

“IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING”

INTRODUCTION

Fourteen times in the Bible, the expression, “*in the land of the living*” is found recorded.

- 1) It is used in the book of Job, as he records the value of “wisdom” in the land of the living.
- 2) It is used in the Psalms by David as he saw the Lord’s “goodness” in the land of the living.
- 3) It is used by Isaiah, with reference to Hezekiah’s death, and the death of Jesus.
- 4) It is found by Ezekiel, as he predicted the destruction of Tyre and Egypt.

There are some important things we can learn about “THE LAND OF THE LIVING.”

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, “the land of the living” was formed by the God of heaven.

A. God made the earth to be inhabited BY man, when He made him in His likeness. Gen.1:1, 27-28; Isa. 45:18; Acts 17:24-26

1. God began by placing man in the Garden of Eden, with access to the tree of life.
2. Man was told to multiply and replenish the earth.
3. God put two great lights in the heaven, to rule the earth day and night, and He made the stars also. Gen. 2:16; Psa. 147:4

B. At first, the earth was a wonderful place, as man had fellowship with God, and all the wonders and beauties of the trees, flowers and animals.

II. 2nd, “the land of the living” was the beginning place of sin.

A. It was in the garden that Satan appeared in the form of a serpent, to bring sin and death into the world.

1. Adam and Eve disobeyed God while IN the garden, and were driven from the garden, being destined to physical death. Gen. 3:22-24; 5:5
2. Sin spread like wild-fire in the land of the living. Gen. 6:1-5
 - a. God saw fit to clean off the earth by a universal flood, in th days of Noah, a man of God. Gen. 6:6-8
 - b. God preserved the earth itself, with the ultimate plan to someday end it by fire. Gen. 8:22; 2 Pet. 3:5-7

B. For years after the flood, man did not spread over the earth,.

1. With the flood , God basically started over in His dealings with man.
2. Mankind did not yet inhabit all the earth, and God had to confuse their tongues to cause them to spread out into the entire earth. Gen. 11:1-9 (Read)

III. 3rd, “in the land of the living” the ultimate Savior appeared.

A. The Savior was to be born of a woman IN the land of the living. Gen. 3:15

1. This has reference to Jesus, Who would make His appearance at the appointed time. Isa. 7:14; Gal. 4:4
2. IN the land of the living, the sacrifice for sin would be made when Jesus died on the cross. Isa. 53:7-8

B. Christ’s death was the price paid for the church, which would be the place of fellowship between God and those who do His will. Acts 20:28; 2:47

IV. 4th, “in the land of the living”, man has the opportunity to prepare for eternal life beyond this land.

- A. The Patriarchal and Mosaical periods existed for some 4,000 years, as God worked His plan to bring the Savior into the world.
- B. In the FINAL period of time called the “last days”, salvation would be offered. Isa. 2:2-3; Joel 2:28-32; cf Acts 2:16-21; Heb. 1:1-2
 - 1. This life, while IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING, is the **only** time you and I have to prepare for eternal life. 2 Cor. 6:1-2; Jas. 4:14; Prov. 27:1
 - 2. Not only will “the land of the living” cease to exist someday, but our “living” here will also end. Eccl. 9:4-6; cf Heb. 9:27
 - a. Sadly, some of our friends and loved ones will not take God’s warning seriously. Matt. 24:38-39
 - b. Today, there are some 7.6 billion people on the earth, and millions being born every day, and probably less than 1% of the population even profess to know Christ, much less are obedient to His gospel, and are “dead” spiritually, while “living” physically. 1 Tim. 5:6

V. 5th, “the land of the living” will no longer exist as a land at all.

- A. All material things that have a beginning, will also have an end.
- B. This includes the earth. Matt. 24:35; 2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1
 - 1. The earth will end with the coming of the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:23-24
 - 2. The beauties and wonders of the world will be forgotten with the beauties and joys of heaven, where the righteous will live forever, and will continue to be enjoyed forever.

CONCLUSION

- I. Where will YOU be a thousand years from now?
 - A. IF the “land” is still here, you and I will no longer be the living HERE.
 - 1. Our passing from this life is certain, and will have occurred by then.
 - 2. Our bodies will have decayed, but our spirits will be in the Hadean realm awaiting the day of final judgment and our entrance into heaven.
 - a. We sing the song about “This world is not My Home,” and it will not last forever as we seek a better land—one for “eternal living.”
 - b. We also sing the song, “In the Land of Fadeless Day”, referring to heaven itself.
 - B. We can prepare our souls by obeying the gospel plan of salvation.
 - 1. This plan began almost 2000 years ago, and is to last till the “end” of the world. Matt. 28:18-20
 - 2. This plan was put into motion on the great day of Pentecost after Jesus ascended into heaven. (Discuss Acts 2:17-47 as desired)
- III. Won’t you make preparation, while you are yet among the living?
 - A. Many know of their need for salvation, but put it off too long and lose their souls.
 - B. Why not come to Jesus—RIGHT NOW—while we stand together and sing!