

Bible Study on the State of the Dead

1. By what figure of speech does the Bible speak of death? John 11:11-14; 1 Thess. 4:13, 1 Cor. 15:18, 20
2. Where do all of God's creatures go at death? Ecclesiastes 3:18-20
3. Where do the dead sleep? Daniel 12:2; Ecclesiastes 3:20
4. How long will the dead sleep? Job 14:12
5. Do the dead know anything about what happens with their family and friends? Job 14:21
6. What becomes of a person's thoughts when they die? Psalm 146:4
7. Do the dead know *anything* at all? Ecclesiastes 9:5
8. Do the dead take part in anything that happens on the earth? Ecclesiastes 9:6
9. How much does one know of God in their grave? Psalm 6:5
10. Are not the righteous already in heaven? Acts 2:34
11. What must take place before the dead can live again? John 5:28, 29
12. Through whom will resurrection come? 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22
13. From what are the righteous ransomed? Hosea 13:14
14. If Christ had not risen from the grave, what would happen to all who have died? 1 Corinthians 15:16-18

"The doctrine of man's consciousness in death, especially the belief that spirits of the dead return to minister to the living, has prepared the way for modern spiritualism. When they have been led to believe that the dead actually return to communicate with them, Satan causes those who went into the grave unprepared to appear to friends and loved ones. They claim to be happy in heaven and even to occupy exalted positions there, and thus the error is widely taught that no difference is made between the righteous and the wicked. Satan has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed family and friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven, and without suspicion of danger, they give ear 'to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.'" *Darkness Before Dawn*, pp. 18, 19.

JULY 2015

| Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thur. | Fri. | Sabbath |
|------|------|-------|------|--|------|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 60th General Conference Session Opens | 3 | 4 SS - Joyce Kimbel Sermon - Leslie Walper |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 SS - Joyce Kimbel Sermon - Leslie Walper |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 SS - Jerry Vogt Sermon - Tory Kimbel |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Robert van Ornam "Tracking God" Potluck No communion |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

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Bread from on High

Vol. VI, No. 7

July 2015

Signs of the End

A.T. Jones, 1893 General Conference Bulletin

The time is so near gone, and there is so much to be said that about all we can do is touch just a few points that we need to follow and which will be our guide henceforth.

Let us turn to Revelation 13 and study that passage of Scripture that refers to the United States and see if we may know where we are.

I know that a good many are losing sight of what has been *actually* done by looking for something that they had decided must be done first. By looking for that which they decided must be done first, they will go on in that path, getting further and further from the light, less and less prepared to meet any of these things that are yet to come.

In Revelation 13:13, 14 is the prophecy about the working of that last day deceptive power: "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast, saying to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live."

From the connection in which these verse are placed, a good many claim that all these things must come to pass *before*

the image is made; that these manifestations are the workings of spiritualism and are meant to persuade the people to make an image of the beast. It is important therefore for us to study the prophecy and see what it says and what it does not say.

Let us now begin with 13:11: "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." When did he speak as a dragon? Read the fifteenth verse: "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." That is when he speaks as a dragon.

Isn't it the image of the beast that speaks as a dragon? When this beast was seen coming up out of the earth, was the image of the beast made? No. Then all of that verse does not apply in the place where it is recorded in the prophecy.

That you may see this a little more plainly, let us read: "The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the current is tending. Its professions are mild, and apparently Christian."



Let us read on in 13:12: "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

Now, has this beast that was seen coming up out of the earth been exercising as yet all the power that the first beast before him did? No. Has he compelled them that dwell on the earth to worship the first beast? No. Is that verse, then, that 12th verse, fulfilled until the time of the 15th verse? No.

Then those two verses of the prophecy are manifestly not fulfilled in the order in which the statements are set down in the prophecy.

Read the thirteenth verse: "and he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire to come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men."

Is that fulfilled before the
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image of the beast is made? No. We all know that that is one of the last things that is ever done before Satan comes himself, impersonating Christ. It is amongst those things that are carried on when the very powers of the satanic agencies are exerted to their full extent to deceive, if possible, the very elect. (Matthew 24:23, 24).

This miracle is wrought by Satan to prove to the true children of God that they are wrong in keeping the Sabbath. This miracle is wrought as a deciding test, and it will be one of the very last things before the decree goes forth to put people to death.

Now, are these miracles all wrought openly and above-board, distinctly as against the Lord? Is that what they pretend to do? No. Are they wrought by those who openly and professedly deny Jesus Christ? No. Who then?

This will be done by those who themselves profess that they are representatives of Jesus Christ and that Christ is with them and that the true God is the god of their side of the question. But the miracle will be denied by those who know the Lord.

There was a contest once as to whether the Lord was God or whether Baal was god. The test which decided that day that God was the true God and not Baal the sun god, was that fire would come down from heaven as Elijah prayed. (1 Kings 18:21–39).

Now here that test comes again, but this time it will be done to deceive, and it will be done by those who profess

that Baal is god, which is Satan, of course. And they will present a challenge to us in words something like these which follow:

“Now, you say that the Bible is the word of God. You stand on that?”

“Yes, sir.”

“You say that God is your God?”

“Yes, sir.”

“And that the Sabbath ought to be kept because that is the sign of what God is to man and what Christ is to man?”

“Yes, sir, that is the position exactly.”

“Now, a test was put once before which decided this same question. That test was that fire would come down from heaven to prove who was God. That test decided then that the Lord was the true God. Now we offer you, upon your own proposition today the same challenge. We say to you that we challenge you to this decision; we give you an open, fair challenge; we say to you now: If *we* are the men of God, if the God of heaven is *our* God and not yours, let fire come down from heaven upon the earth.”

And what then? Fire comes down from heaven.

“He doeth great wonders so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.”

Men will see it and the miracle is done to decide this question—to decide which group are the people of God; to prove that they are men of God, and not us.

And when the true

people of God say that that is not the *true* test, that that does not prove anything, then you don’t you see, they will say, “Well, now you go back on your own evidences. You say you believe the Bible; you say that is your foundation and you agree that that decided this same question once in the days of Elijah. But now, when we do the same thing you deny that that is any means of making a decision.

“What is the use of reasoning any more with such men as that? They all go back on the plainest evidence that they themselves say that they stand upon—Bible fact. What more should be done but to kill such people as that?”

“You can’t reason with them any more and the fate of the world, the plagues and pestilences and all these things are coming upon the people on account of *your* craziness, because you will not surrender or yield; you are stubborn; despite the evidence you insist on having it your own way anyway.

“Now in order to save people whose lives are precious, to protect us from the wrath of God, the only thing we can do is to put you out of the way.”

So, we say, and you will see by reading, that that is not done before the image of the beast is made; it is *after* that, that it comes.

That shows then that the miracles, the deceiving miracles that are wrought are done to deceive them that

had the mark of the beast. But do men *receive* the mark of the beast before the image is made?

Under the message and the responsibility which the message brings are men held responsible for receiving the mark of the beast and worshiping the beast before the image comes before all and undertakes to compel them to do it?

No, because we found in our lessons here that until the image was made there was a way of escape from the worship of the beast. The way was open for a man to refuse, but after the image is made there is no way open for a man to refuse to worship the beast, because there is no place on the earth where the power of the beast is not found.

Consequently, after that comes there is no escape any more, and then it is that men become responsible for worshiping either the beast or his image [papal Rome or apostate Protestantism]. There is then no way of escaping their decision.

The only way is to *now* turn to God and follow His word. When the time comes, the decision is clear cut and must be made between the true God and the satanic powers controlling the earth.

Brethren, it is time for every one of us to read *Testimonies* vol. 5, pp. 449–454, and to read it over and over to know the situation of things as they are. It is time to read it and we cannot afford not to read it. ☞

GREEK ORZO STUFFED PEPPERS



Greek Orzo Stuffed Peppers

344 calories; 11 g fat; 25 mg cholesterol; 48 g carbohydrates; 14 g protein; 11 g fiber; 656 mg sodium; 689 mg potassium

Makes 4 servings

What Should You Eat?

Studies confirm that the closer we get to God’s recommended diet, the less we risk suffering from illness. Sadly, studies also report that the great majority of people do not follow the recommended healthy diet, high in fruits and vegetables.

Harvard School of Public Health recently stated that 80% of Americans do not eat the recommended serving of fruits (5 daily), 90% do not eat the recommended servings of vegetables (5), and an astonishing 99% do not eat the recommended amount of whole grains (3 to 5 servings) found in rolled oats, brown rice, and 100 percent whole wheat bread and whole grain cereal.

Instead, the study found that most people consume primarily refined grains (white bread, white rice), sugary snacks, soft drinks, potatoes (usually fried), cheese, butter, and red meat. All of these foods should be greatly reduced or eliminated from our diets.

Research shows that a single serving (1/2 to 1 cup) of dark green leafy vegetables (such as broccoli, kale, collards, spinach, and cabbage) eaten every day lowers the risk of cardiovascular disease by 11 percent and diabetes by 9 percent.

Individuals who eat high levels of saturated fat (from fried foods, meat, lard, butter and cheese) have a higher tendency to develop Type 2 diabetes.

A recent study done by the American diabetes Association discovered that fat cells in your body are capable of discriminating between the types of fat you eat, and they adjust their response to them. A diet that consists of high saturated fat intake

- 4 sweet bell peppers, red or yellow
 - 1/2 cup whole-wheat orzo (pasta)
 - 1 15-ounce can chickpeas, rinsed
 - 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
 - 1 medium onion, chopped
 - 6 ounces baby spinach, coarsely chopped
 - 1 teaspoon dried oregano
 - 3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese, divided
 - 1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
1. Halve peppers lengthwise through the stems, leaving the stems attached. Remove the seeds and white membrane. Place the peppers cut-side down in an oven-safe dish. Add 1/2 inch water, cover and roast at 425° until the peppers are just softened, about 15 minutes. Let cool slightly, drain and set aside. Bring a large saucepan of water to a boil. Add orzo and cook until just tender, 8 to 10 minutes or according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cold water. Mash chickpeas into a chunky paste with a fork, leaving some whole.
 2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat; add onion and cook, stirring, until soft, about 4 minutes; add spinach and oregano and cook, stirring, until the spinach is wilted, about 1 minute. Stir in the orzo, chickpeas, 1/2 cup feta, tomatoes, and salt; cook until heated though, about 1 minute. Divide the filling among the pepper halves and sprinkle each pepper with some of the remaining 1/4 cup of feta (two halves make a serving).

triggers a response in the cell that activates enzymes that interfere with insulin function. However, diets high in mono- and poly-unsaturated fats (like that found in olive and peanut oils) elicits the opposite effect on your fat cells that enhances your natural insulin response.

What to do? Strive to eliminate fatty foods of all types from your diet, especially fried foods. Reduce meat intake and replace the meat with protein from cooked dried beans and whole grains.

Don’t like green leafy vegetables? Try adding them to pasta or soup. When heating your pasta sauce, toss in a generous handful of fresh spinach leaves. Add chopped cabbage or kale to soups.

An easy way to get better nutrition is to replace your salty and sugary snacks with fresh nuts and seeds (like walnuts, pecans or sunflower seeds).

Did You Know?

As a general rule, vegetables, fruits and starchy foods (whole potatoes with skin, whole wheat pasta, whole grains) should provide the bulk of most of your meals. These foods contain fiber, calcium, iron and B vitamins. Some people think starchy foods are fattening, but gram for gram they contain fewer than half the calories of fat. The remaining part of your diet should be made up from protein foods (beans and other legumes), and a minimum of free fat. You should limit the amount of foods and drinks that are high in fat or sugar.