

14 - VOICES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

14 - VOICES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE



1

Can the Living Talk to the Dead?



2

When people die, do they come back in the form of spirits to visit those who are still alive?

Are the spirits of the dead able to return and speak to the living?

At death, does only the body die while the spirit lives on?



3

Are spiritualists and psychics and mediums and channelers right when they say they can put us in touch with the souls of the loved ones we've lost in death?



4

And can the spirits of the dead take possession of living people, using their bodies, their voices, their minds, to act and speak?



5

What we are talking about this time is one of the most serious matters that any of us may ever be called upon to meet.



6

And it is so serious that it can be truly called a life and death matter.

Our eternal salvation is at stake.

So we must be sure about this.

How can we really know for absolute certainty whether an experience we have is genuine and real—or false and dangerous?



7

The answer is that in the Bible, Jesus gives us the truth!

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8

Jesus is our Friend.

He understands what we go through when we have lost a loved one in the valley of the shadow of death.

He is touched by our grief. He has been there.

So we will turn to Jesus to discover what He said about death, resurrection, and eternal life.

If Jesus said it, I will trust my life to it.

That settles it. Can we agree on that?



9

Aren't you thankful for Jesus?

He is touched by our sorrow.



10

(Text: John 11:35)

At the funeral of a friend, the Bible says that "Jesus wept."

John 11:35.

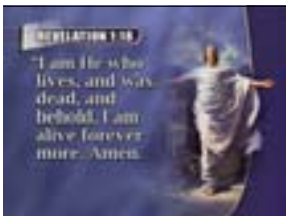
He has been through the valley of the shadow Himself.



11

(Text: Revelation 1:17, 18)

"... Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.



12

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever more. Amen.



13

And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

Revelation 1:17, 18.

What is more, Jesus is the Life giver.

He has come that we might have abundant new life now.



14

(Text: John 10:10)

"... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

John 10:10

He promises a totally restored life forever.

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15

(Text: John 11:25)

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.’”

John 11:25

Jesus is the Life Specialist.

He knows more about it than anyone in the universe, because He created life on this planet.



16

(Text: John 1:1, 3)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



17

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

John 1:1, 3.



18

(Text: Colossians 1:16)

“For by him all things were created... all things were created through Him and for Him.”

Colossians 1:16.



19

It is important at this point to review what we have learned thus far in this series.

Jesus made it clear that death is not life, nor is it the continuation of life in another form.



20

(Text: John 11:11)

Of His friend who had died, Jesus said, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps...”

John 11:11.

He was speaking of a man who was dead.

Notice how Jesus describes death: “Sleep.” It is the nearest comparison in the Bible to death.

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21

(Text: John 11:14)

Lest His disciples misunderstand, Jesus said with unmistakable clearness, "Lazarus is dead."

John 11:14.

Lazarus was not alive somewhere in another form.



22

He was dead, and his body was in the tomb. Jesus further taught clearly that there is no life after death until the resurrection, and He made it absolutely clear that the resurrection is yet future.



23

(Text: John 6:40)

"And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him



24

may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:40

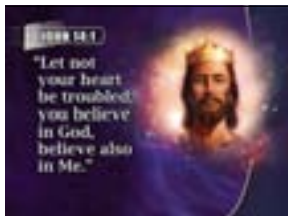


25

Our hearts have been stirred as we have come to learn of the return of Jesus in His second coming.

His purpose is clear, and it sheds an abundance of light on the subject of life and death.

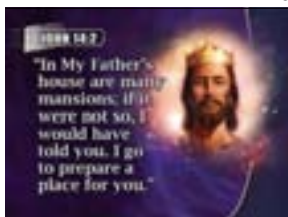
Why does He return?



26

(Text: John 14:1-3)

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."



27

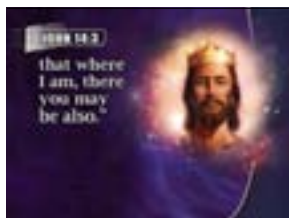
"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."



28

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself;

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29

that where I am, there you may be also.”
John 14:1-3



30

Jesus personally described the momentous event:



31

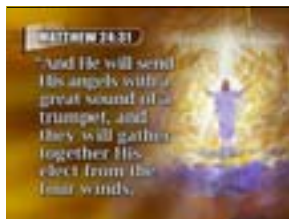
(Text: Matthew 24:30, 31)

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn,



32

and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”



33

“And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds,



34

from one end of heaven to the other.”
Matthew 24:30, 31



35

Why the trumpet? Why the angels?



36

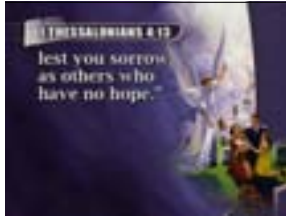
To awaken the elect from the sleep of death and to gather them up to take them to heaven—the place Jesus has prepared for those who love Him.
The coming of the Lord is described in unmistakable detail:

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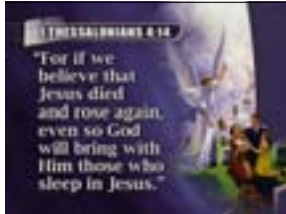
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(Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep,



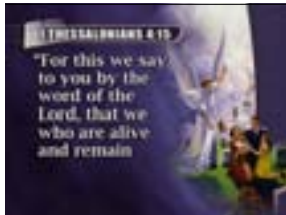
38

lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.



39

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.



40

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain



41

until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.



42

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel,



43

and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.



44

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

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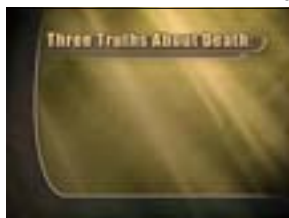
45

And thus we shall always be with the Lord.



46

**Therefore comfort one another with these words."
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**



47

Notice, please, three significant truths expressed here:



48

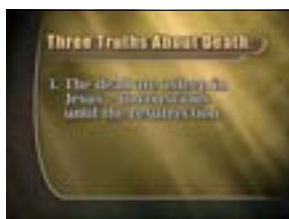
1. This is according to "the Lord's own word." This is what Jesus Himself taught and therefore settles the matter for us.



49

2. Those Christians who are still living when Jesus returns are caught up together with those who have been raised from death at the second coming of Jesus.

The living will not precede those who have fallen asleep in Jesus, nor will the people who have died precede one by one when they die.



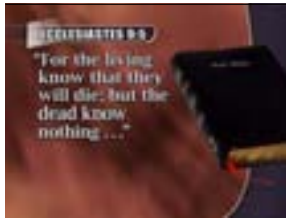
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3. "Sleep" is the word used by Jesus and Paul to describe death before the resurrection: "Asleep in Him [Jesus]."

Jesus makes it abundantly clear that death is not conscious life.

There is no consciousness in death. Consciousness is a function of the mind, and at death the mind ceases to function.

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51

(Text: Ecclesiastes 9:5)

This the Bible makes very clear: “For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing.”

Ecclesiastes 9:5



52

How much do the dead know? “Nothing.”

It is therefore impossible for the dead to communicate with the living.

Where does the belief that a person lives on after death come from?

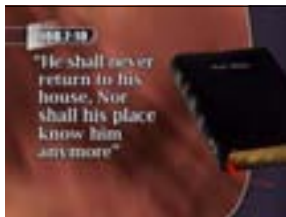


53

(Text: Job 7:9, 10)

The Bible teaches the unconscious state of man in death, Job very plainly stated, “As the cloud disappears and vanishes away. So he who goes down to the grave does not come up.”

Job 7:9



54

“He shall never return to his house, Nor shall his place know him anymore.” Job 7:10



55

The belief comes from Satan himself.

In the Garden of Eden, he deceived Eve and caused her, with her husband, to lose their garden home and eventually life itself.

Satan held a seance with Eve using the serpent as a medium that he spoke through. He is the master deceiver.



56

(Text: Genesis 3:4)

She believed Satan’s lie: “...You will not surely die.” Genesis 3:4.



57

(Text: Genesis 2:17)

This lie was a direct contradiction to God’s truth: “...You shall surely die.” Genesis 2:17.

This is the issue: Whom shall we believe?

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58

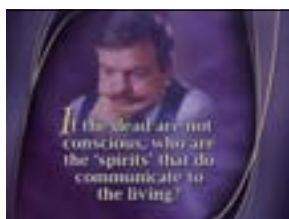
A psychic says (and this is repeated by thousands of psychics-spiritualists-around the world), “It is possible to communicate with our departed loved ones.”
Is this correct? Is it possible? No.



59

From the teachings of Jesus, we conclusively know that the living cannot communicate with the dead.
Why not? “The dead know nothing.”

They are sleeping the unconscious sleep of death.
You may be asking—and with some apprehension if you are in communication with spirits—



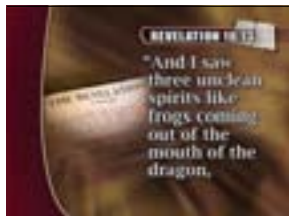
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“If the dead are not conscious, who are the ‘spirits’ that do speak to the living?”



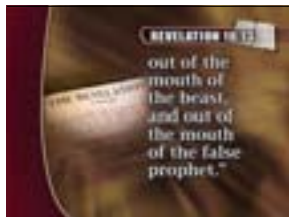
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The Bible makes very clear who they are.



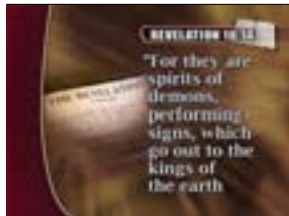
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(Text: Revelation 16:13, 14)
“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon [Satan],



63

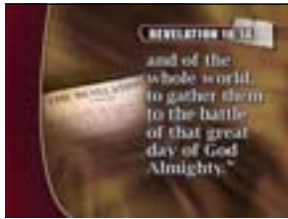
out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.



64

For they are spirits of demons [fallen angels], performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth,

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65

**and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty.”
Revelation 16:13, 14**



66

The Bible further reveals not only who they are but where they came from:



67

**(Text: Revelation 12:7-9)
“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,**



68

but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.



69

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;



70

**he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”
Revelation 12:7-9**



71

**They are fallen angels! Friends, beware!
It is the most dangerous thing you could ever do to have anything whatsoever to do with the “spirits.”**

Their only purpose, I repeat, their only purpose, is to deceive you and turn you away from Jesus and cause you to lose your eternal salvation.

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72

It should make your hair stand on end, send shivers up and down your spine, and cause you to put distance between yourself and the “spirits.”

If you believe that the dead are alive, you are wide open to be deceived and lost, because you haven’t seen anything yet!



73

God in His word has clearly condemned spiritism and He has forbidden any attempt on mans part to communicate with the dead.

Notice the warning that God gave to His people about consulting a person who tries to talk to a “familiar spirit”



74

(Text: Leviticus 19:31)

Leviticus 19:31: “Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them:



75

I am the Lord your God.”



76

(Text: Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

Before the people of Israel went into Canaan, they were strictly instructed , “there shall not be found among you... a witch,



77

or a charmer or a consulter with familiar spirits or a wizard or a necromancer.



78

“For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD . . .” Deuteronomy 18:10-12, KJV.

God knows that people who consult with familiar spirits would cause His people to be mislead and so He told them this:



79

(Text: Exodus 22:18)

“You shall not permit a sorceress [witch] to live.” Exodus 22:18

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The experience of King Saul in consulting a spiritist medium demonstrates the folly of trying to speak to the dead.

80



(Text: 1 Chronicles 10:13)

“So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the Lord...”

81



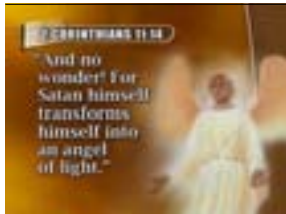
and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.” 1 Chronicles 10:13

82



Satan himself will attempt to impersonate Jesus Himself.

83



(Text: 2 Corinthians 11:14)

“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

2 Corinthians 11:14.

84



Have you wondered how a person can talk with someone who looks, talks, acts like a person they knew before death? The Bible says it is because Satan (and his angels) “masquerade.”

85



They can impersonate any person who has ever lived. It is absolutely frightening to think that good people can be thus deceived and drawn into Satan’s embrace, thinking all the while that they are enjoying the comfort of a departed loved one!

86



But this Scripture reveals something even more sinister: Satan himself will seek to impersonate Jesus.

Can you imagine how multitudes will be deceived because they do not know the truth of the second coming of Jesus?

87

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Is it any wonder that Jesus gave such a serious warning about this very thing?



88

(Text: Matthew 24:4, 5)

"And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you.'"



89

"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."

Matthew 24:4,5

So serious is this matter that



90

Jesus repeated the same warning in the same sermon:



91

(Text: Matthew 24:23-25)

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it."



92

"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive,



93

if possible, even the elect."



94

"See, I have told you beforehand."

Matthew 24:23-25

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95

But someone may be saying-or you may know someone who says, "I have seen a departed loved one alive."



96

Someone else may insist, "I have talked to my departed husband."



97

Still another, "I lost my son in a terrorist attack, but I visit with him, talk to him, and he is a great comfort to me."

What did Jesus say?

That the dead are asleep—and that "spirits" would **DECEIVE** if possible the very elect.

Millions will be deceived.

Why? Because they trust more in their feelings, senses, and experiences than in the Word of God.

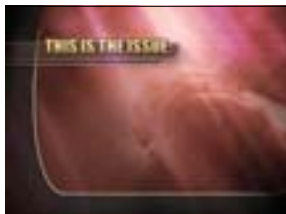


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Why are the "elect" not deceived?

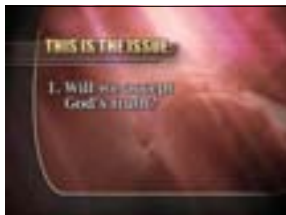
Because they believe Jesus.

They trust the sure Word of God instead of their senses, feelings, and experiences.



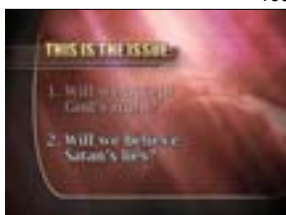
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This is the issue:



100

will we accept God's truth,



101

or will we believe Satan's lie?

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102

Only those who have fortified their minds with the words of the Bible will be able to stand against the overwhelming tide of deception that is already beginning to flood the world.

We need to know these things and believe them with a resolute will, and not allow any experience, feeling, or “appearance” dissuade us from the truth.



103

Perhaps you have wondered about “near-death” experiences, in which people who have been pronounced clinically dead have been revived



104

and report that they found themselves hovering in the hospital room looking down at their own body—

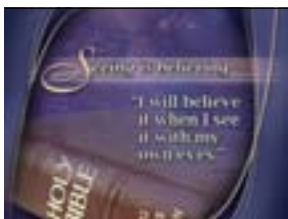


105

or that they saw a bright light and Jesus or an angel beckoning them to come.

Some even report having seen a departed loved one on the other side of death.

Only with the truth of God’s Word can we detect the falsehoods and be safe from deception.



106

To say, “Seeing is believing—I will believe it when I see it with my own eyes,” is a sure way to be deceived.



107

We can make a fateful decision when we base it on our senses, our feelings, our experiences—rather than on the Word of God, the Bible.

There are just so many false beliefs that prevail about death around our world.

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108

Take reincarnation, for example.

Millions believe that when a person dies, he is reborn in another form, yet he never knows which.

It quite possibly could be as an animal, such as a cow, rat, or snake.



109

Or it could be as another person, with the possibility of being very rich, or a king, or poor, or a beggar, or blind or deaf, or crippled, or having a painful and disabling disease.



110

Hinduism teaches that there is a “Wheel of Life” that constantly revolves, and that when a person dies, he is reborn—and that there are endless repetitions of this on earth.

Many people are intrigued by this without really knowing the philosophy behind it.

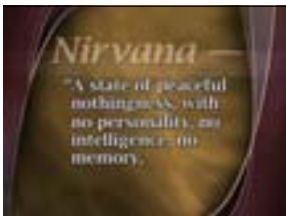
In this belief, there is no control by the individual, no choice, no decision to be made.



111

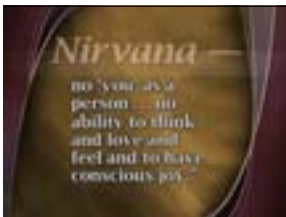
The goal is not conscious life with personality, choice, joy and friendship.

Instead, the person eventually reaches Nirvana—



112

“A state of peaceful nothingness, with no personality, no intelligence, no memory,



113

no “you” as a person, no ability to think and love and feel and to have conscious joy.



114

The self is absorbed into the universe as a drop of water is absorbed into the ocean, with complete loss of identity.

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115

Buddhism is similar.

However, Buddha taught that you could get off the “Wheel of Life” at the end of this life—that you didn’t have to go through endless cycles of rebirth if you had the right karma.



116

Through the subconscious control of the will, the teaching goes, a person can come to the point in life where there is a complete cessation of desire.



117

When this state of mind and body is reached, he can go at death directly to Nirvana, where he is absorbed into the universe like one atom among all the others.



118

There is also, with both these major religions, the belief that good and evil are equal powers and will exist through all eternity.



119

On the Island of Bali in Indonesia, one can witness the Barong Dance.



120

The Barong, dressed in a costume that looks like a large boiled egg, confronts six men armed with kris—which are crooked but sharp and deadly daggers.

They are under the influence of some local drug.



121

The Barong advances toward them, and they back away. He shrieks and turns, and the men run after him, striking the air and trying to cut him down.



122

The Barong stops and turns to face the men.

They stop. He advances one step, and they retreat one step.

This is repeated, back and forth, time and again, until the six men get whipped up into such a wild state of frenzy they lose control.

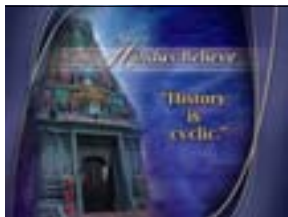
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It is not uncommon for one or more to throw his kris and hit a bystander by mistake.

At this point, men from the village come up behind the men, wrestle them to the ground and pour water on them as they wretch.

Finally, they shake their heads as though coming out of a trance, get up and walk off toward their huts, while the Barong walks away in the opposite direction.
What does it mean?

It is a religious festival in which men act out their beliefs. The Barong represents God, and the six men represent evil. According to Hindu belief, there is an eternal struggle between good and evil.
Neither wins—it is always a draw.



123

It is based on the belief that history is cyclic—that it repeats itself endlessly, that history is not going anywhere. There is no eternal God of love who will eventually put down evil and bring about righteousness and peace in all the earth.



124

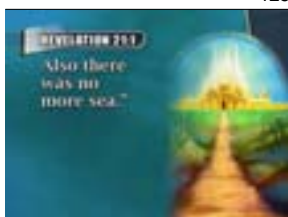
I am so thankful for Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, aren't you?
What a wonderful hope He brings!
Evil will not always prevail.
History is not cyclic; it is going somewhere.

All history is moving toward the time when God will create a new earth for real people without sin, disease, war, food shortages, suffering or death.



125

(Text: Revelation 21:1-4)
“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

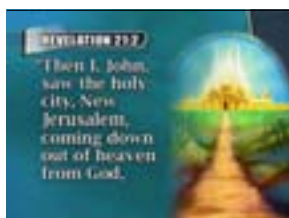


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Also there was no more sea.”

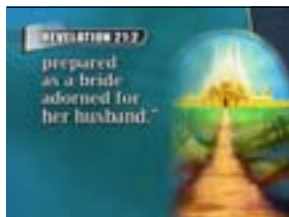
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127

“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,



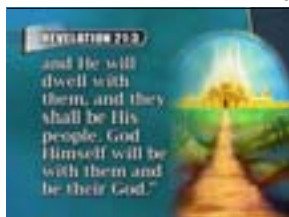
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prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”



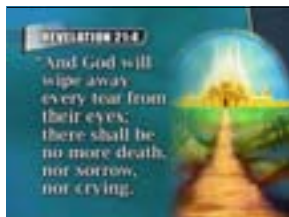
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“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,



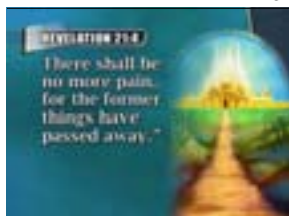
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and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’



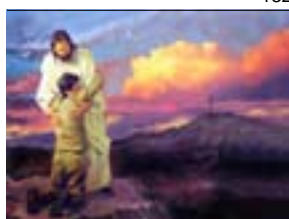
131

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.



132

There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
Revelation 21:1-4



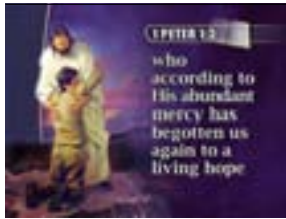
Won't you choose Jesus now and be “reborn?”
Not after death, when it will be too late.
Not through endless repetitions of reincarnation in various life forms for millions of years.
But now, today!



134

(Text: 1 Peter 1:3, 4)
“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

14 - VOICES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE



135

who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope



136

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,



137

to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away,



138

reserved in heaven for you,”
1 Peter 1:3, 4



139

You can have life forever more.
That is the assurance that God wants you to have today.



140

(Text: 1 John 5:11, 12)
“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son.



141

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
1 John 5:11, 12
How do we know? How can we be sure? God’s Word makes it crystal clear:



142

(Text: 1 John 5:13)
“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,

14 - VOICES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE



143

that you may know that you have eternal life..."

1 John 5:13

The question that each person must answer is: "Do I have Jesus?"

You can have Him at this very moment.



144

(Text: Revelation 3:20)

He says, "Behold, I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock.



145

If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,



146

I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

Revelation 3:20



147

Just open the door of your heart right now, and invite Him in.