

ever, has a broader and more comprehensive signification than grave ; which is the locality in *sheol* for the body,—the *earth* being its native element,—it is all silence there, as the man that was formed of dust, returns to dust again. We know the nature of that locality, as *it* is obvious to our corporeal senses ; but of the precise locality of the spiritual nature, or *inward* man, we know (comparatively) but little ; that being included with “the things which are not seen,” with which we are connected. What we receive from revelation is in reference to man’s condition, either happy or unhappy, in accordance with his moral state at death.

We will examine one more passage, which is claimed as strong proof of the unconsciousness of the dead. Job. xiv. 7–12. Job is here comparing and contrasting the death of a tree, which has been cut down, with the death of man. “For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof *die* in the ground ; yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. But *man dieth*, and wasteth away ; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he ? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up ; so man lieth down and riseth not : till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.” We fail to see anything in this chapter teaching that mankind are unconscious at death ; but *rather* the *reverse*. The difference here presented between the death of a *tree* and that of a *man* is, that man at death ceases to be an inhabitant of this present visible world, but has entered the invisible state ; and the perceptible man that was formed of dust, “lieth down and riseth not till the heavens be no more ;”—*that* is his appointed *time* ; he is not destined to still live again an inhabitant of this world. But there *is* hope of the *tree* that is cut down, that *it* will immediately sprout, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease, as *now is its* appointed time ; it is destined *still* to live on this earth, and grow up a tree like