

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Spirit World #2 Death as a Place

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In this lesson on the Spirit World we are going to look at death as a place and not just a physical event. In the word of God death is used both ways, it is a physical event that happens to man and is the result of sin according to **James 1:14-15**. Also we will see in this lesson that there is a literal place called death.

In **Hebrews 2:14-15** we see some interesting things concerning death. First we see that the Devil is said to have the power of death. Next we see that Jesus is said to have destroyed him that had the power of death through his own death. Last we see that Jesus delivered those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. From this last statement there seems to be a bondage that is associated with death. Now let us look at these statements one at a time.

The devil is said to have the power of death. In **Job 1:12** and **Job 2:6** it is apparent that Satan has the power to kill Job physically or God would not have told him to save his life. Remember that even though Satan is said to be the God of this world (**2 Corinthians 4:4**) he is still limited by God almighty as to what he can do. So it is clear that when the devil is said to have the power of death it applies to the physical event of death.

We see also that there is bondage spoken of as being associated with death. Now in **Isaiah 14:17** the devil is said to have not opened the house of his prisoners. In the previous lesson we saw that when Jesus ascended on high he led captivity captive (**Ephesians 4:7-11**). We know that this is talking about the Old Testament Saints who were in Paradise or Abraham's bosom, because now paradise is said to be in the 3rd heaven (**2 Corinthians 12:1-4**). Therefore it makes sense that this place called death is the same place called Abraham's bosom because the people were held there are called captives because they were waiting on the Lord Jesus Christ to deliver them through his death burial and resurrection.

Now it is true that you can make a spiritual reference with **Hebrews 2:14-15** to saved people today being delivered from death through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. But it also seems that it has a literal reference to people being delivered the bondage of death.

After Jesus Christ has risen from the dead we see that in **Revelations 1:18** he is said to have the keys of hell and of death. Why would there be keys to death. In **Job 38:17** and **Psalms 9:13** we see that death is said to have gates just like hell was said to have gates. These were locked and this is why the devil is said to have not opened the house of his prisoners. This is one of the things that is meant when Hebrews said he destroyed him that had the power of death because it appears that before the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ Satan had the power of physical death (under the limitations that God gave him) and he had the power of a place called death. Therefore when Jesus arose from the dead he not only defeated hell but he defeated death both the event and the place. This is why he is said to have the keys of both. The word of God is truly amazing when we take time to compare scripture with scripture.

It appears that this place called death is going to be used again in the tribulation and possible in the millennium. In **Revelations 6:9-11** we see that people who are killed for the word of God and their testimony are said to be under the altar and are given white robes and to rest until the rest of their fellow servants are also killed. These are the martyrs who will not take the mark of the beast. The only other altar mentioned in Revelations is the one found in **Revelations 11:1-2** and that altar is the one on the earth in the temple that is rebuilt in Jerusalem at the beginning of the tribulation. Therefore the martyrs are under the earth obviously in death, which was before called Abraham's bosom, which is being used again during the tribulation. Abraham's bosom was a place of rest and that is what these martyrs are told to do. Remember also that Jesus still has the keys to it.

After the 2nd Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ he sets up his one thousand year millennial reign. For the people who follow the constitution of the Kingdom (**Matthew 5-7**) and die right with the Lord Jesus Christ they will most likely go into this place of rest. Why would they go to heaven, Jesus Christ is physically on earth.

The above two paragraphs may seem strange if you have never heard this before but in **Revelation 20:10-15** we have the Great White Throne Judgment which takes place after the 1000 year millennial reign is over. Notice in verse 13 that both death and hell gave up the dead that were in them and then notice that in verse 14 both death and hell are cast into the lake of fire. The only way this makes sense is that death is a literal place, remember Jesus has the keys. Also in verse 15 it says whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. So there are some people who are at this judgment who are found in the book of life. These people cannot be those from hell because those were lost people. Therefore they must be saints from the tribulation or the millennium. It cannot be people from the church age either because we are raptured out of here before the tribulation even starts and we have already been judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

It is plain to see that death is both the physical event and a literal place according to the word of God. This also helps us explain scriptures like **Revelation 1:18** and **Revelation 20:13-14** when it comes to the word death in these verses.

