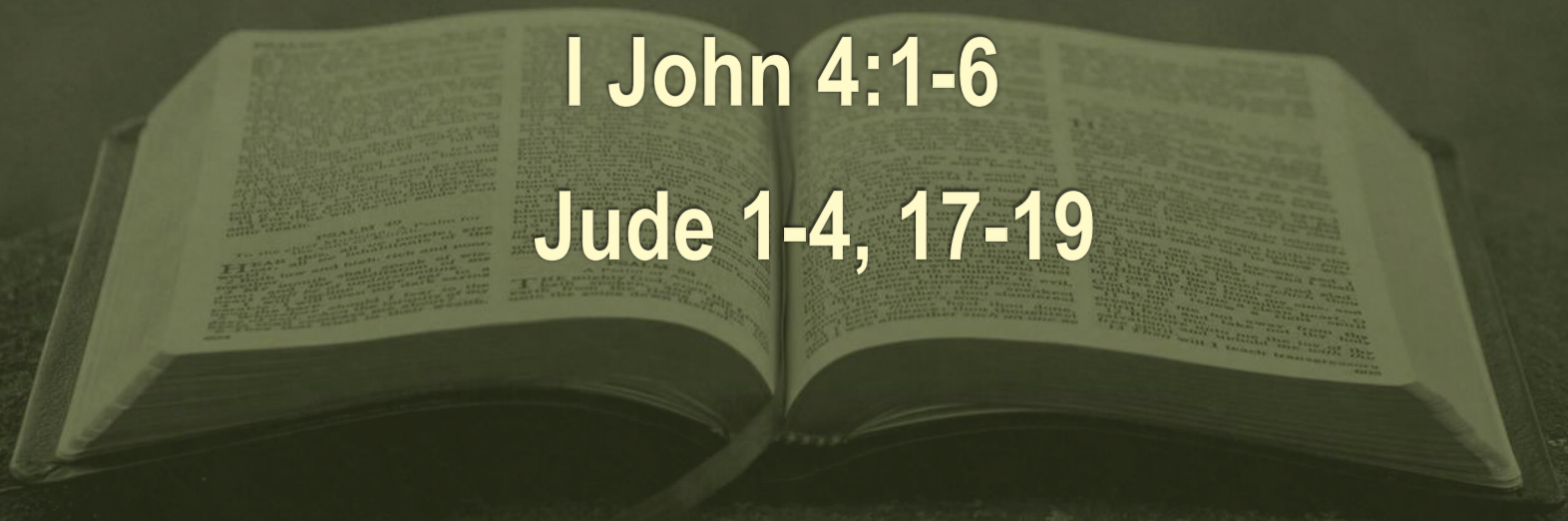


The Knowledge of Near-Death Experiences: True or False?

◆ *Scripture Reading:*

I John 4:1-6

Jude 1-4, 17-19



Introduction

- ◆ In I John, the Apostle reminds believers of foundational truths that false teachers and false prophets deny:
 - ◆ That Jesus Christ is God – I Jn 2:20-21
 - ◆ That the purpose of the Father in sending the Son, was to take away our sins – I Jn 3:5
 - ◆ That by the new birth, the Father now calls believers His children (“born-ones”) – I Jn 3:1
 - ◆ That believers have knowledge of our glorification – I Jn 3:2

Introduction

- ◆ Believers can be assured of these truths, and ALL truth that God has revealed to us (I Jn 2:20), because this revelation has come through Christ's apostles – Matt 28:19-20, I Jn 4:6
- ◆ True Christians need to be aware of false teaching that is based on human experiences that contradict Scriptural revelation
- ◆ One of the most dangerous contradictions is the modern report and studies of what is called “Near-Death Experiences” (NDE)

WHAT is NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE?

WHEN it occurs?

- Just before, during or after “clinical death”
 - Various views of clinical death:
 - Cessation of breathing
 - Cessation of heartbeat
 - Cessation of brain activity

WHAT is experienced?

- “out of body” experiences from watching present activities in a hospital
- to perception of being in heaven or hell
- seeing God, Jesus Krishna, loved ones

WHAT is NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE?

HOW many occurrences?

- Hundreds, if not thousands have been documented
- Some speculated 1 in every 10 cases of “clinical death”

WHO studies these experiences?

- Raymond Moody (book: “Life After Death” 1975)
- Bishop James Pike (book: “The Other Side” 1966)
- Even some Christian authors such as Dr Gary Habermas (Liberty University) and Pastor Jon Burke (Gateway Church)

Scriptural Light on Near-Death Experience

- ◆ The norm for true death experiences – Heb 9:27
- ◆ The fear of death – Job 18:14 (“the king of terrors”)
- ◆ Heb 2:15 - “...were all their lifetime subject to the bondage of the fear of death”

Scriptural Light on Near-Death Experience

- ◇ People who have actually returned (temporarily) from death (widow's son -I Kings 17, Elisha -II Kings 13, Lazarus, Dorcus, etc)
 - ◇ Paul – II Cor 12:1-4 (experienced a Jewish stoning, i.e., truly died and his heavenly experiences were true revelation)
- ◇ People do believe the saving gospel of Christ because of near- death, or out of body experiences – Lk 16:27-31, Jn 12:9-11
- ◇ Satan can demonstrate (a limited degree) of supernatural power – Ex 7:11, II Thess 2:9

CONCLUSION

- ◆ Any Experience that contradicts anything in Scripture is false and to be rejected!
- ◆ The human mind can experience dreams and nightmares based on a mixed collection from stored memory
- ◆ Just as Satanic attack consists of mental “fiery darts”, fallen spirit beings can place (even factual) knowledge into the mind of a susceptible individual

CONCLUSION

- ◆ For the true Christian, fear of death should not be assuaged by subjective human experiences, but by the authoritative written Word of God
 - ◆ Gal 1:8, I Cor 3:21-23, II Cor 5:8