

Who Told the Truth...

GOD OR THE SERPENT ?

You will think this an irreverent, irrelevant and strange question, but notice. God said, "Thou *shalt surely* die" (margin, dying thou shalt die)--Gen. 2: 17; and the serpent said, "Thou *shalt not surely* die"--chap. 3: 4. "Of course," you will say, impatiently, "God told the truth, who will question it?" Have patience. Did it ever occur to you that, according to the "orthodox" belief, it was the serpent that told the truth, and not God? You have heard the preacher, speaking of the corpse, say, He *is not* dead, but gone before," *There is no death, but change,*" have you not? Now, if when a man is a corpse he is not dead, and if the preacher's words, "There is no death," be true, was not the serpent correct when he said, "Thou *shalt not surely* die ? "

Seeing the "orthodox" preacher and the serpent say the same thing, and that God says the opposite, our question is pertinent; and we put it in this apparently irreverent form to arouse you to reflect and

CONSIDER A FEW FACTS.

You have, no doubt, seen a person unconscious--nearly dead, and heard people talk about a dying person as having been unconscious for a long time. Now what do you think about such a case? Do you believe that persons in such a condition are really unconscious? "Of course I do," you will impatiently answer; and it will, no doubt, occur to you that many persons, after having been unconscious for a long time, have been restored to consciousness. You see, therefore, that *it is possible for a person to become unconscious*. Now suppose such a one, instead of being, restored to consciousness, were to *die*, would he then be conscious or unconscious? Will your common sense allow you to believe that death restores an unconscious person to consciousness? Can you believe that a person nearly dead may *know nothing*, but one absolutely dead knows much?

Is a man dead after he has breathed his last breath? If so, God told the truth. If not--if he is still alive, in heaven or anywhere else., the serpent told the truth, and the "orthodox" preacher is right when he says, "There is no death, but change." Which will you believe, God or the serpent and the preacher?

Observation, reason and facts tell us that death is real; but we do not depend upon these alone, because God has spoken. Death, according to the dictionary, is "that state of being in which there is *total* and permanent cessation of *all* the vital functions; the cessation of life"--Webster.

Death according to the Bible, is the cessation of all the vital functions--the cessation of life.

Proof: "In death there is *no remembrance* of thee; in the grave who shall give thee thanks? " (Psa. 6: 5); "The grave *cannot praise* thee; death *cannot celebrate* thee; they that go down to the pit *cannot hope* for thy truth" (Isaiah 38: 18); "His breath goeth forth; he returneth to his earth; in that very day his *thoughts perish*" (Psa. 146: 3, 4). The dead *know not anything...their love, their hatred, and their envy is now perished*" (Eccl. 9: 5, 6); "There is no work, nor device, *nor knowledge, nor wisdom* in the grave whither *thou goest*" (Eccl. 9: 10).

DOES DEATH END ALL THEN ?

you will ask. If it were not for resurrection it would. Proof--"For if the *dead rise not*, then is Christ not raised, and if Christ be not raised...then they also which are *fallen asleep* in Christ ARE PERISHED" I COR. 15: 16-18. (OVER).

WHO TOLD THE TRUTH, GOD OR THE SERPENT ?

If the serpent's words, "Thou shalt *not surely die*," are true; and the preacher's words, "There is no death but change," are true; and if man goes to his reward or punishment at death there is no need of a resurrection. But seeing the serpent uttered a lie, and God's words, "Thou shalt *surely die*," are true, the resurrection is so important that apart from it death ends all, apostolic teaching is rendered vain; and there can be no hope of a future life I Cor. 15: 14-19).

BUT DEATH DOES END ALL IN SOME CASES.

If not, what is to become of all the savage tribes that are no more responsible than the beasts? To preserve them in torment would be unjust. To send them to heaven would be equally so; because, that would be putting a premium upon savagery. But God's words are true; death in the case of those not responsible ends all.

PROOF: "I am as a man that hath no strength, free among the dead, like the *slain that lie in the grave*, WHOM THOU REMEMBEREST NO MORE" (Psa. 88: 5). "The army and the power, they shall lie down together: they shall *not rise*; THEY ARE EXTINCT" (Isaiah 43: 17). They shall be as though they had not been" (Obadiah 16). "LIKE SHEEP they are laid in the grave: death shall feed on them (Psa. 49: 14).

DEATH DOES NOT END ALL.

in the case of those who are responsible to law--those who are "just or unjust."

PROOF: "God will redeem my soul *from the power of the grave*" (Psa. 49: 15). "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall *awake*" (Dan. 12: 2). "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust" (Acts 24: 15).

God does not reward the just and punish the unjust from the time they die till the resurrection, and then judge them. That would be inconsistent. If the just could go to their reward at death there is no need of Christ coming to judge them, as Paul says he will. "He shall judge the quick and the dead *at his appearing* and his kingdom" (II. Tim. 4: 1). God "will render to every man according to his deeds; to them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but unto them that are contentious and do not obey the truth...indignation and wrath." This is to be "in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ" (Rom. 2: 6-8, 16).

Seeing it is true that men die and remain in the grave till the resurrection, at which time they are raised to be judged *before* they are rewarded or punished, we must discard the serpent's lie and cast to the moles and to the bats the preachers' falsehoods, and "Let God be true though all men (even the serpent and the preacher) are liars.

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