

Even at the Door!

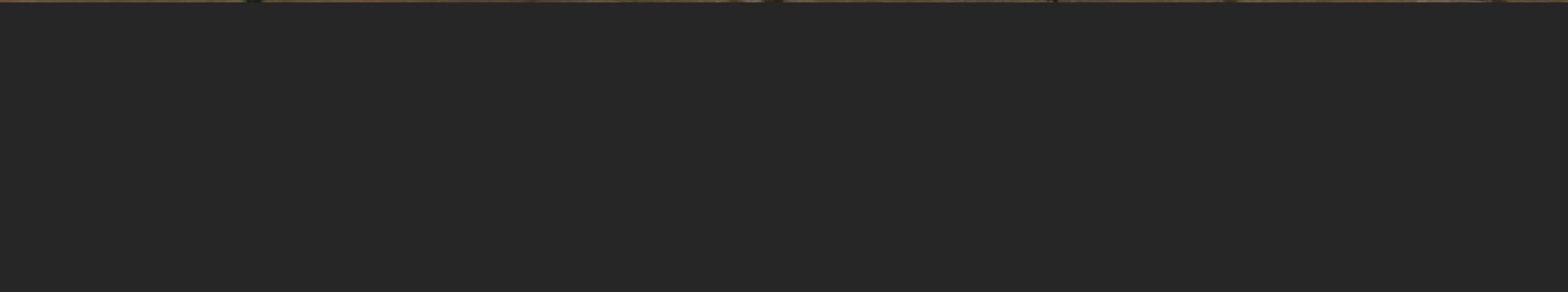
# The Great Divorce



# Death: The Wake-Up Call?



"You will not surely die"



MACKENZIE  
ASTIN

KERI LYNN  
PRATT

# HELL and Mr. Fudge

BASED ON A TRUE STORY



A little story about a big lie.



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

# The boy who came back from heaven

*A remarkable account of  
miracles, angels, and life  
beyond this world*

a true story

KEVIN & ALEX MALARKEY

# Case Study:

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



“Wake-Up Call”

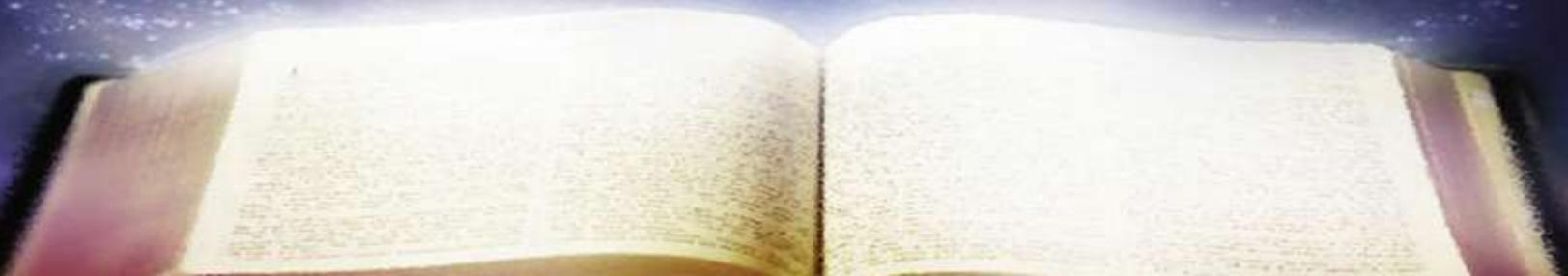
# 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming:

- 1:10
- 2:19
- 3:13
- 4:13-18
- 5:1-11



“You already know”

1 Thess 1:4, 8; 2:1, 2, 5, 10; 3:4; 4:2, 5,





κοιμάω  
koimao  
koma  
cemetery!  
= Sleeping  
place

Gen 2:7: “Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,

and the man became a living being.”

וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה

*nephesh*

(of animals in Gen 1:30; cf. 7:15!)

“The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Job 33:4

“His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish.” NKJV

<sup>KJV</sup> **Psalm 146:4** His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father,` into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.” Lk 23:46

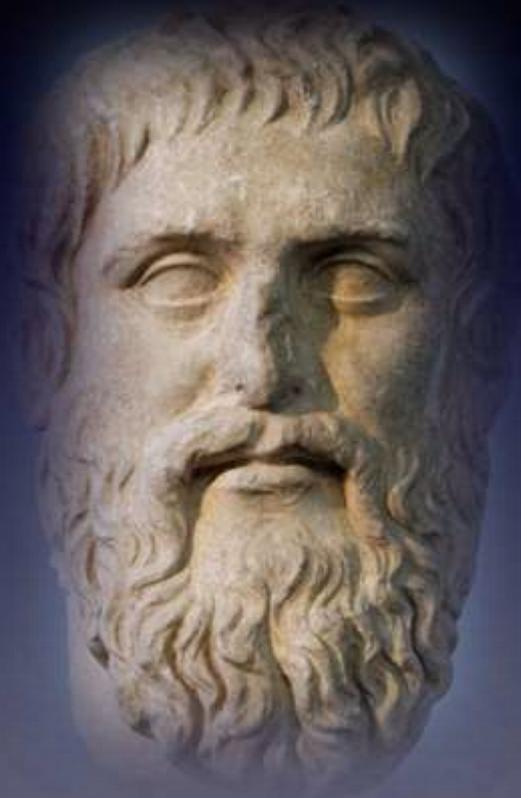


“In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return” (Gen 3:19).

# Plato, *Republic* (10.614-10.621)

## Separation of Soul from Body

“It is not, let me tell you,” said I, “the tale<sup>1</sup> to Alcinous told<sup>2</sup> that I shall unfold, but the tale of a warrior bold,<sup>3</sup> Er, the son of Armenius, by race a Pamphylian.<sup>4</sup> He once upon a time was slain in battle, and when the corpses were taken up on the tenth day already decayed, was found intact, and having been brought home, at the moment of his funeral, on the twelfth day<sup>5</sup> as he lay upon the pyre, revived,<sup>6</sup> and after coming to life related what, he said, he had seen in the world beyond. He said that when his soul<sup>7</sup> went forth from his body he journeyed with a great company



10.614d “And so he said that here he saw, by each opening of heaven and earth, the souls departing after judgement had been passed upon them, while, by the other pair of openings, there came up from the one in the earth souls full of squalor and dust, and from the second there came down from heaven a second procession of souls clean and pure”



“The sun goes down and rises again/But when our short light expires/Only the sleep of one long night remains.” (Catullus, 5.4-6)



“Some think that the body (soma) is the grave (säma) of the soul” (Plato, *Cratylus* 400b).

“They are full of fear because the soul goes to God without the cover of the body” (Plato, *Cratylus* 403b).



# What is a *soul*?

“who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water”

(1 Pet 3:20).

# Souls can die:

“The soul who sins shall die” (Ezek 18:20).

# Only God is immortal:

“which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen” (1 Tim 6:15-16; cf. 1 Tim 1:17).

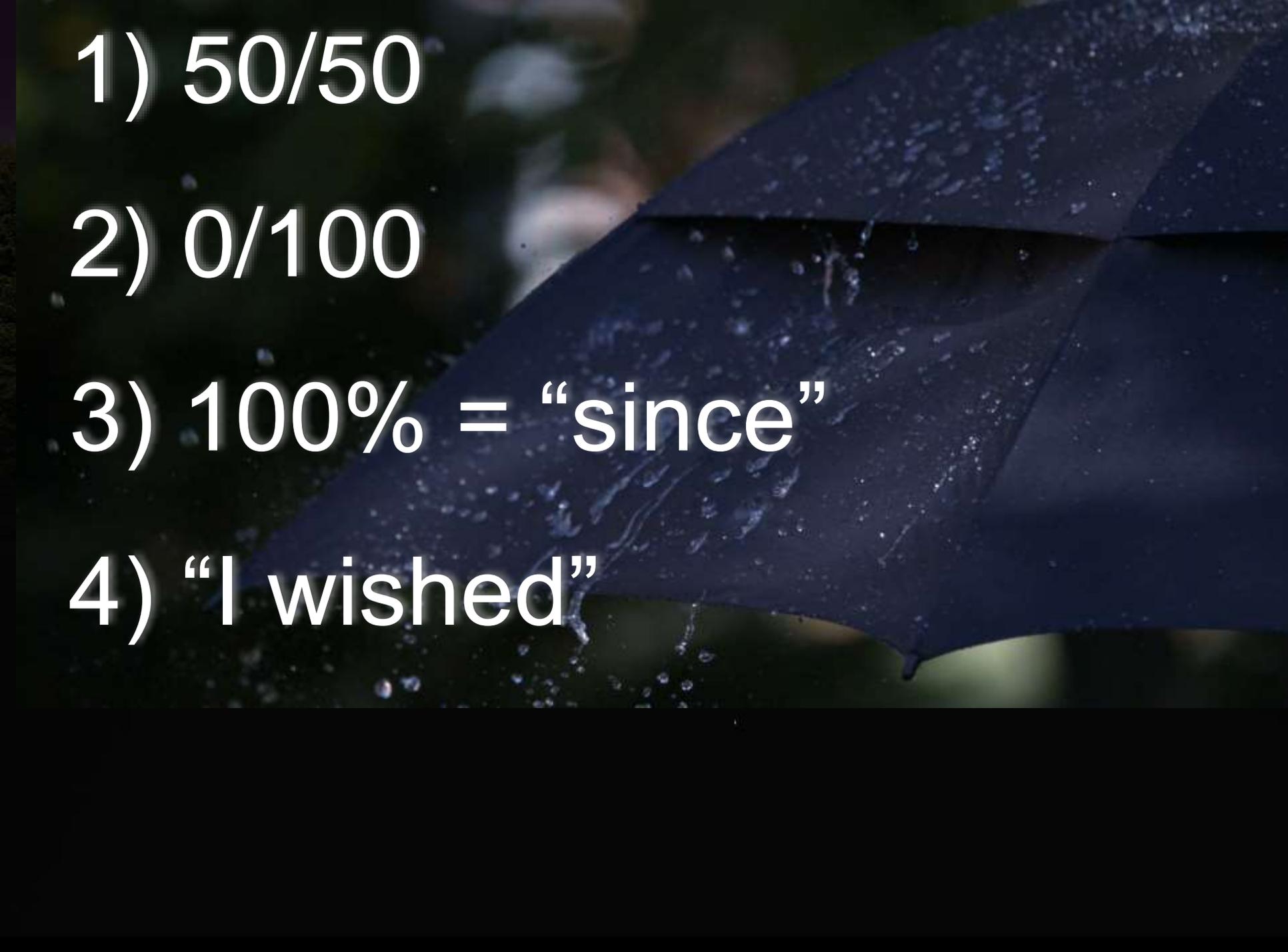
# Death = Sleep

“Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7:60)



# 1 Thess 4:13 “no hope”





1) 50/50

2) 0/100

3) 100% = “since”

4) “I wished”

Assumption:

“**since** we believe that Jesus died and rose again”

Corollary:

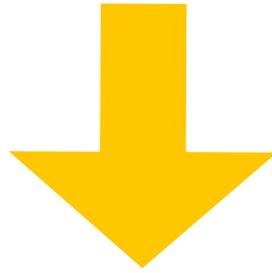
“**even SO** God will bring with Him

those who have fallen asleep in/through Jesus”





As Christ



so the Christian

“because we know that the one  
who raised the Lord Jesus from  
the dead

**will also raise us**

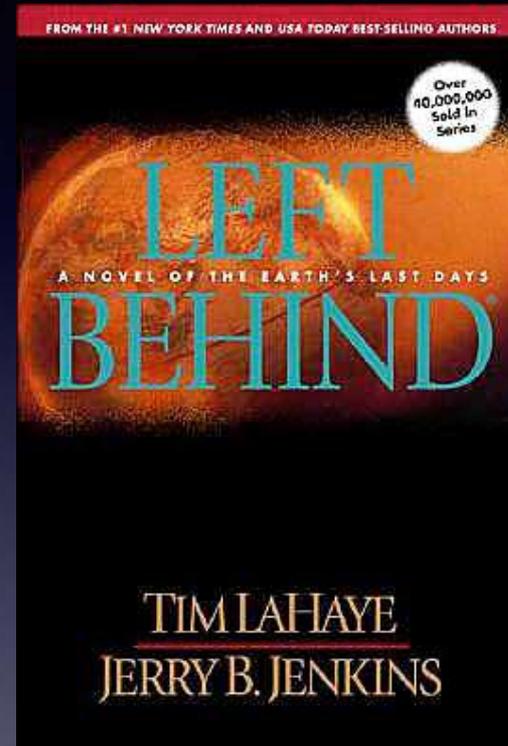
with Jesus and present us with  
you to Himself” (2 Cor 4:14).

# v15: “by the word of the Lord”

- Mt 24:30f; Jn 6:39
- Agraphon (not recorded in canon)
- Special Revelation
- Generic essence of Gospel Spirit

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.” 1 Thess 4:15

“who are left” – Left Behind!



Will not precede

= they haven't preceded us!

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.”<sup>1</sup> Thess 4:16



- Sea Captain
- Horse Racing
- Military

When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city” (Joshua 6:20)

## Trumpet: 1 Cor 15:51-54

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”



ἀνέβη ὁ θεὸς ἐν ἀλαλαγμῷ κύριος ἐν φωνῇ σάλπιγγος (Ps 46:6 LXX)

NKJV Psalm 47:5



“God has gone up with a shout,

The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.”

ὅτι αὐτὸς ὁ κύριος ἐν κελεύσματι, ἐν φωνῇ ἀρχαγγέλου καὶ ἐν σάλπιγγι θεοῦ

(1 Thess 4:16)



“caught up”

(Acts 8:39; 23:10; 2 Cor 12; Rev 12:5)

Plutarch: “snatched away from opportunity for education, marriage, citizenship, and so on”

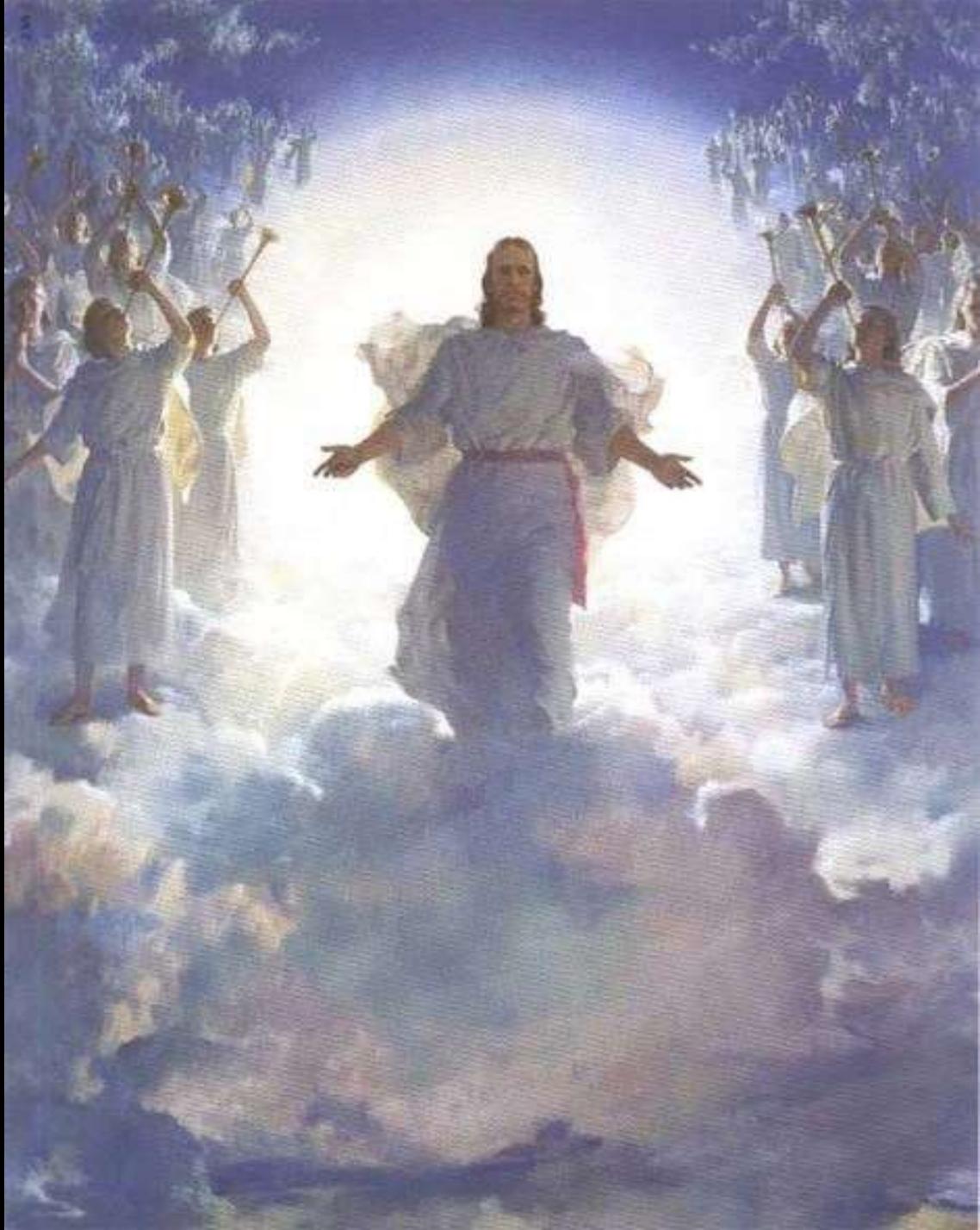


“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient” (Eph 2:2)

“And  
Thus”

=

“So”





Correct  
Theology

Caring  
Touch



Jesus

Doctrine

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that **Jesus** died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in **Jesus**. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of **the Lord**, that we who are alive *and remain until the coming of **the Lord*** will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For **the Lord** Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead **in Christ** will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet **the Lord** in the air. And thus we shall always be with **the Lord**.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.



“Irene to Taonnophris and Philo, good comfort.

I am as sorry and weep over the departed one as I wept for Didymas. And all things, whatsoever were befitting, I have done, and all mine, Epaphroditus and Thermuthion and Philion and Apollonius and Plantas. But, nevertheless, against such things one can do nothing. **Therefore comfort one another.**”

- *Oxyrhynchus Papyrus, Egypt - 2nd c. A.D.*

Dr. Tony Evans, Urban Alternative

**“There is  
no death.”**











“I don’t think  
I’ll ever become  
Seventh-day  
Adventist”



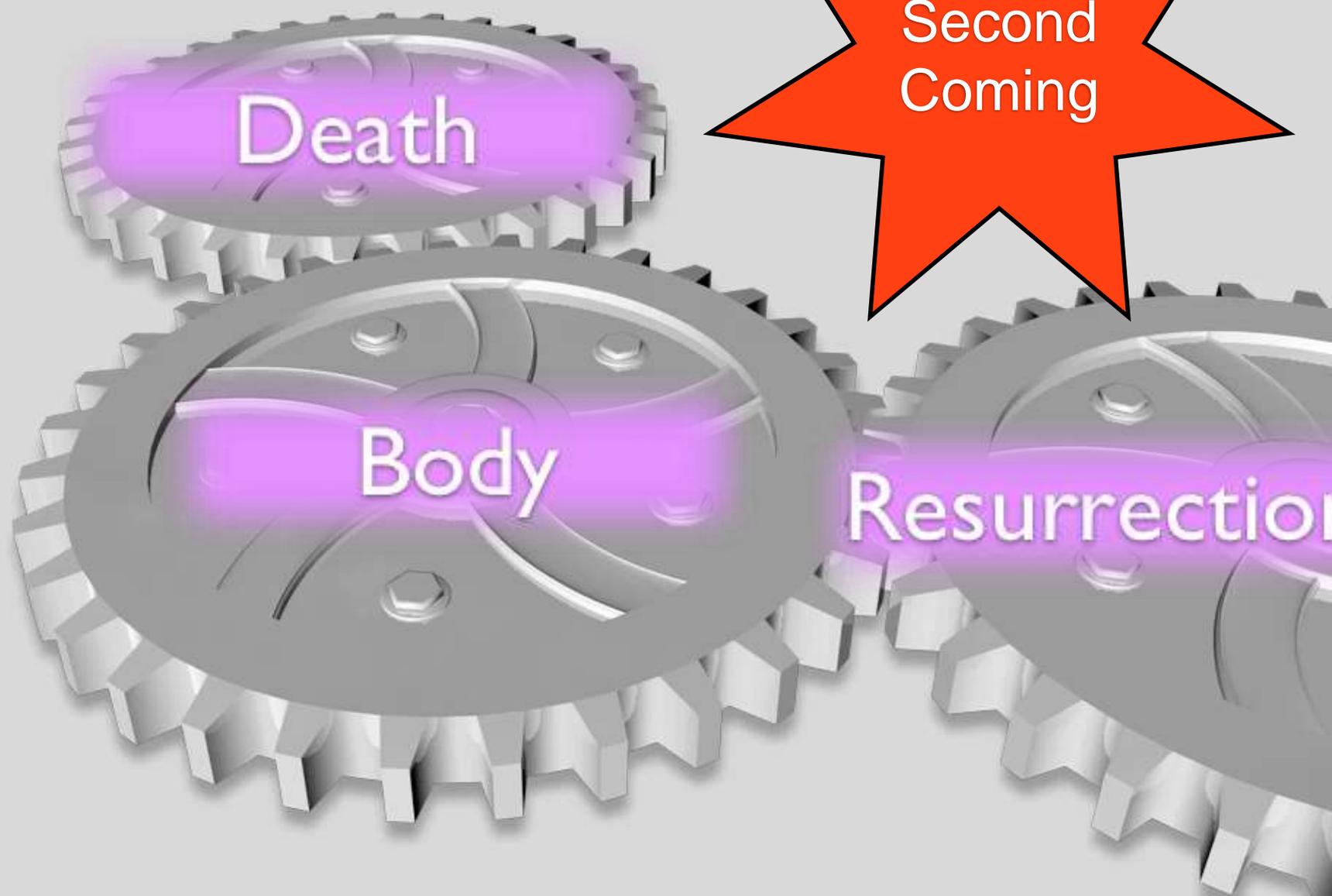








Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary



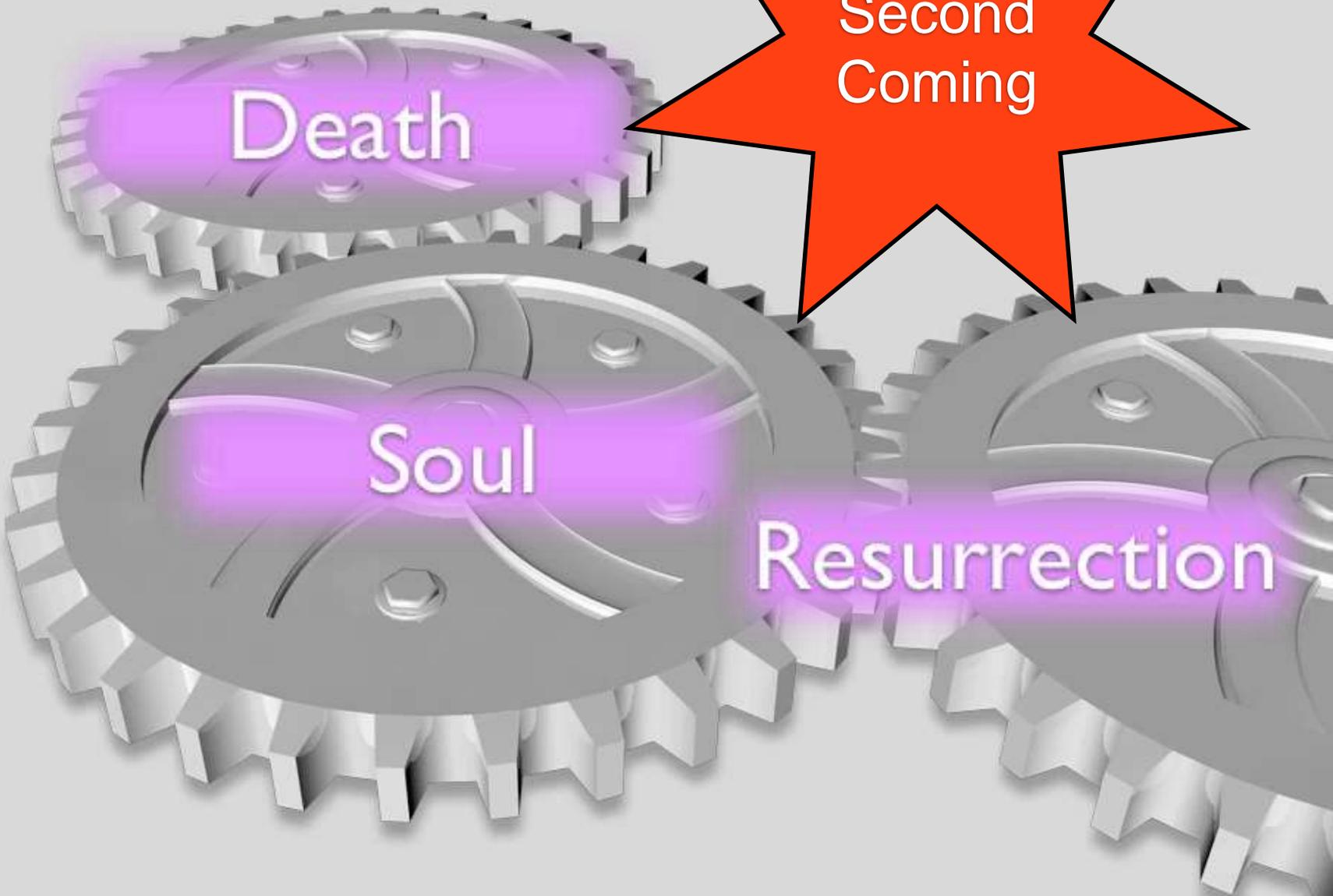
Death

Body

Resurrection



Second  
Coming



Death

Soul

Resurrection



Second  
Coming



I PROMISE YOU TODAY, YOU  
WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE

WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE



Woman, without her,  
man is nothing.



Woman, without her man,  
is nothing.



Let's eat grandpa!

Let's eat, grandpa!

Can I buy this fur coat?

No price too high!

No, price too high!



John  
20:17



“Remember me **WHEN**  
you come into your  
kingdom.”

**TODAY**

- 1. Greek manuscripts show no commas until the 9th century. The oldest extant manuscript, Papyrus Bodmer XIV-XV (P75) shows no comma. Vaticanus marks a point right after “Today”.
- So also Greek minuscule manuscript 339 (13th century), Curetonian Syriac.
- 2. Luke likes to link an adverb (like today) with a preceding verb: (Luke 2:11; 5:26; 12:28; 13:32, 33; 22:34, 61; Acts 19:40; 20:26; 22:3; 24:21; 26:2, 29; 27:33).

ΔΗΝ ΣΟΥ, ΚΑΙ ΕΙΠΕΝ ΑΥ-  
ΤΩ ΔΑΜΗΝ ΣΟΙ ΛΕΓΩ ΣΗ  
ΜΕΡΟΝ ΜΕΤΕΜΟΥΕΣΗ  
ΕΝ ΤΩ ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΣΩ ΚΑΙ  
ΗΝ ΗΛΗΘΟΣ ΕΙΩΡΑ ΕΚΤΗ

Luk 23:43

Luk 23:44

In line | Wrap text | Break text

1/8" margin ▾

ΕΝ ΤΗ Η-  
ΑΠΟΚΡΙΘΕΙΣ ΔΕ Ο ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΕΙΠΕΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΤΩ Εΐ-  
ΘΑΡΣΕΙΣ ΗΜΕΡΟΝ ΜΕΤΕΜΟΥΕΣΗ  
ΕΝ ΤΩ ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΣΩ· ΚΑΙ ΗΝ ΩΣ ΕΙ-  
ΩΡΑ ΕΚΤΗ ΚΑΙ ΙΣΚΟΤΟΣ ΕΓΕΝΕΤΟ  
ΕΦΟΛΗΝ ΤΗΝ ΓΗΝ ΕΩΣ ΩΡΑΣ  
ΕΝΑΤΗΣ ΕΣΚΟΤΙΣΘΗ ΔΕ Ο ΗΛΙΟΣ

Luk 23:43

Luk 23:44

Luk 23:45

Luk 23:46

- “I profess this day unto the LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which the LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us (Deut 26:3 KJV).
- “I teach you today” (4:1)
- “I set before you today” (11:26)
- “I give you today” (28:13)
- “I command you today” (6:6; 7:11; 12:32)
- “I testify against you today” (8:19)
- “I declare you today” (30:18; cf., 4:26; 30:19; 32:46; Acts 20:26; 26:2)

- Incidentally, only the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses has it right:
- “And he said to him: “Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise.” Lk 23:43
- See Wilson Paroschi, “The Significance of a Comma: An Analysis of Luke 23:43”
- <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2013/06/the-significance-of-a-comma:-an-analysis-of-luke-23:43>

Rev 6:9 - Souls under the Altar?

Gen 4:10 “voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me!”  
Sacrificial language of martyrdom





“What would happen?!”



“Something will happen!”

I don't know what to believe,  
and I hate to find out.



John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself;  
**that where I am, there you may be also.**

## 2Cor. 5:8

“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

For though **I am absent in  
the flesh, yet I am  
with you in spirit,**  
rejoicing to see your *good* order  
and the steadfastness of your  
faith in Christ. (Col 2:5 NKJ)

Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

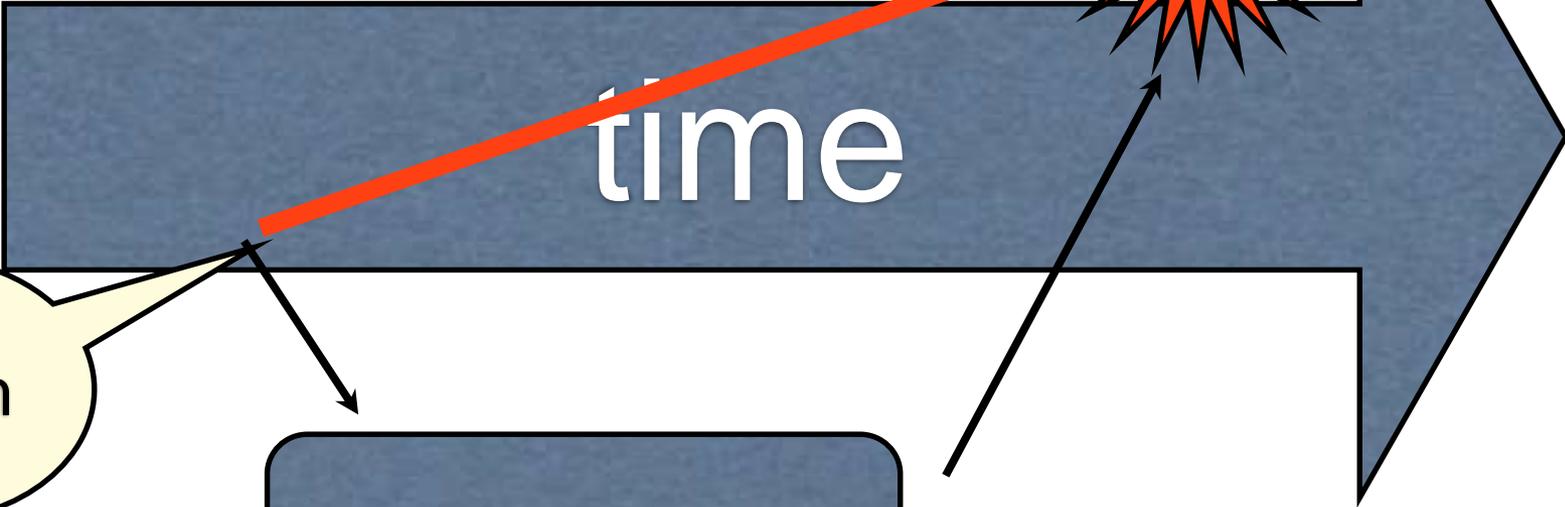
Phil. 1:22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

Phil. 1:23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.





2nd Coming



Death

Death = Sleep

time

Phil. 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Phil. 3:11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

John 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

ζωοποιέω **zoo-poieo**

Verb 3 sing pres act indic to make alive,  
keep alive (Predicate)



“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.”

GC 588

“As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.”

“The miracle-working power manifested through spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men.

Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony." GC 590







# Near Death Experiences



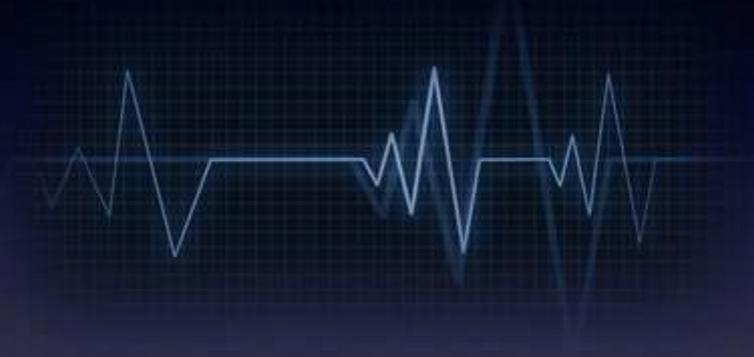




# Dutch Study:

300 patients with cardiac arrest

62: NDE

- Died within 30 days
  - US: relatives
  - Indians: religious figures
  - East/West German differentiation!
- 

“As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up” (Job 7:9).

“You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust” (Ps 104:29).

## Job 14:12-14

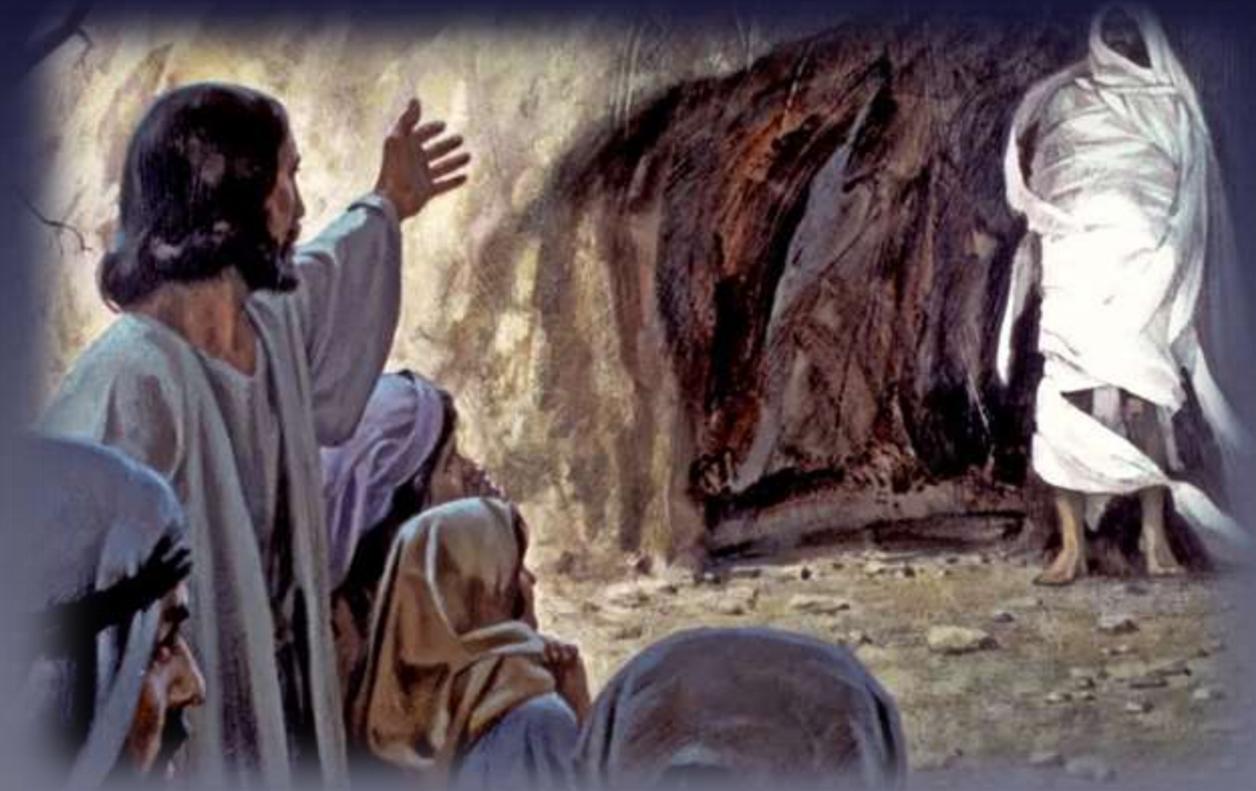
“So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens *are* no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep. <sup>13</sup>

"Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! <sup>14</sup> If a man dies, shall he live *again*? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.”

## Dan 12:2-3

“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.”

“These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.” <sup>12</sup> Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.” <sup>13</sup> However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.” John 11:11-13



No report of bright light, etc. Instead, “For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.” Eccl 9:5



# The Rich Man and Lazarus



# Lazarus

# Parables . . .

Points of the Story

=?

Point in the Story



# The Rich Man and Lazarus



“There was a certain rich man”

Lk 14:16: “A certain man . . .”

Lk 15:11: “A certain man had two sons”

Lk 16:1: “There was a certain rich man”

# Reward: at 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

(Mt 16:27; 25:31-41; 1 Cor 15:51-55;  
1 Thess 4:16-17; Rev 22:12)

“The general principle is maintained that bliss and misery after death are determined by conduct previous to death; but the details of the picture are taken from Jewish beliefs as to the condition of souls in Sheol [see on Prov. 15:11], and must not be understood as confirming those beliefs.” ICC



# Pope Benedict XVI

“In the description of the next life that now follows in the parable, Jesus uses ideas that were current in the Judaism of his time. Hence we must not force our interpretation of this part of the text. Jesus adopts existing images, without formally incorporating them into his teaching about the next life.”

“Nevertheless, he does unequivocally affirm the substance of the images. In this sense, it is important to note that Jesus invokes here the idea of the intermediate state between death and the resurrection, which by then had become part of the universal patrimony of Jewish faith. . . . Jesus says nothing about a ‘resurrection in death’ here.”

J. Ratzinger, *Jesus*, 215

**Abraham's Bosom** = place of the blessed dead

(Talmud: *Kiddushim* 72a)

“I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 8:11 NKJV).

# Josephus on *Hades*

“Hades is a subterraneous region where the light of this world does not shine. . . . This region is allowed as a place of custody for souls, in which angels are appointed as guardians to them, who distribute to them temporary punishments, agreeable to every one’s behavior and manners.”

-- *Discourse to the Greeks Concerning Hades*, in *Josephus Complete Works*, trans. William Whiston (Grand Rapids, 1974), 637.

Angels bring the souls of the righteous dead to the “place we call *The Bosom of Abraham* . . .” but the unrighteous “into the neighborhood of hell itself.” “A chaos deep and large is fixed between them; insomuch that a just man that hath compassion upon them, cannot be admitted, nor can one that is unjust, if he were bold enough to attempt it, pass over it.” *Ibid.*

# Extra-Biblical Stories of the Afterlife

- Egyptian magician Si-osiris returns from Amente (land of the dead), reincarnated into poor family of Setme
- Funeral: rich man, funeral with honors
- poor man: common necropolis

**Reversal in Amente!**



# The Bar Mayan Tale . . .

- Bar Mayan: rich tax collector
- dies, big funeral
- poor Torah scholar: plain burial
- reversal after death!

# Hellenistic: Lucian (c. AD 120-180)

- 3 men die, go to Hades
- rich Megapenthes, poor Mycillus, and a philosopher
- reversal of fortunes at death



- Plato: Er the Pamphylian - killed in battle
- visits Hades and sees the judgment
- told to return to warn the living





# Don't Believe a Lie!



# Cultural Folklore

- Plutarch: Thespesius
- Clearchus of Soli: Cleonymus
- meet in Hades - return to land of the living
- Lucian: Cleomenes - goes to Hades due to mistaken identity. Neighbor Demylus!
- Demylus dies a few days later . . .

# Babylonian Talmud

- apocryphal: Samuel deposits money with his father Abba
- Abba hides the money and dies
- nobody knows where the money is!
- Samuel visits Abba in the land of the dead
- restores money to the orphans

# Jannes and Jambres

- Jannes dies . . .
- Jambres engages in necromancy
- Jannes urges Jambres to repent



The Bible says . . .

1. Lk 16:21: “fed” = “filled” . . . by crumbs?!

2. Lk 16:22: Abraham’s bosom: literal?

3. Lk 16:24: “called out” - in torment?

4. Lk 16:24 “torment/anguish” - quenched by the tip of Lazarus’ finger?!

*katapsycho = to make cold/freeze*

# Sarcasm!

# Jesus' Solution

Lk 16:29: "Moses & the prophets" = Scripture

Lk 16:30 rich man: not Scripture, but the dead . . .

Lk 16:31 Jesus: "Moses & the prophets"



Jewish Cosmology: Abraham  
servant: Eliezer = Lazarus  
“not sent!”



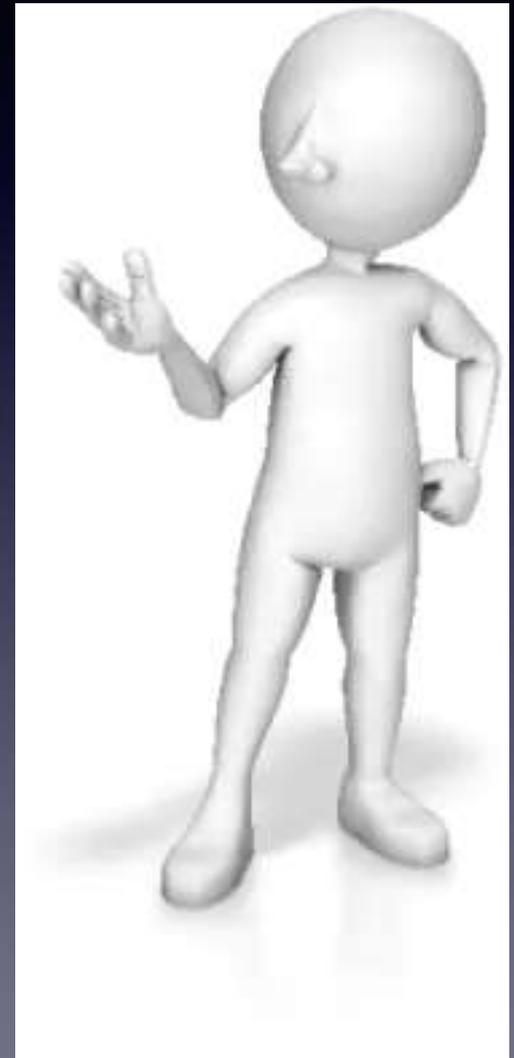
"There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one* who practices witchcraft, *or a soothsayer*, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, <sup>11</sup> "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. <sup>12</sup> "For all who do these things *are* an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. (Deut. 18:10 NKJ)



“Lazarus, Come out!” (Jn 11:43)



**Don't Believe a  
Lie!**



# Don't Live a Lie!









Even so, Come Lord Jesus!