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Dead Bodies And the Importance of Burying Them

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Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Dead Bodies and the Importance of Burying Them.

To leave a body unburied is to treat it with contempt, and among the ancients (especially amongst the Jews) nothing was regarded as more dishonourable than leaving a body unburied on the surface of the earth. The Jews in Scripture are always represented as being deeply attentive to secure the burial of their dead as the following verses show:

- **Genesis 23:4:** I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight. (Gen. 23:4).
- **2 Samuel 21:9-13:** He gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the mountain before the LORD, and the seven of them perished together. They were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the beginning of barley harvest. ¹⁰Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell upon them from the heavens. And she did not allow the birds of the air to come upon them by day, or the beasts of the field by night. ¹¹When David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done, ¹²David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, on the day the Philistines killed Saul on Gilboa. ¹³And he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan; and they gathered the bones of those who were hanged.
- **Ecclesiastes 6:3:** If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he.
- **Isaiah 14:18-20:** All the kings of the nation's lie in glory, each in his own tomb; ¹⁹but you are cast out, away from your grave, like a loathed branch, clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a dead body trampled underfoot. ²⁰You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, you have slain your people. "May the offspring of evildoers nevermore be named!"
- **Isaiah 22:16:** What have you to do here, and whom have you here, that you have cut out here a tomb for yourself, you who cut out a tomb on the height and carve a dwelling for yourself in the rock?
- **Isaiah 53:9:** And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

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When dead bodies are spoken of figuratively and negatively in reference to those who are still alive, the meaning is that they would be treated with indignity and contempt, that is often represented by unburied corpses lying on the surface of the earth putrefying in the sun.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
