

Booklet n° 10 - Biblical truths

## **LIFE AFTER DEATH**

**sublime hope of Christians**

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Jesus said:

**<< I AM THE RESURRECTION  
AND THE LIFE >>**

John 11:25

## << DEATH SPREAD TO ALL MEN >>

Romans 5:12

Life after death anguished man more than death itself when he has no faith, nor hope.

To try to escape this universal fear some delude themselves by asserting without proof “ after death, there is nothing, the curtain falls.”

**What the Bible says about life in the Hereafter brings the Christian tranquility and peace. Biblical revelation opens the veil on this world that is difficult to express with human language and impress on the mind, for this is so different from the material knowledge of our world.**

**We will introduce a text which we believe is understandable to all, without being carried away by the imagination and setting as a rule not to add or omit from what the Bible affirmed, to say precisely just what the Bible says.**

When a loved one pass away we say:

"God has taken. It was his time. He is at peace. He passed away. His sufferings are over. It was his destiny ... etc. " And we ask ourselves many questions: "Where is he? Does he still see us? shall we meet again? And will we be recognize when we meet again? "

**The Bible pierces the mystery of life in the other world. It mentions the fate that is known to and awaits humans. It brings some adequate answers to our questions.**

Looking at the family album, from birth to death, life is as images and memories. This is little ! It's short and eternal destiny is played in this space of time. The option is irreversible.

**Death is a fact of life to which every man and woman will face one day. Sooner or later it happens.**

Yet some live as if death will never reach them. This does not concern them. It is the others who die. It will be soon enough, they say, to be interested later. Then, when death brutally strike close relations bringing an end to a loved one, the shock of separation ends indifference.

**The reality of death is not clarified if we renounce to want to understand the mystery.**

550,000 French die each year and there is not enough space in the cemeteries. 1220 hectares are allocated in the Paris region. There are the body returning to dust. The dead are there and they are not there.

After his disobedience to the divine order, Adam heard this sentence: "By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and you will return to dust. " Genesis 3: 19.

This human destiny is the same for every man. This is an immutable equality.

"All the days that Adam lived were nine hundred thirty years, and he died. "Genesis 5: 5

This is the origin of the fate of humanity. This is the penalty of disobedience of the first man.

**"By one man sin entered the world and by sin DEATH, and so death spread to all men because all sinned" Romans 5: 12**

"Death came through one man," that is why the apostle Paul wrote that "in Adam all die." 1 Corinthians 15: 21-22

## **WHAT IS**

### **DEATH ?**

This is not an end, though all may stop at that time ... and it is rumored around the dying man: "This is the end! ". This is the end of earthly existence and the beginning of another life form in the spirit world. Past life continues without end by life in the world invisible to our physical senses.

**This is the "obligatory passage" for all in the immaterial universe. The destiny of every human being is to move from the visible to the invisible world. Life has meaning only when we see what comes after it.**

### **WHAT'S IT THUS THE OTHER SIDE?**

The Bible reveals realities difficult to explain with human language. Jesus Christ himself had to use ordinary words, simple to image a world that we pain to imagine for such is the splendor.

He said in part:

"There are many mansions in the House of my Father" John 14: 2

Everyone can imagine this house and its mansions in his way. They certainly have nothing comparable to ours.

Our reason can only stammer before the sobriety of descriptions in plain language, accessible to our understanding.

### **What matters is whether our place is prepared in the house of the Father.**

The Bible reveals the existence of several places where the dead go.

## **1. THE LIVING PLACE OF THE DEAD AND THE TOURMENTS**

Cheol, or Sheol is a Hebrew equivalent of Hades in Greek. Our French Bible versions render them as "grave".

The origin of the word is relation to the idea of a hole, an abyss, a deep pit covered by doors.

"I said in the prime of my life must go i through the gates of death and be robbed of the rest of my years." Isaiah 38: 10 (see also Matthew 16: 18)

This idea is found in the Hebrew concept of Sheol:

"Deeper than the depths of the grave" Job 11: 8"

Thou hast delivered my soul from hell" Psalm 86: 13"

To the wise the path of life leads upward, to keep him from going down to the grave" Proverbs 15: 24

Hades is presented in the Old Testament as a desolate place where the dead spirits of life continues, a land of darkness from which there is no return and where there is no communication with God.

"Whoever goes down to Sheol shall never come up again" Job 7: 10

This is where sinners go:

"Sheol swallows those who sin" Job 24: 19

Christians do not go because their sins have been atoned for by Jesus Christ on Calvary and they were erased forever: "I will remember their sins no more, says the Lord." Hebrews 10: 17

Jesus himself mentioned Sheol, when he told the story of the rich man and Lazarus. He said, "The rich man died and was buried. In Hades, he looked up; and while he was in torment, he saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. " Luke 16: 23

The rich man was in hell he called place of torments (Luke 16: 28). It was not because he was rich on earth, but because he had not practiced the royal law "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" Jacques 2: 8, which the rich man had not granted Lazarus even the crumbs from his table covered with food in abundance.

Christ parallels hell and torments in this story of the rich and Lazarus. The Revelation, the last book of the Bible is the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John. It states that hell and the devil were cast into the lake of fire, place of torments (Revelation 20: 10-14)

## **GEHENNA**

Gehenna To illustrate the torment, Jesus spoke of Gehenna. Gehenna, or "Ge-hinnom" is one of the valleys beneath the walls of Jerusalem. It ends near Siloam. It is likely that in this valley Moloch was worshiped, whom they sacrificed children, and Baal (2 Kings 23-10 - 2 Chronicles 28: 2). To prevent the return of these sinister pagan rites, Josiah defiled this place.

which became the place where the fire burned the rubbish of the city and cadavers of dead animals.

Gehenna in its eschatological acceptance a place of punishment after death. Jesus uses it as an image. "Whosoever shall say to his brother, fool, shall be in danger of the fire of hell" Matthew 5: 22

"Fear rather him who can destroy both soul and body in hell" Matthew 10: 28

"How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" Matthew 23: 33

He also uses other words in everyday language to highlight the torments: "The Son of Man send forth His angels to weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who practised iniquity and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13: 41 -42 and 50

"Throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 22: 13 and 25: 30

**A life of torment after death, no one desires. To escape the Christ showed the way of Salvation. He took upon Himself the torment, the Punishment (Isaiah 53) at his death at Calvary. The Bible says those who believe in Him will not experience condemnation (Romans 8: 1): "There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus." Only those who do not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16)**

Christ said the truth. His Word can not be doubted. There is a hell where torment exists. But there is also a place of rest, peace, absolut joy.

## **2. THE PARADISE**

The word paradise exists only in three passages of the New Testament:

"Today I say to you, you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23: 43)

"This man was caught up into paradise" 2 Corinthians 12: 4

"To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God," Rev. 2: 7

Hebrew "paradise" derives from Old Persian "païrīdāêza" and means "pen" or "Garden". It is also called "Abraham's bosom." Luke 16: 22

Some consider "Paradise" as temporary stay of Christians, a place in the third heaven, a place of rest in expectation of the resurrection. What matters is not what we imagine, but what the Bible specified regarding the life of Christians in the hereafter, awaiting the resurrection.

## **WHERE CHRISTIANS GO IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEATH?**

The desire to know our destiny in the next world is a legitimate curiosity.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica:

"I do not, brethren, that you be ignorant about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as those who have no hope. "1 Thessalonians 4: 13

The expression "those who sleep" refers to the dead with the concept of rest.

**"Blessed are the dead** which die in the Lord! Yes, says the Spirit, **that they may rest** from their labor for their deeds will follow them.

"Revelation 14: 13

**Die in the Lord is to enter into rest. This is not an unconscious sleep. The dead which die in the Lord are BLESSED upon death.**



The Christian as the unbeliever undergo either the same fate as to physical death. Their bodies return to dust and go through the process of corruption.

What dies is the body. In this sense, death is the cessation of earthly life.

As for the soul, the seat of personality, it separates from the body, is detached. It survives the body.

The apostle James wrote: "The body without the spirit is dead" (James 2: 26)

It is physically impossible with our earthly language to explain the invisible, the immaterial, intangible and infinite.

**However, the Bible contains some revelations sufficient for our faith. Through them we receive consolation and hope.**

The apostle Paul was "caught up to the third heaven, caught up into paradise." 1 Corinthians 12: 2-4

He did not say what he saw. He only says that he heard unspeakable words. He did not mention who pronounced them. The human, earthly language, being unable to translate these words, he gives no details.

We only know that this extraordinary revelation qualified by the great apostle, was experienced by him without being conscious of being **with or without his body**.

He entered **Paradise** and he said that this experience could be "out of body". This is called the "disembodiment", that is to say, out of the body.

At death, the person comes out of his body and drops to earth, like the butterfly with bright wings out of his Chrysalide and leaves on the ground to fly to the sun.

This Heaven, or third heaven, in which the Apostle Paul went, where is it located? Is it beyond the hundreds of thousands of galaxies in the universe in motion and consisting of tens of thousands of planetary systems? Who can define its place in the vast cosmos? This is of little importance. The key is to know we'll be there one day and that Christ dwells.

After his death on the cross, his resurrection, his ascension, "Jesus entered the sanctuary that was not made by human hands." He entered :

## "IN THE SAME SKY" Hebrews 9: 24

When the apostles were present at Jesus' ascension, two angels appeared to them and say, "This same Jesus you saw **go into** heaven, will come back the same way you have seen him **go into** heaven".

Acts 1: 1

**Yes, Jesus went to heaven.**

In heaven, He is seated at the right hand of God. Here He intercedes for us. (Romans 8)

By faith we already access them the Bible says:

"We have by the means of the blood of Jesus a free entry into the sanctuary (where Christ entered, that is to say in the same sky), by the new and living way - there is only one - he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. "Hebrews 10: 19-20.

**By his death on the cross, Christ has opened the entrance into heaven itself! What amazing grace!**

Shortly before he died, Jesus told his apostles:

"I will come back and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14: 3)

Being with Him and be OR IS is what Jesus promised his disciples.

Will we be with him immediately after death?

The answer is yes. The Apostle is explicit about this encounter with Christ at the outset of our departure from the earth, as soon as we leave our body, which he compares to a temporary tent "If this tent we live in is destroyed, (that is to say, if death occurs) we have in Heaven a building which is the work of God, an eternal home not made with man's hand. "2 Corinthians 5: 1

The apostle says very clearly that our home is

## **IN HEAVEN**

And not in an intermediate place in a sort of waiting room, called "purgatory".

"We are full of confidence, he added, and we would rather leave the body and be present with the Lord. " 2 Corinthians 5: 8

His faith in the hereafter is such that the believer exclaims: "I have the desire to go away and **be WITH CHRIST**" Philippians 1: 23

Leave for , says the apostle. Death for him is a departure for a blessed destination and not a terminus, an annihilation. Leave ! but where ?

"TO THE LORD WITH THE LORD" he says. Where the Lord is, HEAVEN. Is it not written: "Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God, having gone into Heaven"? 1 Peter 3: 22

**So, no doubt, the Christian who leaves the earth leaves his body on earth and his soul goes to HEAVEN WITH THE LORD.**

Here we are clearly informed. It is precise, it is **CERTAINLY**.

No wonder the apostle Paul said: "Christ is my life, DEATH IS A GAIN to me." Philipians 1: 22

On earth, IN our body, we are "FAR FROM THE LORD", he says (2 Corinthians 5: 6). That is why death is a gain for him and he prefers "EXIT his body to REMAIN in the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5: 8

The apostle wanted to go but he respected life. No one has the right to destroy it: "You shall not kill" (Mark 10: 19), is the command of God. At a time when we debate about abortion, euthanasia, suicide, it is important to remember that at the onset of life and as long as it's there, kill or be killed is a breach of divine order.

The fact that we remains in the body we are "far" does not contradict the promise of Christ to be with his disciples every day here, until his return (Matthew 28: 20). Being away simply means to walk by faith, without access to the VISIBLE presence of Christ, then it will be a reality in heaven.

"We groan, longing to be clothed in our HEAVENLY HOME." 2 Corinthians 5: 2

## **THE RESURRECTION**

The mystery of the resurrection is revealed in the Bible. Several texts shed light and make us discover the meaning.

The word resurrection has the sense of return to earthly life in the case of resurrections performed by the Lord Jesus during his earthly ministry:

1. The resurrection of a girl of twelve, Talitha (Luke 8: 55). She was home.
2. The resurrection of a young man, son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7: 13-16). He was in the coffin.

3. The resurrection of Lazarus of Bethany (John 11: 44). He was in the tomb for four days.

For these resurrections, Jesus Christ demonstrated his extraordinary power to give life, to bring back the spirit in the body. When Jesus said to Talitha "Arise", it is written that " her spirit returned," Luke 8: 55 These resurrections were limited to the terrestrial life since those resurrected dead died again.

There are resurrections that are not return to earthly life which Jesus explained the reasons: either to eternal life or to the judgment (John 5: 24-29).

"There will be a resurrection of the just and unjust." Acts 24: 15. The resurrection of the Christians, "justified through faith in Jesus Christ" (Romans 5: 19), will take place at the return of Jesus Christ. Paul calls "to attain to the resurrection from the dead." (Literal translation of the original text of Philippians 3: 11).

## **DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RAISE FIRST**

"God will bring with Him and through Jesus those who died" 1 Thessalonians 4: 14 This will happen when Christ returns, as the apostle Paul says:

"This is indeed what we say unto you by the word of the Lord: we THE LIVING, will certainly not precede those who have died ... The Lord himself shall descend from heaven and **the dead in Christ shall rise first**. Then we which are alive and remain shall we TOGETHER be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air ". 1 Thessalonians 4: 15-17.

One can easily imagine that those who die just before the return of Christ will rise, either on their beds or in their coffin or the tomb, and they will join the living to go up to meet the Lord. But how can this be resurrection for those who died there are a thousand or two thousand years?

- How will they rise again, the Christians who have been devoured by lions?

This question was formulated by students in a restaurant in the city of Caen, where my friend René Hébert and I took our meal every now and then, in 1941. They noticed our reverence of Thanksgiving before taking our meal. They made this reflection to make fun of us and try to embarrass us about our faith.

They were obviously ignorant, like many others, that reality of the resurrection of believers at Christ's return. It is actually easy to understand the resurrection of those who are in the graves, but as regards those who have been devoured by lions, who were burned at the stake and whose ashes were scattered, those disintegrated by the atomic bomb and which was not tracked, how will this come about ?

Fortunately, the Bible gives the explanation of the mystery: "Someone will say: How are the dead raised? And with what body do they come?" 1 Cor. 15: 35. After asking this question we also asked, the apostle Paul provides a simple and clear answer:

"What you sow is not the body that shall be ... all flesh is not the same flesh: there is one flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of birds, another of fishes ... There also are CELESTIAL BODY and earthly bodies ... so also is with the resurrection, it is sown ANIMAL BODY, it is raised SPIRITUAL BODY "1 Corinthians 15: 37-44.

**The resurrection is not the return of the body of death to earthly life, is THE CHANGING OF THE BODY PUTTING -ON OF A NEW BODY different from the first as to its constitution.**

"Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." 1 Corinthians 15: 49

"What you sow is not the body that shall be; it is a simple grain of wheat perhaps. "1 Corinthians 15: 37

So it is with the resurrection !

If in this world we "live and remain in the flesh" as the Apostle Paul (Philippians 1: 22 and 24), it is not so in the afterlife. The dead in Christ are alive with the Lord in anticipation of being clothed with the HEAVENLY BODY at the time of the resurrection.

God, who created the 790,000 animal species and billions of stars, is able to form us in a moment another body.

"The dead shall rise first" 1 Thessalonians 4: 16. Since this concerns ALL CHRISTIANS died over the centuries since the death of Christ on Calvary, it is certainly not about giving earthly life to the dead body, it is hard to imagine what will happen at this resurrection especially since it is written that the LIVING will be CHANGED for together they might be united in the clouds of heaven. The resurrection of the dead and transformation of the living will be instant (1 Corinthians 15: 52)

**The notion of time and distance will no longer be.**

Students of a Bible Training Centre could not figure out the meeting in the clouds of all Christians around the world as the earth is round. I made them notice that the earth is 40,000 kilometers in circumference while light travels at 300,000 kilometers per second, and that a simple calculation enabled to understand that if Christians were abducted at that speed, it would take only a tenth of a second to assemble the billions of men and women who for nearly 20 centuries formed the church that belongs to Christ.

**The coating of the new body will be so fast that we cannot really conceive. Even our clothes down here will disappear as if by magic, in a flash, to be replaced by a white cloth.**

"He who overcomes shall be clothed in a white robe" Revelation 3: 5.

"Those who are clothed in white garments have washed their robes and made them bleached in the blood of the Lamb. "Revelation 7: 13-14.

"And it was given to the Bride of the Lamb should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. "Rev. 19-8 and 14.

Christians who are already with the Lord and those who are on earth will find themselves all dressed in white at a speed such that it defies imagination. God created light and which is light is not prisoner neither of time nor space, and He will fulfill the miracle of the meeting of all the redeemed.

**It will be an INSTANT MEETING of one another to meet with the Lord "in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4: 17).**

The atoms and molecules of terrestrial body (flesh and blood can not inherit the Kingdom of God - 1 Corinthians 15: 50) will disintegrate in a flash and disappear forever to make way for the new body.

**It is not the earthly body that will live, but the mortal earth will be replaced by the immortal heavenly.**

**This is called the CHANGING or TRANSFORMATION.**

"Our citizenship is in heaven, from where we await a Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, who will TRANSFORM the body of our humiliation by making IT SIMILAR to HIS BODY OF GLORY. "Philippians 3: 20-21



Like the grain dead, drained of his life, giving way to a new grain as well terrestrial nature will be transformed into another celestial nature, incorruptible, perfect, comparable to that of Christ himself.

"What you sow is not the body that shall be, this is a simple grain of wheat perhaps, or of some other grain; then God gives it a body AS IT PLEASES HIM. "1 Corinthians 15: 37-38. And it pleases him to give us a GLORIOUS BODY similar to that of his Son Jesus Resurrected! What Grace !

Jesus said, "Those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor be given in marriage because they can no longer die because they are like the angels, and they God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. "Luke 20: 35-36

To all those who believe in Jesus, he gave power to become children of God (John 1: 12) and they will take part in this resurrection at the return of Jesus Christ, according to this promise:"Christ is risen from the dead, He is the firstfruits of those who died ... all are made alive in Christ, each in his own rank: Christ the firstfruits, then THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST, at his coming. 1 Corinthians 14: 20-23.

## **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Death is a PASSAGE that opens for the Christian another LIFE finest in peace and eternal happiness.**

**THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST IS THE PLEDGE.**

The body of Christ did not see corruption (Acts 2: 27). It has undergone a change, with new properties that we can not explain.

His transfiguration was the prelude: "While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, his clothes soothsayer dazzling white. And behold two men talked with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spake of his departure what he would accomplish in Jerusalem. "Luke 9: 28

Here is lifted a little veil to make us understand that life continues after death and that Christ whose face and clothing changed on the Mount of Transfiguration has triumphed over death.

At his resurrection He did not have his shirt which was raffled by soldiers on Mount Golgotha. He had a new garment. This is a mystery. Our curiosity would like to know more, but it is futile to try to explain what the Bible does not explain. What it teaches us with sobriety is enough to give a solid foundation for our faith.

Revelation presented him dressed in a long robe and with a golden sash across the chest (revelation 1: 13), and then a vesture dipped in blood (Apocalypse 19: 13).

"GOD RAISED HIM, in the agony of death, because it was not possible for death to keep hold of him "Acts 2: 24

After his resurrection, his body could pass through matter, appear and disappear instantly with extreme rapidity, escape the laws of gravity.

"The doors being shut, Jesus stood among them. "John 20: 19

His glorious body is limited either by time or space."HE APPEARED to over 500 BROTHERS SIMULTANEOUSLY. Then he appeared to Jacques, then to all the apostles. And last of all he appeared to me, as to one untimely born, "says the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15: 6-8.

After that, "the Lord was taken up into heaven, and sat at the right hand of God. "Mark 16: 19

"He is risen, He is at the right hand of God, and He intercedes for us"  
Romans 8: 34

"He sat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. "Hebrews 1: 3 Christ entered death and came out and conquered.

**"HE HAS DESTROYED DEATH" 2 Timothy 1: 10**

**"BY DEATH he might destroy him WHO HOLDS THE POWER OF DEATH. "Hebrews 2 : 14-15**

**“ BUT HE IS REALLY RISEN “ Luke 24:34**

His victory is the guarantee of our Salvation,of,our resurrection and our entrance into eternal life with Him in Heaven.

"If he had not risen, our faith would be in vain," 1 Corinthians 15: 17

His resurrection accredits the Cross that saves the sinner. Cross owes its value to the resurrection.

## **FOR OUR FATE IN THE AFTERLIFE IS DECIDED ON HERE BELOW!**

Here we are by the Bible faced the realities of the afterlife! For us to choose:

- Either the place of torment, away from God,
- Either the HEAVEN in the presence of Christ, about God.

Our eternal destiny is decided here below.

Some are too oblivious to thinking about it, or too busy. There are also those for whom death is taboo or who refuse reality. They say "it will be soon enough to be interested later! "The "later" is not our's. Christ warned us by parable ,the story of a rich man who had an excellent harvest and which says:

"My soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink and rejoice. " But God says, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required ... "Luke 12: 16-21

"No one is master of the day of his death". Ecclesiastes 8: 8

Knowing that one must die, some say, "Why spoil the joy of living by the thoughts of grief gray" and they have the motto: "Eat, drink for tomorrow we die! "1 Corinthians 15: 32. forgetting that "it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. "Hebrews 9: 27.

Metempsychosis, or the reincarnation cycle, is nothing but an imaginary belief. The Bible is clear: one dies only once. So before death one need to make the decision to believe in Christ, and there will be no, facing death, grayish thoughts!

Many tremble at the approach of death if they do not have faith, whether they are rich or poor, humble or great. Here are some quotes from scholars and writers who have confessed their anxiety:

"I apprehend death"

" It is atrocious to die knowing we missed out on the essential of life ...

" I do not rejoice in the idea that everything is going to end for me sometime".

This list could go on. It's sad not to have hope. What a contrast between these words and those of the apostle Paul who says: " To die is gain. I have the desire to go away and be with Christ, which is far the best.

"Philippians 1: 21-23

What a grace to have faith in Jesus Christ, received by him the forgiveness of our sins and the certainty to be with him in heaven after death.

What hope is left to the godless when God cuts the thread of his life, when he withdraws his soul? "Job 27: 7.

## **THE IMPOSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DEAD**

In Portugal, a priest had the macabre idea of building a chapel with some 5,000 skeletons collected in cemeteries and battlefields in the region of Evora. The columns are made of stacked skulls and the walls are a mixture of plaster and bones. Here and there whole skeletons, hanging near the altar, give you chills. On the pediment of the church are inscribed words that remind us of the fleeting life of this world:

"What you are is what we have been; What we are is what you will be. "

Souls do not remain near the bones ... It is only the body that become skeletons! The souls do not become either ghosts haunting cemeteries since:

"The dead will never again have part in anything that is done under the sun." Ecclesiastes 9: 6.

Yet this belief in ghosts is still very strong today, especially among gypsies. They fear the apparition of the dead they call "moulo". The stories and legends abound about the events that are demonic order.

The practice of ceremonies for the purpose of relating with the dead contradicts biblical teaching. Pray the dead that are described as "saints" or pray for the dead or masses said for the souls of an imaginary

purgatory are all practices condemned by the Bible including the following references: Leviticus 19: 31, 20 6 and 27; 1 Chronicles 10: 13; 2 Kings 23: 24.

Since ancient times, there was in man the desire to make contact with the dead, but in reality it is with demons that they were in contact with those that evoke familiar spirits.

Moses and the prophets fulminated against the familiar spirits and against all forms of necromancy or interrogations of the dead, a practice favored by the Egyptians.

The cult of the dead, seeking communication with them are opened doorway to the manifestations of evil spirits of the underworld. Christians enlightened by the Gospel stay away and are not victims.

"I When men tell you: to consult the mediums spiritists and wizards ... answer: should not a people seek their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If we do not speak according to this word, there will be no light in them. "Isaiah 8: 19-20.

Man wants to solve the mystery of the afterlife. An American doctor, Dr. R. Moody, has been researching the afterlife. He collected many testimonies from people who, after clinical death, came back to life.

Some of them - believers - say being out of their body, they had a pleasant sense of peace and gentleness and an encounter with a being of light; others felt swept up in a kind of dark space, a black void. Many attest to having seen the dizzying course of detailed movie of their past life,

But are unable to describe what lies beyond with the words of our language. Since they did not die permanently, their stories do not concern the realities of which the Bible speaks to us, but only prove that

when the body has ceased to live, humans continue to exist without his body envelope .

"His life is in him," said the apostle Paul, taking in his arms the young man who fell from the third floor (Acts 20: 10)

This proves that when one is dead, the soul is no longer in the body. It enters the invisible world and goes either towards the light or towards the darkness. The dead can continue to exist in the place of torment or even in heaven with Christ, according to the Bible.

Try to make contact with the spirits of the dead, it is venturing into the world of evil spirits of which the Apostle Paul speak in Ephesians 6: 12: "We have to fight against the powers of this dark world , against spiritual wickedness in high places. "

The departed souls to the Lord can not intervene on behalf of the living.

One day I was called to come to a faithful Christian 75 years old and about to die. I approached his bed to pray with him when suddenly he said: "Hush! ". I leaned toward him and I heard him murmur softly, "An angel called me by name." His eyes already saw another world and very quietly he let out his last breath.

The soul of the believer goes to the Lord, sometimes taken away by the angels, as in the case of Lazarus, " Lazarus died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. "Luke 16: 22.

**In this text of the story of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus very clearly said that the dead can not make contact with the living only if resurrected, and not otherwise! Then he said, "If they did not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead. And we read: Abraham said, " they have Moses and the prophets let them listen to them." Luke 16: 29,31.**

## **LIVE DESPITE DEATH**

“ He who believes in me, will live even though he dies.” Jesus said John 11:25.

Live with Him in heaven where he is at the right hand of God, and that after the death of the body, this is what Jesus means. Personality does not disappear when the body ceases to live. It will remain recognizable.

At the transfiguration, Jesus was conversing with Moses and Elijah. In heaven we will be at the table with THE PATRIARCHS!

"Many, says Jesus, will come from east and west, and take their place at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 8: 11. We can add all the redeemed, all our loved ones died in faith in Jesus Christ. Together we will participate in the "Marriage of the Lamb" Revelation 19: 7.

"God is not the God of the dead but of the living, for to Him ALL ARE LIVING; "Luke 20: 38

**Yes, all are alive beyond death.**

**Surely there is a life after death.**

**What will be yours?**

**Life of torment, away from God,**

**Or ineffable happiness of life with Christ in Heaven itself?**

**When we have faith in Jesus, WE KNOW that we are saved. We have eternal life. (1 John 5: 13). Death frightens no more. The Christian knows that for him it is only a passage into another world where all is peace, quiet, tranquility, rest, everything therein is wonderful. There he will behold and hear the Lord.**

Heaven, in its beauty and splendor, we can not understand by human logic nor place it in the infinite universe. Yet Heaven is as real as the



invisible waves that transmit sound and images that man has managed to capture; as real as the speed of light converted into laser; as real as nuclear power which man has discovered only in part. In the spring, I looked in my garden hatching tulips passing from green to yellow or red, the thrust of the white bells of lily of the valley, the splendor of colors of viola and irises, of roses ... I admired the beauty of creation, the power and the knowledge of God, and I thought, God who makes such beautiful flowers will give us a glorious body, beautiful and all purity. He is able to change the earthly afflicted of many evils, worn out by age, into a perfect body for ALL possible with Him.

In an instant, the Lord could transform and transport us into his presence at a faster rate than that of light for to Him, time does not exist, "He is, He was, He comes. He is ALIVE FOR CENTURIES AND CENTURIES; "Revelation 1: 8 and 18.

It will be nice to serve the Lord in a new body and see all the redeemed in the Lord's presence!

It is true that the separation is painful when it must leave this earth and leave to grief husband, wife, children, parents or friends because or bonds of affection have been forged during a lifetime. Christ Himself before the tomb of Lazarus wept with Mary and Martha."Weep with those who weep. "Romans 12: 15.

**But the day is coming when Jesus will come and take us all in Heaven and there, "God shall wipe away all tears, and DEATH WILL NO LONGER BE, and there will be no mourning nor crying nor pain. "Revelation 21: 4.**

# A POOR LAZARUS OF THE XXTH CENTURY

## The tramp of Bar-le-Duc

In the town of Bar-le-Duc, in eastern France, the evangelist Gilbert Ringenbach went from street to street and house to house announcing the gospel of the Lord. He met a poor unfortunate tramp.

His affection, his open heart, his warm words, the message of grace he brought all this stirred the heart of the man abandoned to its fate, without family or friends. The testimonies he conveys is an encouragement to go to the lost, even the poorest of the land to tell them about Jesus, and a warning to believe in Christ before death comes unexpectedly.

- Pardon, sir, where dwells the father Mangin, please? Intrigued, the man pointed his finger towards the approximate location of the demeure of the old man:

- "It's over there, the house before the bistro. "

There, children playing. - Eh! petiot, father Mangin, is here? They lead me through a hallway, refer to a door and flee running. I knocked. A hoarse voice replied: Enter! I open. Immediately, the atmosphere changes. An immense misery was before me. My heart sinks. Father Mangin! He is there, in the shade, sitting on a bed as there are in dungeons: Some boards and a worn straw mattress. Filthy pants and old torn jackets serve as hedges. A dog was lying on it. Cobwebs hang from the walls and ceiling. The windows, turned brown by the hearth smoke no longer let the light in. Withered butts are stuck on one corner of the table near a glass turned red with wine lees. The atmosphere is a mixture of tobacco odors, wine, mold and moisture.

I want to kiss this poor old man who looks at me with some suspicion. Beard hair mingled with the dirt on the wrinkled face. His gray hair is messy. Sometimes he scratches his body, visibly embarrassed.

- "What do you want ? ". - "I come on behalf of someone who loves you! "He was a little surprised, father Mangin! Besides his dog, who could well love him?

People looked on with either disdain or disgust or with a sterile pity. Maybe someone does him any good? Anyway the old man alone in his misery and his sin.

- "God sent me to you, grandfather, He loves you ..."

Soon tears make their way on his filthy beard. He gently weeps listening to the Word of God, then sobs.

I returned the next day. What happened ? Father Mangin shaved, washed and he even shine the shoes I had brought him the day before. And there he was in pants, shirt, tie, jacket! All dressed up to come to the meetings. People from Bar-le-Duc are turning around to stare. It's a miracle they exclaim that is happen in the streets! He drinks the Word of God, he cries at each meeting. These are the tears of a newborn. Jesus has just moved into his heart. A past just disappeared. A new life, eternal life, has entered his soul! Mangin, the filthy tramp, the despised drunker, became an elected of God. No one knew! At the hospital, a Christian, leaning over him, still talk to him about Jesus. Tears flow slowly. father Mangin hanged onto every words. A great joy flooded his soul that Jesus will soon take him off to Heaven.

He spent fifteen days with Jesus on earth. Like Lazarus, after having a lifetime of trouble, the father Mangin was finally consoled with the Lord.

Like him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved"  
(Acts 16: 31) and after death you will live in heaven with Jesus.

**JESUS CHRIST**

**HAS destroyed DEATH  
And has brought LIFE  
And Immortality to light  
by the Gospel**

**2 Timothy 1:10**

**HE SAID:**

**“ He who believes in me  
WILL LIVE  
EVEN THOUGH  
HE DIES. ”**

**John 11: 25.**

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