

disembodied existence and a particular place or state or dimension or realm until the resurrection and the judgment.

- d. Following physical death, human beings continue to exist, first in an intermediate State, and then in a Final or Eternal State.

In recent years a number of books on the death experience have appeared, including the following: Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, *On Death and Dying*, and *Questions and Answers on Death and Dying*; Raymond A. Moody, *Life After Life*; Jess E. Weiss, *The Vestibule*; Martin Ebon, *The Evidence for Life After Death*; and Joel Martin and Patricia Romanowski, *We Don't Die -- George Anderson's Conversations with the Other Side*. All of these suffer by comparison with the biblical conception of death and its aftermath.

- (1) From *Life After Life*, by Raymond A. Moody, Jr. (New York: Bantam Books, 1976)

"At the present time, I know of approximately 150 cases of this phenomenon" (near-death experiences)" (p. 16)

"Despite the wide variation in the circumstances surrounding close calls with death and in the types of persons undergoing them, it remains true that there is a striking similarity among the accounts of the experiences themselves. In fact, the similarities among various reports are so great that one can easily pick out about fifteen separate elements which recur again and again in the mass of narratives that I have collected. On the basis of these points of likeness, let me now construct a brief, theoretically 'ideal' or 'complete' experience which embodies all of the common elements, in the order in which it is typical for them to occur.

A man is dying and, as he reaches the point of greatest physical distress, he hears himself pronounced dead by his doctor. He begins to hear an uncomfortable noise, a loud ringing or buzzing, and at the same time feels himself moving very rapidly through a long dark tunnel. After this, he suddenly finds himself outside of his own physical body, but still in the immediate physical environment, and he sees his own body from a distance, as though he is a spectator. He watches the resuscitation attempt from this unusual vantage point and is in a state of emotional upheaval.

After a while, he collects himself and becomes more accustomed to his odd condition. He notices that he still has a 'body', but one of a very different nature and with very different powers from the physical body he has left behind. Soon other things begin to happen. Others come to meet and to help him. He glimpses the spirits of relatives and friends who have already died, and a loving, warm spirit of a kind he has never encountered before -- a being of light -- appears before him. This being asks him a question, nonverbally, to make him evaluate his life and helps him along by showing him a panoramic, instantaneous playback of the major events of his life. At some point he finds himself approaching some sort of barrier or border, apparently representing the limit between earthly life and the next life. Yet, he finds that he must go back to earth, that the time for his death has not yet come. At this point he resists, for by now he is taken up with his experiences in the afterlife and does not want to return. He is overwhelmed by intense