

# ONE STEP BEYOND

## Part 1

By Mark Legendre

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

A. Have you ever really wondered about what happens to a person when they die? What happens to the body of man and what happens to his soul? We have all heard about the testimonies of people who had apparently died and came back to life on the operating table. These people would say such things like they saw a bright light shining and people in white apparel coming to lead them to a wonderful and beautiful place that they assumed was Heaven. We have also heard the stories of how a person's whole life would pass before them in a moment of time when they were almost killed in some accident. **MAYBE THESE THINGS ARE TRUE OR MAYBE THEY ARE NOT.** But, is there any source where we might find some real truth concerning what takes place when a person dies? **DOES THE BIBLE GIVE US ANY INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT**

### **II. WHAT TAKES PLACE AT DEATH?**

- A. When does death occur?
1. Death occurs when the "spirit of man" leaves his body. (Jms. 2:26 / 1 Kings 17:17-22 / Job 14:10 / Eccl. 8:8)
  2. The "body of man" is returned to the ground and to corruption. (Eccl. 3:20-21 / Eccl. 12:7 / Job 34:15 / Gen. 3:19)
  3. The "spirit of man" returns to God who gave it. (Eccl. 3:20-21 / Eccl. 12:7 / Lk. 23:46)
- B. The terms "spirit of man" and "soul of man" are often used interchangeably in the Bible. (1 Kings 17:21-22 / Jms. 2:26)<sup>1</sup>
1. The "soul of man" is REAL! (Mt. 10:28 / Gen. 2:7 / Is. 55:3 / Ez. 18:4)
  2. The "body of man" and the "soul of man" go to different places when death occurs.

### **III. WHERE THE BODY AND SOUL GO AT DEATH!**

- A. The "body of man" goes back to "dust" as we have already seen. (Gen. 3:19)
- B. The "spirit of man" goes back to God as we have already seen. (Eccl. 12:7) Let's be more specific!
1. The "soul of man" goes into a place called HADES at death. It is translated with the word "hell" in the King James Version of the Bible.
  2. There are 3 Greek words that are translated with the word "hell" in the N.T. [Heb. – "Sheol" Ò Grave]
    - a. GEHENNA-The final place of punishment for the wicked. (Mt. 25:46)
    - b. HADES-The place of "departed spirits." This is where

Jesus' spirit went when he died. (Acts 2:29-31)

c. TARTARUS-The part of HADES that is reserved for the wicked spirits. (2 Pet. 2:4)

3. Confusion arises because in the KJV Bible, all 3 words are translated "hell." The context in which the word is used will determine which place is being discussed.

C. Let's observe the following diagram:

1. Consider the following scriptures: Matt. 16:18 / Rev. 1:18  
Hades

**2. HADES...**

"Paradise"		"Tartarus"
Luke:23:43		2 Peter 2:4
Acts 2:31	"...GREAT GULF FIXED..."	Luke 16:22-26
Acts 2:34-35	Luke 16:26	
Luke 16:22-25		

D. HADES then has 2 compartments:

1. Paradise" is where the "souls of the saved" go at death! (Abraham's bosom...) [Comfort]
2. Tartarus" or "Torments" is where the "souls of the lost" go at death!

B. In HADES, which is the "place of departed spirits," the "souls of both the righteous and the wicked" await the FINAL RESURRECTION! (Heb. 9:27) (2 Pt. 2:4,9)

**IV. WHAT HAPPENS AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST?**

- A. The world will be destroyed! (2 Pet. 3:3-14 / 1 Thes. 5:1-4)
- B. The "bodies and souls" of all mankind will be "re-united" in the RESURRECTION! (Jn. 5:28-29 / Mt. 10:28 [Gehenna] / 1 Cor. 15:35-55 / 1 Thes. 4:13-18)
- C. The JUDGMENT will take place "at the last day!" (Jn. 6:39-40 / Jn. 12:48 / Jn. 11:23-24)
- D. Both the "righteous" and the "wicked" will be *raised at the same time!* (Acts 24:14-15)
- E. A "separation" between the "righteous" and the "wicked" will take place! (Mt. 25. esp. vs. 31-33 / Mt. 13:24-30 and 37-43 / Mt. 13:47-51)
- F. ETERNITY BEGINS! (Mt. 25:46)

**V. CONCLUSION**

- A. Where will you be at in ETERNITY? (Heaven or Hell)
  1. Only you can determine that! (Rom. 2:3-11 / Mt. 7:21 / 2 Thes. 1:7-9)
  2. Are you ready to die?
- B. Does the Bible give us any more information about what takes place "after death?" (It sure does!)
- C. In Part 2 of the lesson:

1. We will hear a man speak to us who has died and found out firsthand what you and I have talked about this morning. (Lk. 16:19-31)
2. What lessons did he learn when he took that “one step beyond...” into ETERNITY!