



Grave a burial place.

Hades the underground abode of the dead in Greek mythology

Sheol the abode of the dead in early Hebrew thought

Hell a place of turmoil or destruction

Definitions from Merriam Webster's Online Dictionary
— www.m-w.com —

Thinking that upon death a person goes to heaven, pulls the rug right out from under the Bible. The Scriptures must be our standard for truth. Besides, why is there a resurrection of the dead when in fact, no one is really dead?

It is in the resurrected body (in the flesh) that we will be able to see God on the last day

For I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day on the Earth. And though worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh I shall see God—Job 19:25-26

All living things go to the same place

Man's fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both...all have the same breath...all go to the same place; all came from dust, and to dust all return—Ecclesiastes 3:19-20

If you would like to discuss this subject or others related to the Bible and Christianity, we would love to hear from you.

Living Hope International Ministries

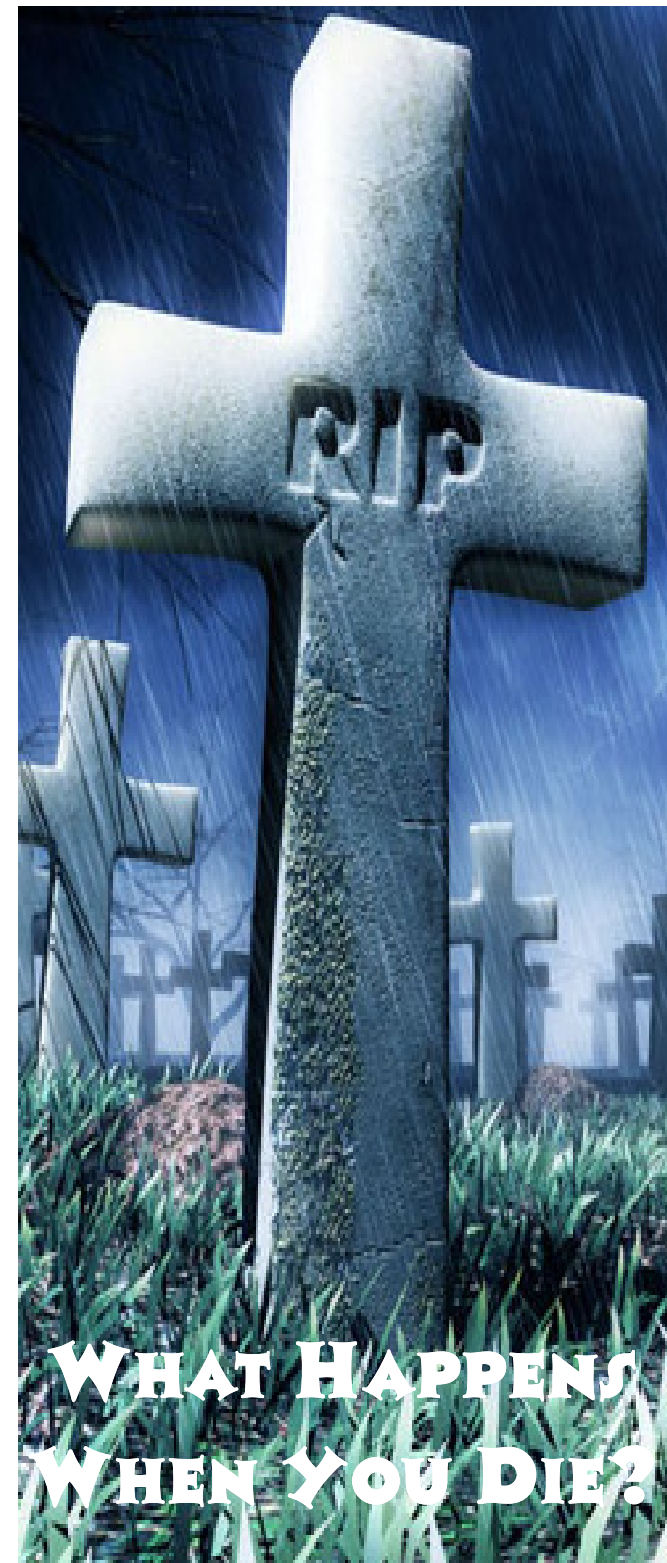
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When you die, you're not alive somewhere else. You are dead. You don't ascend to Heaven or descend to Hell. Instead you remain in the ground "**R**esting **I**n **P**ease" *until* such a time as you are awakened by resurrection. In this brochure we have included several verses taken straight out of the Bible to explain this belief. Please consider them as we have put a lot of time into this.

In the grave there is silence, just like sleep
Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I call upon you: let the wicked be put to shame, let them be silent in Sheol.—Psalm 31:17

Jesus used sleep and death interchangeably
After that he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep but I go so that I may awaken him out of sleep"... Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he was speaking of literal sleep. So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."
—John 11:11-14

Dead people are asleep in the dust of the earth
Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, some to everlasting life, but others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.—Dan. 12:2

The resurrection is when the dead come to life
The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. That is the first resurrection—Rev 20:4

The grave is the resting place of the dead. In Hebrew, the word used is Sheol. In Greek that word is Hades. The common Greek mythological understanding of Hades has corrupted contemporary understanding about death. Think about it, when was the last time you read a verse that made it seem like dead people were living in some disembodied state?



Awaking from sleep **is** rising from the dead
For this reason it says Awake sleeper arise from the dead and Christ will shine on you—Eph5:14

Dead people do not know anything
For the living know they will die: but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.—Ecclesiastes 9:5

Sheol is a place where nothing happens
Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.—Ecclesiastes 9:10

The dead have no ability to think, act, or communicate (with God or other humans).
They are in a state of dreamless sleep.

The dead await the coming return of the Messiah in which they will be raised first, before the living are changed (1Thes. 4:15-17).

Since there is no consciousness in death, there is no perception of time. From the perspective of the dead person, no time passes at all. One moment they are alive, the next they are at the resurrection. However, from the perspective of the living, the one who has died may have waited thousands of years.

The resurrection (not going to heaven) is the Christian hope. Humanity's problem is that we are mortal (we die). Resurrection is the solution to this problem. This is why Paul says that without the resurrection "we are of all men most miserable"(1 Cor. 15:19).

The resurrection occurs when Christ returns
But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.—1 Cor. 15:20-23

Jesus' voice is what commences the resurrection
Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to the resurrection of life...

— John 5:28-29