

What Happens After Death?

Common Aberrant Views

- Soul Sleep
- Purgatory
- Limbo
 - 1) *Limbus Infantum*
 - 2) *Limbus Patrum*

The Scriptural View

The Biblical Words

- Sheol
 - In the Hebrew OT 65x
 - Used in two ways:
 - Place of the wicked dead (Job 21:13; Ps. 9:17; 31:17; 49:14; 55:15; 139:8; Pr. 5:5; 9:18; 15:24; 23:14)
 - The Grave (the place of the dead, both good and evil)
 - E.g., Gen. 37:35; 42:38; 44:29, 31; Job 17:13; Ps. 16:10; Pr. 9:18; Is. 38:10
 - Dominant OT usage
 - The place where their bodies go but not their souls.

The Biblical Words

- Hades
 - Occurs in the Greek NT 10x
 - Equivalent to OT Sheol (LXX almost always uses Hades to translate Sheol)
 - Also used in two different ways:
 - A place when referring to punishment
 - Hell
 - Matt. 11:23; Luke 10:15; 16:23
 - The state of death which both believers and unbelievers enter when life is over
 - The grave
 - Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13, 14

The Biblical Arguments

- Key passages
 - Luke 16:19-31
 - Sensations of suffering
 - Awareness of circumstances (23-24)
 - Memory of the past (27-28)
 - Rational thought (30)
 - Communication with other spirits
 - 2 Cor. 5:1-8
 - Phil. 1:23
 - 1 Th. 5:10
 - Rev. 6:9-11

The Biblical Arguments

- Other passages
 - Gen. 5:24 – Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.
 - 2 Kings 2:11 – Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.
 - Luke 23:43 – He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."
 - Heb. 12:23 – to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect,
 - Passages which present a different exit for body and soul...
 - Ps. 146:4 – His spirit departs, he returns to the earth.
 - Eccl. 12:7 – the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.
 - Matt. 10:28 – "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul."

The Actual Conditions

- Temporary (1 Cor. 15:52)
- Without a body (2 Cor. 5:1-8)
- Distinct
 - Unsaved – suffering (Luke 16:23)
 - Saved
 - Immediately in the presence of the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8)
 - Bliss and joy (Luke 16:25; Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8)
- Ends with the resurrection of the body

The Implications

- There are no second chances after death.
 - Second Probation
 - One's eternal state is fixed at death
 - Luke 16:26 – between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and *that* none may cross over from there to us!
 - John 8:21 – He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come."
 - 2 Pet. 2:4 – if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment... 9 the Lord knows how ... to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.
 - Jude 13 – [false teachers are like] wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

The Implications

- The intermediate state is better than life here.
 - Phil. 1:23 – "I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better."
 - Unmixed, undiminished, unending joy
 - Ps. 16:11 – In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
 - Loving fellowship
 - 1 Cor. 13:13 – now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
 - Sinless perfection
 - Heb. 12:22-23 – you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels; 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect.
 - The presence of Jesus Christ
 - Phil. 1:23 – I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better.
 - 2 Cor. 5:8 – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

The Implications

- There are no second chances after death.
- The intermediate state is better than life here.
- Our only hope of life after death is found in Christ alone.
 - John 11:23-26
 - "I am the resurrection and the life."