

GROWTH RESOURCES

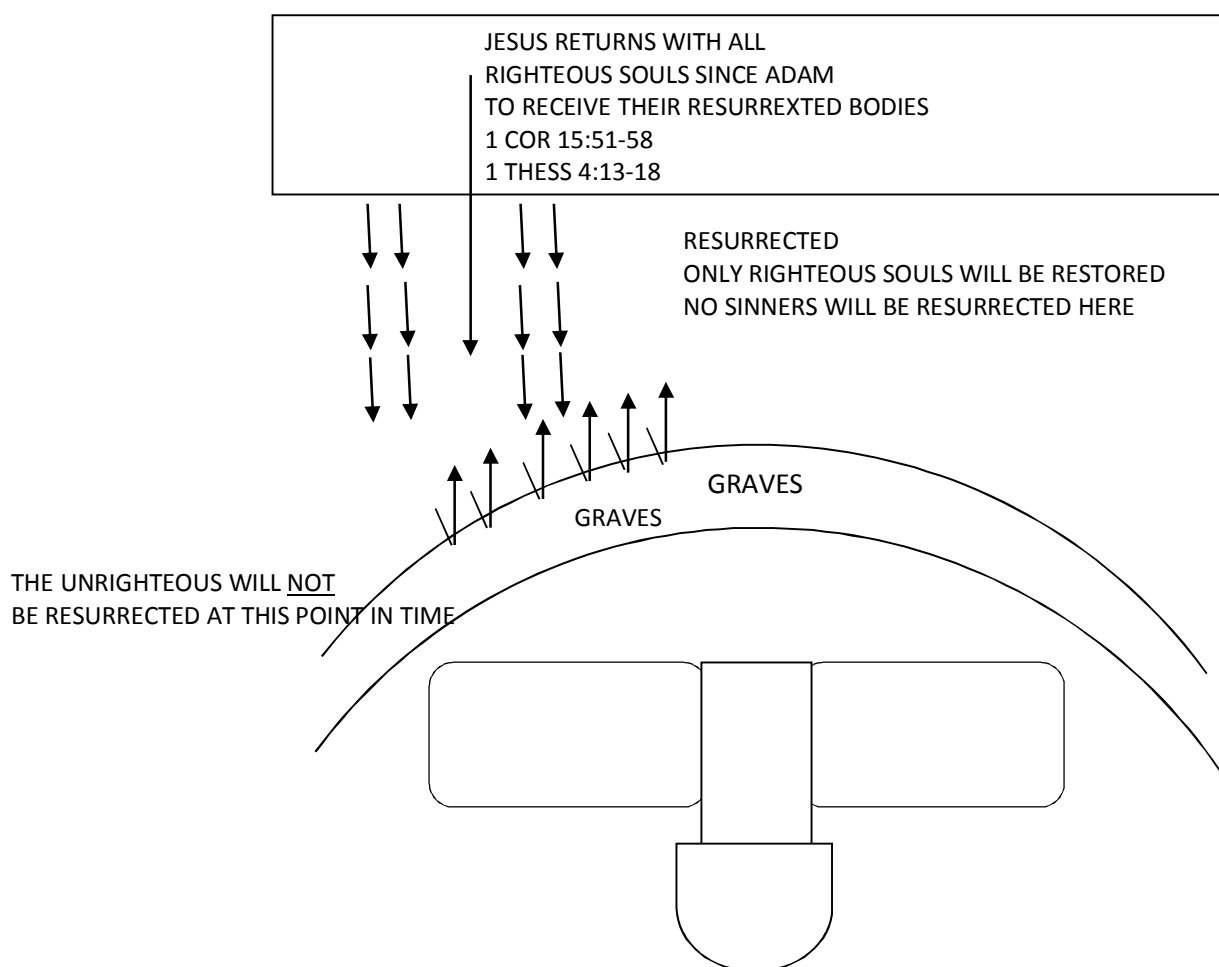
WHERE ARE THE DEAD, PART 3

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD IS IN TWO PHASES

RAPTURE

The catching away of the blood-washed, born again saints of God as described in 1 Thess 4:13-18 and 1 Cor 15:51-58. This is known as the RAPTURE, a Latin word meaning “caught up.” The Greek rendition of this word is HARPADZO meaning: to seize, to snatch away, catch up, take by force.

- (1 Thess 4:13-18) *Now also we would not have you ignorant, brethren, about those who fall asleep [in death], that you may not grieve [for them] as the rest do who have no hope [beyond the grave]. (v.14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will also bring with Him through Jesus those who have fallen asleep [in death].*
- (v.15) *for this we declare to you by the Lord's [own] word, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall in no way precede [into his presence] or have any advantage at all over those who have previously fallen asleep [in Him in death]. (v.16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first. (v.17) Then we, the living ones who remain [on the earth], shall simultaneously be caught up along with [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always (through the eternity of the eternities) we shall be with the Lord! (v.18) Therefore comfort and encourage one another with these words.*



- (1 Cor 15:51-58) Take notice! I tell you a mystery (a secret truth, an event decreed by the hidden purpose or council of God). We shall not all fall asleep [in death], but we shall all be changed (transformed). (v.52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the [sound of the] last trumpet call. For a trumpet will sound, and the dead [in Christ] [will be raised imperishable (free and immune from decay), and we shall be changed (transformed)]. (v.53) for this perishable [part of us] must put on the imperishable [nature], and this mortal [part of us, this nature that is capable of dying] must put on immortality (freedom from death). (v.54) And when this perishable puts on the imperishable and this that was capable of dying puts on freedom from death, then shall be fulfilled the Scripture that says, Death is swallowed up (utterly vanquished forever) in and unto victory. (v.55) O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? (v.56) Now sin is the sting of death, and sin exercises its power [upon the soul] through [the abuse of] the Law. (v.57) But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ. (v.58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be firm (steadfast), immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord [always being superior, excelling, doing more than enough in the service of the Lord], knowing and being continually aware that your labour in the Lord is not futile [it is never wasted or to no purpose].

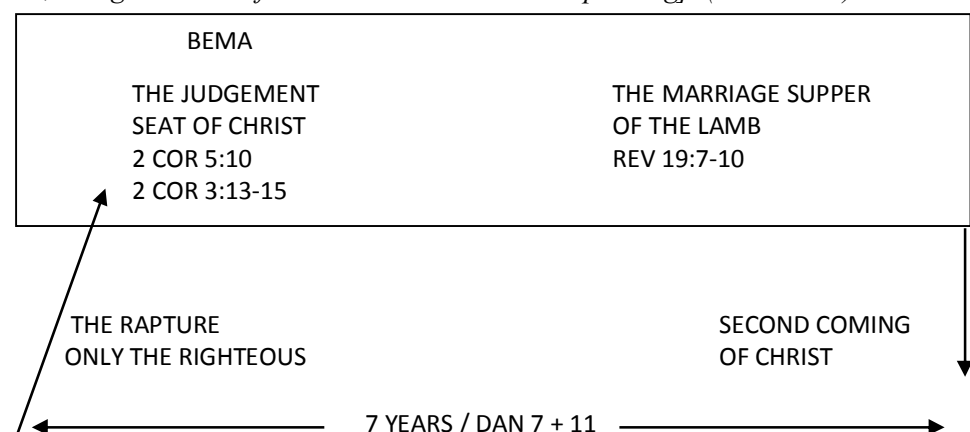
God created mankind with a body to house the spirit and soul.

Mankind was designed to live for eternity, but sin resulted in separation from God at physical death.

But to live for eternity mankind must still live in a body, hence at the First Resurrection/Rapture all the righteous born-again saints will receive a glorified body like Jesus had when He rose from the dead. (Paul the apostle refers to the born again living people as “saints”.)

All the righteous dead (from Abel until the Rapture) will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ (Greek: Bema) to receive Rewards for things done that pleases God.

“For we (only the righteous or born again people) must all appear and be revealed as we are before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive [his pay] according to what he has done in the body, whether good or evil [considering what his purpose and motive have been, and what he has achieved, been busy with, and given himself and his attention to accomplishing]. (2 Cor 5:10)



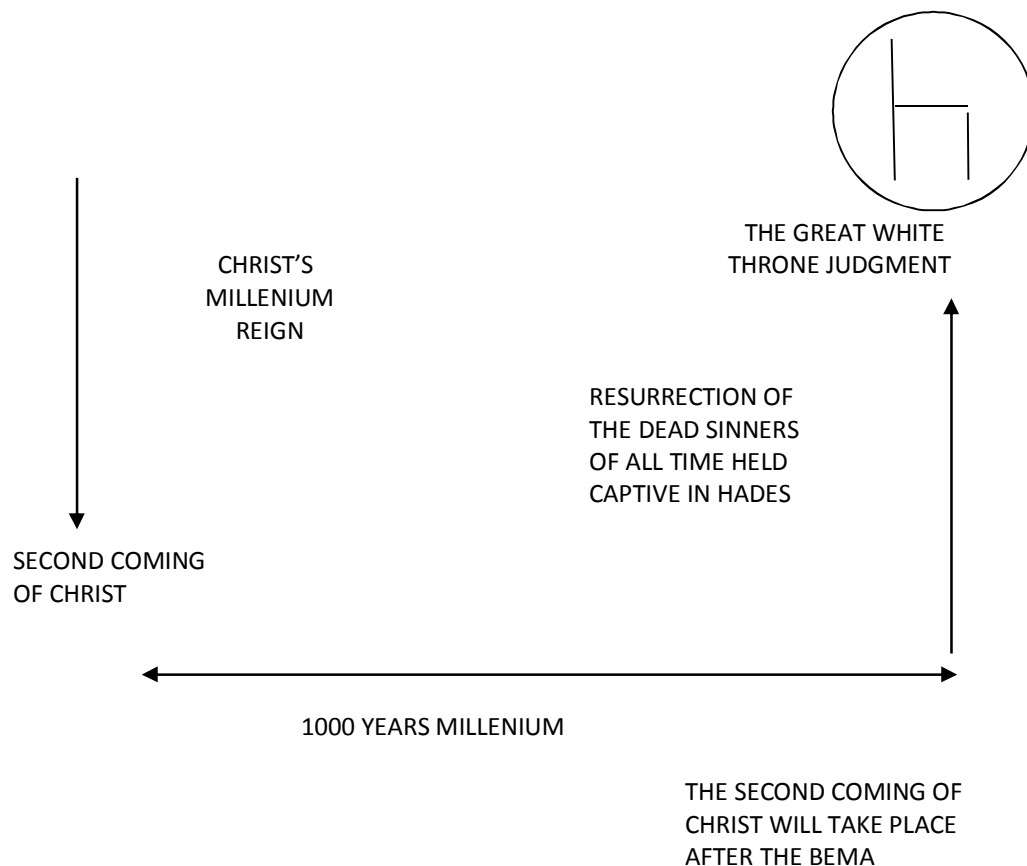
(1 Cor 3:10-15) **explains how this judgment of the righteous ‘saints’ will happen:** According to the grace (the special endowment for my task) of God bestowed on me, like a skillful architect and master builder I laid [the] foundation, and now another [man] is building upon it. But let each [man] be careful how he builds upon it. (v.11) For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is [already] laid, which is Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). (v.12) but if anyone builds upon the Foundation, whether it be with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, (v.13) The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose

and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done. (v.14) If the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] survives [this test], he will get his reward. (v.15) But if any person's work is burned up [under the test], he will suffer the loss [of it all, losing his reward], though he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has passed] through fire.

- This judgment will be about our “works” (life-style, how we lived to please the Lord) since we were born again. Our salvation will not be brought into question or judged, but only what we have done for God.
- There will be no unrighteous (sinners/unrepentant persons) at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The only reward the unrepentant will receive will be eternal separation from God in the eternal lake of fire – Hell – because they rejected God’s offer of salvation.

THE SECOND COMING of Christ will take place after the Bema and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. (Rev 19:7)

- In the meantime, on earth will be the manifestation and reign of the Antichrist in the Great Tribulation for seven years. (Dan 7, 11; 2 Thess 2; Rev 13).
- After the seven years of tribulation Jesus will return to the earth (Second Coming) with the raptured saints to reign with Him during the Millennium. The thousand-year reign of Christ in Jerusalem. (Rev 20:6) *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*
- At that time, Satan will be bound for a thousand years during Christ’s reign on earth. (Rev 20:1-3) *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while)*
- After Christ’s Millennium reign, Satan is loosed and will deceive the nations (just like he deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden) gathering them for battle against Jesus and the saints in Jerusalem. God will crush this satanic rebellion and cast Satan and his demons into Hell, the eternal lake of fire for eternity. (Rev 20:7-9) *Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.*



- Then God will set up the Great White Throne to judge the unrighteous dead since the beginning of time. *(Rev 20:10-15) The devil, who deceived the, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*
- God will condemn “NOBODY” to the eternal lake of fire – Hell. All the people who go to Hell will do so because of their choice not to obey God.
- Just like the righteous dead will be resurrected with an eternal body (similar the body of Jesus when He rose from the dead – one not subject to matter), so the unrighteous dead will also be resurrected.
- Jesus passed through walls and locked doors *(John 20:19) Then the same day at evening, being the first of the Sabbaths, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, Peace to you!*
- Everybody who dies in an unrighteous state will also be resurrected from the dead and receive an eternal body at the second resurrection *(Rev 20:6)* – followed by judgment at the Great White Throne.
- The Bible says in *(Hebr 9:27) It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.* The righteous saints will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; the unrighteous will appear before the Great White Throne.
- After this God will prepare a new heaven and earth: *(2 Peter 3:7-13) But the same word the present heavens and earth have been stored up (reserved) for fire, being kept until the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly people. (v.8) Nevertheless, do not let this one fact escape you,*

beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. (v.9) The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance. (v.10) but the day of the Lord will come like a thief (in the night), and then the heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. (v.11) Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated and holy behaviour and devout and godly qualities. (v.12) while you wait and earnestly long for (expect and hasten) the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will flare and melt with fire? (v.13) But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness (uprightness, freedom from sin, and right standing with God) is to abide.

- Also read: (Rev 21:1-27)

CONCLUSION

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM LUKE 16:19-31?

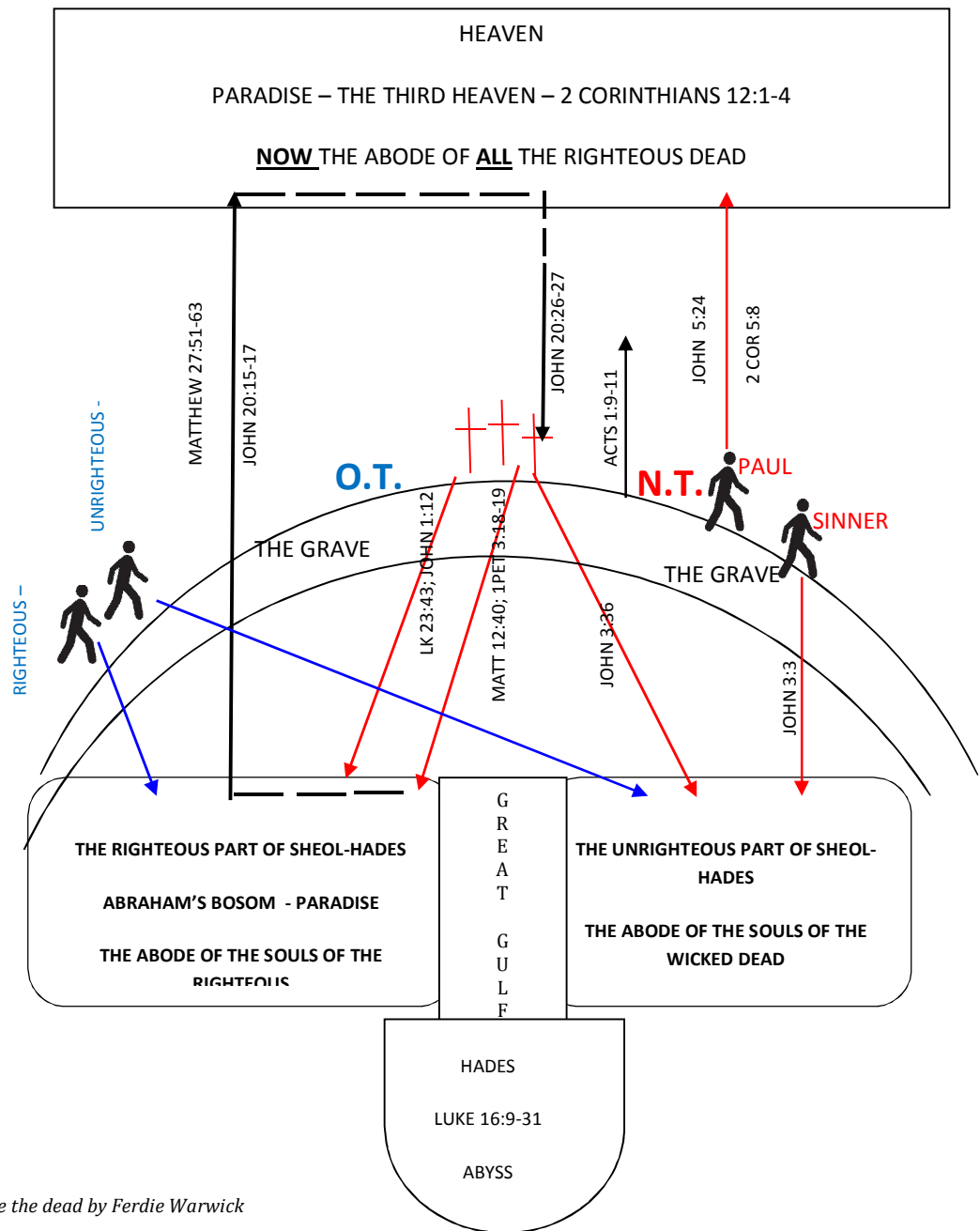
- That a man may have a beautiful appearance in the sight of men, but be utterly corrupt in the sight of God.
- That a person can be poor and loathsome in the sight of other people, yet be rich in the sight of God.
- That a person may have the burial of a dog, but he carried by angels of God to their eternal destiny.
- That a person may have a pompous funeral and at the same time be a miserable soul in flames.
- That a person may have an abundance of things in this world, yet in the world to come be totally destitute of what money cannot buy, namely grace, mercy, pardon, and forgiveness of sin from God. (Mark 8:36-37; Luke 12:15).
- That there would be more Real Mourners at funerals if they could get a glimpse of what lies beyond the grave. Men eulogize the past of the world's great ones, but what about their present? Funerals are wake-up-calls that one day we will pass that way too. The big question being "that then" (James 4:14) says *Yet you do not know [the least thing] about what may happen tomorrow. What is the nature of your life? You are [really] but a wisp of vapour (a puff of smoke, a mist) that is visible for a little while and then disappears [into thin air].*
- If people neglect their opportunities in this life to surrender their lives to Christ, in the life to come they will have a lot of time and reason to remember what fools they were. The cracking sound of the flames will sound like mocking laughter as they suffer torment for eternity.
- Although saints and sinners may meet now, the time is coming when they shall be eternally separated.
- That the prayers of the lost in Hades count for nothing because it is too late!
- Hell is not figment of the imagination, but a place! Luke 16:28. The rich man was not in a state of mind but in a place of torment.

God will not send anybody to hell. He has done everything possible to prevent mankind from going there. That is why Jesus Christ died in our place on the cross. People will go to hell because of a choice they made – to reject the salvation offered by Jesus Christ.

Hebr 2:3 says? There is no second chance of repentance for the lost after the spirit leaves the body in death.

Friend, Jesus did not just tell a story but left us with a warning that Hell is a real place, from which there is no reprieve or escape. Every soul there wishes they could turn back the clock. Let us learn from the Rich Man's foolish choices and follow Jesus Christ and His Word. There is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun!

WHERE ARE THE DEAD?



Bibliography: *Where are the dead* by Ferdie Warwick



El Shaddai
God Almighty

Eloffsdal

Full Gospel Church

International Disciple Movement

189 Eloff Street Eloffsdal 073 947 8017

P O Box 30202 Wonderboompoort 0033

info@taniab.co.za

If you would like to speak to someone about your situation, we would love to help you and pray with you. Please contact the El Shaddai FGC Offices or you can email us at info@taniab.co.za