THE DEAD ARE STILL DEAD!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the <u>King James Version</u>; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this article.

The following Scripture passages teach that people who have been recorded in the Scriptures as having previously died, were still described as being dead (present tense) when the inspired Bible writers wrote of them sometime after their death (whether that time was very long or short). This is the clearest and strongest proof that the Bible teaches that the dead are asleep in a completely unconscious state, rather than the popular belief that at death we go either to heaven or hell.

THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE: -

- The Lord himself told Moses at the end of his 40 year exile from Egypt, while he was in the land of Midian, that all the men who had previously sought his life 40 years ago are dead. <u>Exodus 4:19:</u> "And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life."
- The heavenly angel told Joseph to return to the land of Israel from Egypt, because those who sought to kill the infant Saviour are dead.
 Matthew 2:19 & 20: "But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life."
- Jesus when referring to the Hebrews who ate of the heavenly manna provided by God during their wilderness wanderings, were dead during the time of his earthly ministry, which was approximately 1500 years after their deaths.
 John 6:49: "Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead."
 - <u>John 6:58:</u> "This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, **and are dead:** he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever"
- Our Lord Jesus Christ when referring to his dead, buried and decomposing follower Lazarus, stated that Lazarus IS dead, four days after he was buried.
 John 11:14: "Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead."
- The inspired apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost, preached that king David who had died approximately 1000 years previously was still dead and buried and had not yet ascended up to heaven.
 - Acts 2:29 & 34: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. ... For David

is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand."

Paul writing in the Book of <u>Hebrews</u> a few thousand years after the death of righteous Abel, who was the first person to die in this world, wrote that he was **still dead** when he wrote the great "FAITH CHAPTER" in <u>Hebrews 11.</u>
Hebrews 11:4: - "By faith **Abel** offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

THE TRUE STATE OF MANKIND'S NATURE IN DEATH: -

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6 & 10: - "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any [thing] that is done under the sun. ... Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do [it] with thy might; for [there is] no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."