

## WHAT HAPPENS BEYOND THE GRAVE?

Acts 24:1-16

INTRODUCTION: In the cemeteries we see many tombstones which are like a last little testimony about a person's life. Some of those tombstones are factual and others are quite funny. Tombstones remind us that death comes for everyone eventually. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: our question for today is "What happens after I die?"

### I. MOST RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD TEACH OF A LIFE AFTER DEATH!

The largest religions on this earth all teach a life after death: Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam; all teach of a life after death. There has only been one Man who has conquered death, and His Name is Jesus Christ. Christianity is different from every other religion created by mankind because our Founder said He was going to die and rise again, and then He died and rose again. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Revelation 1:9-18. Our Lord Jesus offers eternal life to every person who will trust in Him: John 14:19; John 11:21-27. The Lord Jesus Christ will be the Judge of all mankind: John 5:24-30; Acts 17:22-34. The proof that one day you will be raised from the dead to be judged by Jesus Christ is that He has risen from the dead: Acts 2:22-24; Acts 24:15. It is absolutely guaranteed by God's Word that there will be a resurrection of the righteous and the wicked for judgment.

### II. WHEN A CHRISTIAN DIES HE OR SHE GOES TO HEAVEN!

When a believer in Jesus Christ dies they go immediately to heaven: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. When a Christian dies it is the body that dies, their spirit and soul go to be with the Lord in heaven. Romans 8:1-4. For the believer there are three different resurrections. 1.) At the rapture or catching away of the church, those who are in Christ Jesus: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20-21. 2.) The resurrection of the Old Testament saints will happen at the Second Coming of Christ. Job 19:25-27, Daniel 12:1-2; Isaiah 26:19-21. 3.) The resurrection of those who died in the Tribulation for their faith in Christ at the beginning of the one-thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ: Revelation 20:1-6. This is all called the First Resurrection!

### III. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A NON-CHRISTIAN DIES?

When an unbeliever dies he or she goes to Hades, a terrible place of torment. Revelation 1:18. Hades is temporary and the Lake of Fire is eternal. Jesus told a story of a man who went to Hades: Luke 16:22-24. The soul and spirit of a man or woman who dies without faith in Jesus Christ goes immediately to Hades. One day the body of the unbelievers which is in the grave will also be resurrected for eternal judgment. This will all happen at the Great White Throne Judgment. You don't want to go there! Revelation 20:11-15. If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life they are thrown into the Lake of Fire that is the Second Death! People at the Great White Throne Judgment will be judge based upon what they knew about Jesus Christ and what they did with that information: Romans 1:18-20; Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 3:1-2; Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:3.