

“IF A MAN DIE, SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?”

or **“MORE BEYOND”**

TEXT: Job 14:14

THESIS: To show that science, education, history & experience conclude that when a man dies that ends all, but God’s Word says that is not so!

INTRO.: A. The answer to this question is the heart of Christianity. While most cults (J.W.’s, Christian Scientists, et.al.) deny eternal life & heaven, and most religions (Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Animism, etc.) all speak of some kind of after- life, they are usually dealing w/reincarnation into some other form of life, not resurrection & eternal life.

B. This age old question of our text is called **“The question all men were born to answer”** by Dr. Hyman Appleman, the late evangelist. The first part of the question is certain, i.e., man shall die! Ben Franklin said: “Death takes no bribes.” Someone else correctly noted “Death takes no vacations.” Experience tells us that death is no respecter of persons. Babies die, children die, teens die, young adults die, the middle aged die, seniors die. Go to the cemetery & read the tomb stones. Go to God’s Word & read **“It is appointed unto men once to die...”**

TRANS.: But we want to examine the whole statement today. We know the fact of the first part of the question, i.e., men die. What we want to know is **“IF A MAN DIE, SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?!”** If the answer is no, then Easter Sunday is a hoax, Jesus did not rise from the dead & we are of all men most miserable. But how can we know. What is the answer?

I. EXPERIENCE SAYS NO!

A. Our Loved Ones Die & They Are Gone! (*"If a man die, shall he live again?!"*)

ILLUS.: My father died a few years ago. I can't visit him anymore. My mother lived in a lonely apartment with his pictures everywhere, but she couldn't talk to him, fellowship w/him. She had to sleep alone in a single bed. Now it is my turn. My wife has moved to Heaven and I too am alone.

B. We Hear The Screech Of Tires & The Crash of Metal & The Ambulance Siren! (*"If a man die, shall he live again?!"*)

C. We Drive Past The Hospital, the Nursing Home, The Mortuary, The Cemetery! (*"If a man die, shall he live again?!"*) **EXPERIENCE SAYS NO!**

II. HISTORY SAYS NO!

A. Where Are the Great Pharaohs Of Egypt?

B. Where Are the Great Ceasars Of Rome?

C. Where Are the Great Conquerors Of History?

D. Where Are the Great Presidents Of America?

ILLUS.: When JFK went into the White House (not counting Jackie's fortune) his net worth was 40 million dollars. Later his father Joe Kennedy gave each of his children 10 million dollars (from his illegal booze fortune). He had 50 million dollars! But a single bullet was able to smash through the 50 million dollars. *"If a man die, shall he live again?!"*

HISTORY SAYS NO!

III. SCIENCE SAYS NO!

A. Your Heart Stops on The Operating Table! (*"If a man die, shall he live again?"*)

ILLUS.: The Doctor may use the paddles to restart your heart, or he may give you CPR, or massage your heart after a few seconds or even minutes. But let him work on that heart 30 minutes after it stops. (*"If a man die, shall he live again?!"*)
SCIENCE SAYS NO!

B. The Doctor Examines Us & He Suddenly Becomes Sober. (*"If a man die...?"*)

ILLUS.: A noted Doctor/Scientist boarded a small boat to cross a river down south. He engaged his teen aged pilot in conversation. He asked "Did you ever finish school?" The boy said he had to quit in 7th grade. The Scientist replied "You've missed ½ of your life." He then asked, "Have you ever studied science?" The boy continued to paddle the boat & replied that he hadn't. The Scientist said: "You've missed ½ of your life." The boy, paddling harder, asked the scientist "Do you know how to swim?" The Scientist said sheepishly that he didn't know how. The boy replied, "Then you done missed all your life, cause this here boat is sinking!"

"If a man die, shall he live again?" **SCIENCE SAYS NO!** (But of course there are literally miles of book shelves in the Lourve museum of outdated science!

C. The Evolutionist Says We Evolved From Lower Forms & We Will Continue To Evolve...Then Just Die Like Any Other Animal. (*"If a man die...?"*) *There are no "IF"!*

ILLUS.: Not all scientists are evolutionists! Dr. Raymond Damadian the inventor of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines is a Christian & a creationist. He says: "The truth is: One has to be brutally honest about science & in my opinion it's incompatible to be a scientist & an evolutionist."

III. EDUCATION SAYS NO!

A. Intellectualism Says No!

ILLUS.: But let's examine education's track record: The highest drug addiction rate among young people in our history; the highest teen-pregnancy rate; the highest suicide rate, the highest violence rate, etc. Instead of prayer, Bible reading, decency & morality, we have immorality, impurity, impudence, AIDS, STD's, condoms & sex education in the classroom, New Ageism, evolution, etc. And most recently, against all evidence – transgenderism!

Here's how education handles the child's rhyme "Three Blind Mice." "A trio of sightless rodents, A trio of sightless rodents...Perceive the unusual manner in which they proceed to scamper about, (again), They aggressively pursue the agriculturist's spouse, who severed their extremities with a carving utensil...Have you ever observed such an unusual phenomenon as this trio of sightless rodents?"

"If a man die, shall he live again?" **EDUCATION SAYS NO!**

TRANS.: Experience says no! History says no! Science says no! Education says no! Observation says no! The funeral parlor says no! Embalming fluid says no!

IV. GOD'S WORD SAYS YES!!

NOTE: Job's argument in this chapter sounds as if he too says no, but we need to read his conclusion in the latter part of the verse where he says: "...*all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.*" Listen again to Job...

Job 19:23-27 *Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*

Listen to the words of God from the mouth of Jesus...

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

But why should anyone believe God's Word over experience, history, science, education, cemeteries, etc.?

A. Because God's Word Is God Speaking:

1. While science is formulating another theory to replace the old one, God's Word never changes.
2. While the promises & prophecies of men fail, God's Word & its promises & prophecies have never failed & cannot fail.

B. Because God's Men Have Raised The Dead:

1. Elijah raised the widow's son.
- 2.

1 Kings 17:22 *And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.*

2. Elisha raised the Shunammite woman's son.

2 Kings 4:35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

3. Peter raised Dorcas. (Acts 9:36-43)

C. Because Jesus Proved He Could Raise the Dead:

1. He raised Jairus' daughter. (Mark 5:41)
2. He raised the widow's son at Nain. (Lk.7:11-15)
3. He raised his friend Lazarus. (Jn.11:43,44)

D. Because Christ Arose!

ILLUS.: Often people say I would believe in Heaven & a life after death or in the resurrection if only someone died & came back to tell us about it. Someone has! In fact quite a number have. But the most important One with information about what happens after death & who answered with authority the question Job posed centuries ago: *"If a man die, shall he live again?"* is our Savior!

ILLUS.: A Moslem said to a Christian: "We have something you don't have." "What is that?" asked the Christian. We have a body & you only have an empty tomb." Praise the Lord that's true! That's the difference between Christianity & all other religions & religious leaders.

CONCL.: The official seal of Spain before Columbus sailed in 1492 was **"NOTHING BEYOND."** The idea was that Spain was the last westward spot on the globe before a vast nothingness. When Columbus brought

back gold, spices & natives from the new world to prove his discoveries, the old motto was changed to a new one: **“MORE BEYOND.”**

Before Jesus became the firstfruits of our resurrection the grave was the end, but now there is **“MORE BEYOND.”**