

“HE SEETH ABRAHAM AFAR OFF, AND LAZARUS”

INTRODUCTION

The title for our lesson at this time is, “He Seeth Abraham Afar Off, and Lazarus.” These words are lifted from Luke 16:23, from the account of the Rich man and Lazarus in the Hadean world. Here were two people who lived together, now in the presence of Abraham, who may or may not have known Abraham in this life prior to death. The point is, there was some recognition between the three, after death.

The question is often asked, “Will we know each other in heaven?” Will heaven merely be an alternative to hell, where we escape the wrath of God, and then only recognize some we knew in this life? Heaven IS a place of promised rest and joy. Will we be with those we knew on earth, and will we miss loved ones we knew on earth who are not there? The question is, “Will we know each other in heaven?” The word of God alludes to this likelihood, and there may be an indication that we will recognize others whom we have never met before. Let’s study this subject further. These points, studied separately, may not be conclusive, but a collection of ALL these points and scripture builds a strong case for eternal recognition.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, Future Recognition is alluded to by JOB.

A. Job affirmed he would see God while in the body God gave him. Read Job 19:25-27

B. If Job’s identity is preserved, then those who knew him on earth, will surely recognize him.

II. 2nd, Future Recognition is alluded to by DAVID.

A. David was stricken with grief while his dead child was yet unburied. (2 Sam. 12:1-14)

B. He stated that HE (David) would go TO him, which suggests an expected recognition. (2 Sam. 12:15-23)

III. 3rd, Future Recognition is alluded to by PAUL.

A. Paul alluded to the fact that some would be his cause for joy when the Lord comes again. 2 Cor. 1:14; 1 Thess. 2:19

B. Paul expected to know Jesus OTHER than by His former physical body.
1. He expected to see Jesus in another form than His earthy body. 2 Cor. 5:16
2. Our physical nature will be different, but recognition still a reality. 1 Cor. 15:50; 1 John 3:2

C. Paul alludes to future recognition as the basis for our HOPE. 1 Thess. 4:13-18

IV. 4th, Future Recognition is alluded to by JESUS.

A. In the account of the Rich man and Lazarus, future recognition is obvious. Luke 16:19-31
1. Abraham and the Rich man seemed to know each other, thought they MAY have never met in the flesh. vs. 22-23
2. Abraham and Lazarus obviously knew each other. v. 24
3. Abraham knew the past life of the rich man. vs. 25-26

B. Christ knows US, as we shall be judged by our individual works, of which Christ **knows**, surely by His divine capabilities. 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12; Rev. 20:13

V. 5th, Future Recognition is alluded to by JOHN.

- A. John tells us that Jesus identified Himself by the marks of the crucifixion. John 20:24-29;
Luke 24:40
1. A beautiful hymn, **MY SAVIOR FIRST OF ALL**, alludes to our knowing Jesus in this way.

*When my work is ended, and I come to swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see.
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.*

*Thru the gates to the city in a robe of spotless white,
He will lead me where no tears will ever fall.
In the glad song of ages I shall mingle with delight,
But I long to meet my Savior first of all.*

Then the Chorus:

*I shall know Him, I shall know Him, And redeemed by His side
I shall know, I shall know Him, I shall know Him by the print of the nails in His hand.*

2. Surely, there is something about the Christ in glory to make us recognize Him.

- B. John's account of the martyrs shows Future Recognition. Rev. 6:9-11

1. These martyrs may have known each other before death and afterward.
2. They were all conscious, knowing of a common death, and their murderers yet unpunished.

VI. Finally, Future Recognition is alluded to in the TRANSFIGURATION.

- A. No doubt, Jesus recognized Moses and Elijah, and they recognized the Lord. Matt. 17:1-5

- B. Moses, Elijah, AND Jesus were on earth in different centuries, but they knew each other and did not have to be introduced.

- C. Even Peter and the disciples recognized Moses and Elijah. vs. 3-4

CONCLUSION

- I. The fact that we recognize each other in heaven does not mean we have the same relationship we had with them here on earth. Cf Matt. 22;23-30 (Discuss)
 - A. The compiled implications of Job, David, Paul, Jesus, John and Peter, along with the Transfiguration, all point to future recognition of loved ones.
 - B. This, confirmed by the hope of our OWN resurrection, gives strength to future recognition of loved ones in heaven.
- II. The question is, "Are you READY to GO to heaven?"

