

Discussion Questions (Lecture 4 – Life After Death?)

1. How did Jesus speak as One having authority, especially on life after death (John 14:1-3)? (Matt. 7:28-29, John 7:44-46)

The Greek word that is used for “authority” in Matt. 7:28-29 is exousia (prefix ex = “from” or “out of”, root ousia = present participle of the verb “to be”). Literally, the word means “out of being” or “substance.” Exousia also means “power” in Greek, so we can translate it as “powerful authority.”

In simple terms, what the Bible means when it says that Jesus spoke as One having authority is that Jesus was not uttering an empty or vaporous opinion. He had the “stuff” or “substance” of reality behind His words. His authority was backed up by nothing less than the very being or substance of God.

When God speaks, all dispute about the truth and reality of what is spoken must end, except for those who are chronically obstreperous, or incomprehensibly foolish. Who else would dare to correct the Deity?

If Jesus spoke the truth concerning His authority, then no objection can withstand the conclusion that He spoke the truth regarding life after death. His declaration, “If it were not so, I would have told you,” remains the consolation of all consolations.

We recall that Jesus declared boldly “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matt. 28:18). If the One who possesses all authority in heaven speaks a word about heaven, then it follows that His teaching on the subject is impeccable.

2. The example of Jesus (His Work)—this is not directly addressed in the session. What “works” of Christ demonstrated God’s power over death?

Jesus raised many from the dead. How many people does the New Testament record Him raising from the dead? _____

His resurrection (discussed at length in Lecture 5) serves as the foundation of Christian faith. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul powerfully describes the great benefit to us all as a result of Jesus’ triumph. Because Christ arose, those who are in Him will also be raised from corruption to incorruption, from weakness to power. As a result of this sharing in His victory, the terrible sting of death is removed and we have the assurance that our mortality will put on immortality.

Source: “Surprised by Suffering—Study Guide for the Video or Audio Series”, p. 104
Surprised by Suffering, p. 117, 119, 121