

Chapter Ten

The Intermediate State

The Intermediate State is concerned with the state of persons between their death and their resurrection.

Some years ago a church sexton was feeling quite poorly and thought maybe he ought to go home. But it was midwinter, it was Saturday, and he was a conscientious fellow.

"No, you go home," the pastor said. "Maybe you'll feel better in the morning and can come over early to fire up the furnace."

The sexton went home to bed, was up early the next morning, and was quickly scanning the newspaper before hurrying over to the church. Suddenly his eyes stopped at a story that announced that he had died.

He rushed to the telephone and called the pastor. "Hey, did you see that announcement about my death in the paper?" he asked.

"Yesss, I did," replied the pastor hesitantly. "Ehhh ... where are you calling from?"

In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in mysticism. Books on eastern thought are selling in huge numbers. Schools of meditation are springing up everywhere. Gurus abound. Yoga is everywhere. Extrasensory perception is being studied in scientific laboratories; and departments stores are selling the concept in ESP games and Ouija boards. Along with all this has come a renewal of interest and belief in life after death, disembodied existence, immortality, and the idea of another world.

There are at least four questions which may be asked concerning the Intermediate State: