

The Life of David - Supplement

What David Knew About Heaven

Introduction

- We compare the Old and New Testaments we find that the New Testament speaks far more often about Heaven and Hell.
- However, it is a mistake to assume that Old Testaments saints did not have an understanding of what lies beyond death.
- Examples that show this understanding include Job 19:25-27, Isaiah 26:19, and Daniel 12:1-3
- In this lesson, we will examine the knowledge and expectation that David expressed in during his life.

II Samuel 12

- In II Samuel 12, David is confronted by Nathan about his sins against Uriah and Bathsheba in the previous chapter.
- David and Bathsheba had a child that Nathan said would die as part of the price of their sin – vs. 14-15
- Note David's behavior in vs. 12:16-20 as he is mourning and fasting as the child was ill but then ate and worshipped as usual after the child passed.
- His servants are shocked at this change in vs. 21 and ask David about it.
- His reply in vs. 22-23 is amazing:
 - He expresses belief in God's mercy toward a repentant heart in vs. 22.
 - He knows the child is dead, accepting reality – "But now he is dead"
 - He knows that personality is retained beyond death by using personal pronouns – "I", "him", "he"
 - He knows that the same state the child is in beyond death is awaiting him – "I shall go to him"
 - He knows that relationship and knowledge last beyond death – "go to him"
 - He does not say he will be *like* him but rather *with* him.
 - He knows that a reunion is only possibly if he goes to where his child is – "he shall not return to me"
- Upon examination these verses reveal much about David's faith in a future life beyond death's door. He is not being stoic or fatalistic.
- Here is also the strongest evidence we have that infants go to Heaven.

Psalms

- While many of our hymns speak of Heaven, it is a very rare topic for David. He rarely looks beyond the perspective of his present life or that of future generations or events on earth.
- Psalm 16:10-11
 - Hope in a resurrection, being with God (“thy right hand”), and an eternal duration (“evermore”)
- Psalm 23:6
 - Living with God, eternal duration.