

# Waiting For The Dead

By Paul R. Blake

## Introduction:

- A. Easter is the day that most of the religious world celebrates as the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - 1. Brief background.
  - 2. We honor the resurrection every first day of the week.
    - a. 1Cor. 11; Acts 20:7
    - b. And do not create a specific holiday without authority.
    - c. Col 3:17; Gal. 4:10-11
  - 3. One thing we do agree on, is that the Savior is risen; he is not on a cross, nor in a tomb.
    - a. He is alive, and we await His return.
- B. Paul Harvey and the "Rest of the Story."
  - 1. Due to disobedience to God, Israel was being oppressed by Jabin, king in Canaan. Sisera was captain of his army, which consisted of a large infantry and 900 iron chariots. Israel prevailed anyway, destroying the army to the last man, except Sisera who fled on foot to the tent of Jael.
  - 2. Judges 4:16-23, 5:28-30
  - 3. Sisera's mother was waiting for the dead, anticipating that which would never come.
  - 4. It mattered not what her wise women told her.
- C. Many religious folk today are waiting for the dead; hoping for that which will never come.

## I. MODERN JEWISH FOLK ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE MESSIAH

- A. Zionists Vs the Hassidics - formation of the Jewish state.
  - 1. John 4:25-26
  - 2. A verbal thermonuclear reaction.
  - 3. Proved it by testimony of God, miracles, scriptures (prophecy of Moses and John), His teachings (consistent with Father), and by resurrection.
    - a. John 5:31-32, 36, 39, 45-47, 8:28, 20:27-31
- B. But they did not and do not want to believe.
  - 1. Acts 28:22-29
  - 2. They were looking for a physical kingdom on the earth.
    - a. Even the disciples made that error - Acts 1:6, 2Cor. 4:18
  - 3. A dead hope.
  - 4. The kingdom IS! - Col. 1:13; 1Thes. 2:12; Rev. 1:9
  - 5. There will be no other; there will be no earthly kingdom.
  - 6. Jew or Christian, those who wait for a kingdom on this earth, wait for the dead.

## II. SOME ARE WAITING FOR A SECOND CHANCE

- A. "I have not been especially sinful. God will give me another shot."
  - 1. Cute movies and TV shows about ghosts who get to come back and finish things they neglected.

2. Heb. 2:1-3; 2Cor. 5:9-11
- B. Are you a faithful, obedient Christian? There will be no disobedient in heaven
  1. Hoping to be an exception? God doesn't make exceptions.
  2. Rom. 2:7-11, 11:19-22
  3. There are no second chances; no millennium where the semi-righteous get another opportunity to do right.
  4. Heb. 9:27 - The Bible says it; that settles it.
  5. To believe otherwise is waiting for the dead.

### **III. SOME WAIT FOR HEAVEN TO ACT IN THEIR BEHALF**

- A. Some wait for converting power to come upon them - Rom. 1:16
- B. Some wait for God to turn them from sin toward righteousness.
  1. 1Thes. 1:9; Acts 2:41
  2. God does not play favorites, turning some and not others.
  3. Luke 16:29-31 - Rich man in torments; "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them."
- C. Some wait for a miraculous gift of faith - Rom. 10:17
- D. Some wait for a miraculous call to teach - 2Tim. 2:2
- E. Waiting for God to come down and make you do what you should do for yourself is waiting for the dead.

### **IV. SOME WAIT FOR A FEELING AS EVIDENCE OF PARDON**

- A. 1Peter 1:2; 1John 2:4-5
- B. To wait to be overwhelmed by external sources is waiting for the dead.

### **V. SOME WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME**

- A. Acts 24:25
- B. Some wait for a time when living for Jesus will be easy - 2Tim. 3:12
- C. Some wait for a time when being a Christian will be more fashionable.
  1. News flash! The elite, the socially fashionable, the intellectuals, the powerful, and wealthy have NEVER viewed the Gospel as fashionable.
  2. Waiting for Bible believing to be popular is waiting for the dead
- D. 2Cor. 6:2

### **VI. WE ARE WAITING FOR THE RISEN SAVIOR TO COME AGAIN**

- A. Are we waiting for the dead?
- B. Acts 1:11; Luke 12:35-40
- C. What are you waiting for?