

## DISPENSATIONAL DEATH

**Request:** “During the study, “I am the resurrection and the life,” I wondered if Lazarus was the first believer to have died and gone to heaven?”

Lazarus presented an interesting dispensational phenomena, he died the first time during the Jewish age and went to Hades (Luke 16:22-23). Then Jesus raised him from the dead after being dead four days (John 11:17, 40, 43). We believe that Lazarus lived to witness the death and resurrection and ascension of Jesus (Matt.27:63; Luke 24:20-21; Acts 1:3, 12-15). If these assumptions are correct, Lazarus died the second time in the Church age and went to heaven.

**This lesson will study six aspect of the uniqueness of the concept of Dispensational Death.**

**1. We will begin by mentioning four unique dispensational deaths and raisings from the dead by Jesus recorded in the New Testament. It was 1 of 6 messianic signs listed in Luke 7:22.**

- (Luke 7:11-17) The funeral of the widow’s son.
- (Luke 8:49-56) The daughter of Jairus
- (John 11:38-44) Lazarus
- (Matt.27:50-53) Believers **after** the resurrection of Jesus

A **fifth one** might be recorded in Luke 16:19-31 (the rich man and Lazarus) with Matt.27:50-53. However, there isn’t Scriptural evidence for it.

**2. When believers of the Gentile and Jewish ages died, they went to Paradise [Abraham’s bosom] prior to the ascension of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus told the thief on the cross, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

We learn from Lazarus and the Rich man that the unbeliever and believer both went to Hades. They were separated by a **great chasm** (Luke 16:22-23, 26-31).

The unbeliever went to a place we called **Torment** (basanos) in Hades (Luke 16:22-23; Rev.20:10).

**3. When Jesus died, he went to Hades because of the Jewish age.**

(Matt.12:40) “For just as Jonah was three days and three nights **in the belly** of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the heart.” [Hades or Sheol]

(Eph.4:9-10) (Now this expression, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above the heavens, so that He might fill all things.

(1 Pet.3:18-19) “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison.” [Tartarus]

**4. Jesus was raised from the dead on the day of First Fruits (Lev.23:9-14).**

It occurred the first day after the weekly Sabbath of Unleavened Bread (Lev.23:15). Pentecost or Weeks occurred 50 days from First Fruits (Lev.23:15-16; Acts 2:1).

(Matt.28:6) “Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn towards the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave.” (Matt.28:1) “He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come; see the place where He was lying.”

Therefore the resurrection of Jesus Christ is referred to as, “the First Fruits of those who are asleep.” (1 Cor.15:20, 23)

**5. After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, all believers go to heaven immediately at death (John 14:1-4).**

(John 11:25) “I am the Resurrection and the Life”

(2 Cor.5:8) “We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”(Eph.1:3, 20; 2:6).

(1 Thess.4:14) “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.”

**6. The order of the First Resurrection will be dispensational.**

(1 Cor.15:23) “But **each in his own order**: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

(Rev.20:5) “The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is **the first resurrection.**”

The order of the First Resurrection: “Each in his order.”

- Jesus Christ
- Church age Believers
- Jewish age Believers
- Millennium and Gentile age Believers

**If Lazarus lived 50 days after the resurrection-ascension of Jesus Christ, he lived and died in two dispensations and resided in both Hades and Heaven.**