The awakening of Lazarus:

Jesus said, talking of Jairus' daughter: "The maid is not dead, but sleepeth." Then He awakens her. Man does not die like a beast, although death to man and beast is cessation of life, for to man God has given precious promises of a future life by a resurrection. There are numerous assurances in the Holy Scriptures that mankind shall be delivered from death to receive things promised. The awakenings from death by Jesus were only to show that He is the Prince of Life and that one day all the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and come forth. (John 5:22-24.) Thus Jesus awakened Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary. Here He also expressed Himself in the same sense as Lazarus, our friend sleepeth. (See John 11:11-14.)

Jesus did not say a word about the dead going to Heaven, purgatory or hell, as was once believed. (See John 3:13-14.) The Bible refers to "those who sleep in Jesus" as "the sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to shame, until they shall have demonstrated their repentance and loyalty." (Daniel 12:2.)

SPRINGING FROM THE WORD OF GOD

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