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DVD SECTION 1

WHO CAN TELL WHAT LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE?

In preparation for these discussion questions and the DVD lecture, **please read:**

CHAPTER 1, *“Attempting to Peek behind the Curtain”*

CHAPTER 2, *“The Descent into Gloom”*

From the Author

Denial, anger, fear, depression, and helpless resignation—all these feelings erupt in the hearts of those who face death. No matter that death is common to the human race; each person must face it individually. No one can endure this moment for us. Friends and family can walk only as far as the curtain; the dying one must disappear behind the veil alone.

Naturally, we would like to know in advance what we can expect on the other side. Human nature being what it is, we grasp for some clue, some hint we might glean from those who are about to cross the boundary.

Reincarnation, altered states of consciousness, and glad reunions in a metaphysical place such as heaven are popular themes at the box office. Dozens of movies portray the enchantment of the life beyond. Fear of death has been supplanted by blissful feelings about a hereafter where everyone ends happily reunited. There is no judgment, no careful review of one's life. To be sure, death has mystery, we are told, but it is not to be dreaded.

How legitimate are reported glimpses from behind the curtain? Many are convinced that the immortality of the soul is now confirmed by paranormal experiences that can have no other explanation than that the soul does survive the death of the body. But can reliable information be transmitted back to earth by those who tell us what they have seen and heard from the other side?

Although we have no reason to think that we can peer behind the curtain and report what we have found, we can gratefully accept all that God has shown to us in His Word.

ENGAGING THE TOPIC

Answer these questions while watching the DVD and reading the book.

1. Life's last great mystery is death. We must all face this mystery _____ .
2. Those who engage in the occult practice of channeling claim they are speaking with the _____.
3. Followers of the doctrine of reincarnation hold that death itself does not _____ .

PERSONAL REFLECTION

For the believer in Christ, we have a glimpse beyond the curtain, and it is based on the authoritative Word of God. Christ has risen from the dead and in doing so has conquered death. We can have no greater assurance regarding death than from the risen Christ: “I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades” (Revelation 1:18).

If you are a Christian, you may rejoice that death is not an enemy to be feared. The apostle Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 15:55, “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sin that gave death its sting has been conquered by our Lord (vv. 56–57).

We may go about our walk of faith, confidently anticipating death. As Paul wrote to the Corinthian church: “We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him” (2 Corinthians 5:6–9).

Even so, death has mysteries that must be explored. In the next section, we will discuss what unbelievers experience at death.

ENGAGING THE TOPIC answers:

1. Alone
2. Dead
3. Exist
4. Body
5. True
6. Bible