

JOB'S FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD: -

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis used throughout this Study Document.

☞ “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.” (Job 19:25 & 26.)

The godly patriarch Job had a personal faith that he had a Living Redeemer, and also of his bodily resurrection that would take place at the last day. He believed that he would eventually see God again in his fleshly body, not as some disembodied spirit. As the Book of Job is one of the oldest books of the Bible, this is an ancient testimony to the sleep of the dead until the bodily resurrection of the righteous at the end of this world.

WE ARE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT UPON GOD FOR OUR VERY EXISTENCE: -

☞ Throughout the Scriptures we find that our life, our very existence as a living soul is **TOTALLY DEPENDENT** upon God's impartation of the breath or spirit of life.

- “All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit ¹ of God is in my nostrils.” (Job 27:3.)

“The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” (Job 33:4.)

“Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein.” (Isaiah 42:5.)

- The Psalmist has recorded a simple fundamental truth concerning mankind's inability to keep alive his own soul in the following words, “*none can keep alive his own soul*” (Psalms 22:29).
- The soul or life of every living thing and the breath of all humanity is in the hand or power of the Lord, “*In whose hand is the soul ² of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.*” (Job 12:10).
- The apostle Paul has recorded how dependent we all are on the Creator God for our very existence, “*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, ... seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. ... For in him we live, and move, and have our being*” (Acts 17:24, 25 & 28).

NO ONE CAN ESCAPE GOD'S SENTENCE OF DEATH AND CORRUPTION: -

- God decreed to Adam that because of his sin, he was to “*return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return*” (Genesis 3:19).

¹ The margin has “that is, the breath which God gave him”.

² The margin has “Or, life”.

The apostle Paul records the universal truth that applies to all humanity that *“death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”* (Romans 5:12).

- The apostle Paul has recorded the Divine decree that God has passed upon all humanity, *“it is appointed unto men once to die”* (Hebrews 9:27).
- The Psalmist recorded the fact that no one can escape death and corruption, *“None [of them] can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: ... That he should still live for ever, [and] not see corruption.”* (Psalms 49:7 & 9.)

“What man [is he that] liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.” (Psalms 89:48.)

WHEN WE DIE OUR BODIES EXPERIENCE CORRUPTION, TURNING TO DUST AGAIN: -

- When God takes away the breath or spirit of life, we die and turn to dust again; that is, our body decomposes or undergoes corruption.
“If he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust” (Job 34:14 & 15).

“Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.” (Psalms 104:29.)

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit ³ shall return unto God who gave it.” (Ecclesiastes 12:7.)

☞ Yet the Psalmist could also testify that he had a personal faith that *“God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave”* (Psalms 49:15).

The prophet Hosea has recorded the following encouraging words that echo the Psalmist’s faith, *“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death”* (Hosea 13:14).

DEATH IS LIKENED TO A STATE OF SLEEP IN THE DUST OF THE EARTH: -

- The righteous man Job recognized that death was a state of sleep in the dust of the earth, until the time comes when man was to be awakened from his sleep, when the present heavens are to be no more.
“For now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I [shall] not [be]” (Job 7:21).

“So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens [be] no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. ... If a man die, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.” (Job 14:12 & 14.)

☞ Even as far back as the time of Job, the passing away of the present heavens and earth, and the resurrection of the just was the hope of the righteous.

³ The “spirit” that Solomon is referring to as returning to God who gave it when a person dies, is obviously the breath or spirit of life.

The godly patriarch Job stated, *"If I wait, the grave [is] mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness. ... They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when [our] rest together [is] in the dust."* (Job 17:13 & 16.)

"They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them." (Job 21:26.)

- The Psalmist has likened death to a state of sleep, *"lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the [sleep of] death"* (Psalms 13:3).
- The prophet Daniel records the fact that *"many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt."* (Daniel 12:2.)
- The Psalmist and the wise man Solomon have summed up this whole issue for us in the following simple words, *"thou hast brought me into the dust of death"* (Psalms 22:15).

"All are of the dust, and all turn to dust again" (Ecclesiastes 3:20).

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION: -

- Jesus proclaimed the importance of his role in the resurrection when he stated to Martha, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"* (John 11:25).

WE TOO LIKE JOB CAN HAVE FAITH IN A LIVING REDEEMER: -

- God decreed in the plan of salvation that the following principle was to apply, *"without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Hebrews 9:22).

The apostle Paul has also recorded the fact that Jesus *"should taste death for every man"* (Hebrews 2:9).

- Jesus has indeed tasted death for all humanity and yet he has also conquered the grave as he proclaimed to the apostle John in his own words, *"I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen"* (Revelation 1:18).
- We can draw encouragement from the following words of Jesus when he stated to his disciples, *"because I live, ye shall live also"* (John 14:19).
- The apostle Paul has recorded for us how vital Christ's resurrection from the dead is for all the saints who shall die, in the following words, *"But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain. ... Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."* (1 Corinthians 15:13, 14 & 18.)
- How thankful we are that Paul asserts so positively the truth that Jesus has indeed risen from the dead, *"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."* (1 Corinthians 15:20.)

He goes on to testify that *"they that are Christ's"* will be raised up *"at his coming"* (1 Corinthians 15:23).

JESUS IS OUR LIFE: -

- The apostle Paul has recorded that *"Christ, [who is] our life"* (Colossians 3:4).

- Jesus testified concerning himself, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6).
- The apostle John wrote when referring to Jesus as being the Word of God, *“in him was life”* (John 1:4).

He also described Jesus in his 1st General Epistle, *“the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)”* (1 John 1:1 & 2.)

The apostle John also recorded *“that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son”* (1 John 5:11.)

This is why John could then write in the next verse, *“He that hath the Son hath life”* (1 John 5:12).

“I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY”:-

- Jesus repeatedly testified in the 6th Chapter of John that he would raise the righteous dead up at the last day.

“And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.” (John 6:39.)

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:40.)

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:44.)

“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:54.)
 - *“The Son quickeneth (that is, makes alive – compiler) whom he will”* (John 5:21); and when he calls those who sleep in the grave, they *“shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live”* (John 5:25).
 - It is at this Resurrection of the Just that Jesus raises those who *“have done good, unto the resurrection of life”* (John 5:29), so that *“neither can they die any more”* because they *“are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection”* (Luke 20:36).
 - Martha testified to Jesus concerning her personal faith in her dead brother Lazarus’ future resurrection in the following words, *“I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day”* (John 11:24).
- ☞ This was exactly the same faith that we have already seen that the godly patriarch Job had.

THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL SEE GOD FACE TO FACE IN THEIR RESURRECTED BODIES:-

- Job recorded his personal faith that *“yet in my flesh shall I see God”* (Job 19:26).
- The Resurrection of the Just and the glorification of the saints are outlined in the 15th Chapter of 1st Corinthians, as taking place at the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ.

“Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to

pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:51 - 55).

- The apostle Paul has recorded in his 1st Epistle to the Corinthians the contrast to the present situation we find ourselves in not being able to look upon the Lord directly, to the time **when** the righteous shall be able to see God face to face, *"for now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face"* (1 Corinthians 13:12). He tells us **when** this time shall be, *"when that which is perfect is come"* (1 Corinthians 13:10).
- The apostle John recorded in the Book of Revelation that in the New Jerusalem *"there shall be no more curse ... and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face"* (Revelation 22:3 & 4).

THE CLOSING TESTIMONY OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH: -

"Thy dead [men] shall live, [together with] my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew [is as] the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." (Isaiah 26:19.)