

After Death, Before Resurrection

After learning of death and resurrection many wonder what happens in between. Luke 16:19-31 offers the most help---

A separation (v22-23) These two men are separated from each other by a *great gulf* (chasm). One is in a place of torment and the other is comforted—both in a temporary residence for souls until Judgment. This is not “Purgatory,” where Catholic tradition claims sins are purged by temporary punishment---neither Jesus, nor the apostles taught this.

A memory of loved ones on earth (v28) The man in the place of torment feared that at death his five brothers would join him. We all have loved ones in this place—they also are hoping we do not join them. So, at death, we are conscious. We are not like a computer that has been unplugged. Our bodies appear to be sleeping, but our spirits return to God with the knowledge we had at death (Eccl. 12:7).

This is where Jesus went after death and before He was raised (Acts 2:27). At the moment of death, atheists and agnostics are convinced, hypocrites are exposed, all who are deceived see reality, and faithful Christians have comfort. Someday, we will all agree—don’t wait until death to learn!