

# God sees death differently than us

- *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. Ps 116:15*
- *"precious; rare; excellent; weighty; noble."*
- When a saint dies, God sees it as a precious excellent and noble event.
- *Riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. Eph 1:15-23*
- What we see leaving, God sees as receiving.

# God's Description of Death

- *Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well. 7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and **the spirit will return to God who gave it.** 8 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity." Eccl 12:6-8*

# This Knowledge is to Give Comfort

- *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*
- *14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*
- *18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Th. 4:13-14; 18*

# The Mystery is Unveiled

- *And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” 43 And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” Lk. 23:42-43*
- What did Jesus mean by these words?
- Was He planning to come down from the cross and take the thief to a beautiful park?
- Jesus was dead within three hours and the thief soon after.
- How were these words fulfilled?

# The Mystery is Unveiled

- *Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. Eccl 12:7*
- Yet in this case, the dust did not return to dust. The spirit returned to the body so it saw no corruption.
- *he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption” Acts 2:31-32*

● *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, Jn. 1:1-3, 14*

- Jesus was the Word who was with God and was God. He has been alive throughout all eternity!
- He came to earth and continued to live.
- He died, went to Hades, where He continued to live, then was raised back into earth for 40 days
- He returned to heaven where He still lives.
- Jesus journeyed from heaven, to earth, to paradise, to earth, then to the right hand of God.

# A New Perspective

- When we fully understand these things, our old understanding of death is “abolished.”
- *has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 2 Tim 1:10-11*
- After seeing what happened to Jesus, only life and immortality remain.

# A Description that Validates

- *So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.*

- *Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom*
- *now he is comforted*

- *The rich man also died and was buried.*

- *being in torments in Hades,*
- *he lifted up his eyes and saw.*
- *I am tormented in this flame.'*
- *and you are tormented*

- *between us and you there is a great gulf fixed,*

- *those who want to pass from here to you cannot,*
- *nor can those from there pass to us.'*

- *Death is only a journey from here to **paradise***

# What About Paradise?

- *I will come to visions and revelations:*
  - *fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows*
  - *caught up to the third heaven.*
  - *whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows —*
  - *was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 2 Cor 12:1-5*

# Not Lawful, but still expressed feelings

- *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Phil 1:21-24*
- Paul couldn't tell us what he saw, but he was allowed to tell us how it affected his view of death.
- To die is Gain      To die is very far better

# A Second Validation

- *As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. 30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Luke 9:29-32*

# A Glimpse into Immortality

- Two Men Appeared – Still called men!
- Moses (Born 1738 BC)
- Elijah (Born 900 BC)
- Sent back from Paradise together to talk with Jesus
- Appeared in Glory
- Spoke of His decease in Jerusalem.
- There was no Jerusalem when Moses died.
- About 800 years separated them but now together.

# Jesus Words to Lift our Understanding

- *Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." John 11:21-27*

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