judgment take place before the resurrection?
 - c. How can the resurrection occur before the Lord returns?

I. Following Death, One Awaits His Ultimate Reward

- A. (Daniel 12:13) God told Daniel he would die, then later he would receive his inheritance.
- B. (1 Peter 1:3-5) Inheritance is reserved in heaven and will be given when salvation will be revealed in the last time.
- C. (2 Timothy 4:8) We will receive our crown at the day of judgment, when Jesus returns.
- D. (John 3:13) No man has ascended to heaven.
- E. Consider these passages:
 1. (Luke 23:43; John 20:17) There is a place of paradise that is not Heaven.
 2. (2 Peter 2:4,9,17) Wicked reserved under punishment until the judgment.

II. The Realm Of The Dead

- A. (Luke 16:19-31).
- B. Facts concerning this realm.
 1. This place is called Hades (Luke 16:23).
 2. Two compartments to it (Luke 16:22-23).
 3. Punishment and comfort (Luke 16:22-23).
 4. There is communication (Luke 16:24).
 5. There is conscienceness (Luke 16:24).
 6. There is recognition (Luke 16:24).
 7. There is no second chance after death (Luke 16:25-26).
 8. There is remembrance and concern for loved ones (Luke 16:27-28).

III. The Biblical Timing

- A. Those who die before the return of Christ will await his return in Hades (Luke 16).
- B. When Jesus returns, he will bring with him those who have died and they will be resurrected from their graves (1 Thessalonians 4:13; John 5:28-29).
- C. Those who are alive when Jesus returns will be changed in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
- D. Following the resurrection, all mankind will be judged and sentenced (Revelation 20:11-15).

- Conclusion:
1. While the Bible reveals much about life after death, it still leaves many questions that are remain unanswered.
 2. However, what is revealed is enough to give us comfort and hope so that we need not fear what lies beyond the grave.