

**THE FUTURE LIFE: FOUR
SERMONS PREACHED
AT ST. JOHN'S NOTTING
HILL, IN JUNE, 1915**

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The Future Life: Four Sermons Preached at St. John's Notting Hill, in June, 1915 by F. Homes Dudden

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F. HOMES DUDDEN

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THE FUTURE LIFE

FOUR SERMONS PREACHED AT ST. JOHN'S
NOTTING HILL, IN JUNE, 1915

BY

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F. HOMES DUDDEN, D.D.

VICAR OF ST. JOHN'S, NOTTING HILL; EXAMINING CHAPLAIN TO THE
BISHOP OF LONDON; FORMERLY FELLOW OF LINCOLN
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“When earth breaks up and heaven expands,
How will the change strike me and you,
In the house not made with hands?”

615829

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I

THE ARGUMENT FOR THE FUTURE LIFE

Job xiv. 14. If a man die, shall he live again ?

In the dreadful time that we are passing through the thoughts of many of us are turning naturally and inevitably to the great and solemn problems of the Future Life. The appalling and horrible slaughter that is being occasioned by the war, the untimely cutting-off of hundreds of thousands of young lives, the loss of some whom we ourselves perhaps have intimately known and dearly loved—all this has brought very near to us the grim fact of death, and has set us meditating with deep and even passionate interest on the problems of the Hereafter. And for this reason I have determined to-day and on the next three Sundays to address you on this topic. You will not, of course, expect, in a short series of four sermons, anything approaching a full or detailed treatment of a theme so vast and complicated. The most that I can attempt is simply to lay before you a few thoughts concerning the possibility and the probable conditions of the future life—a few reasons and considerations, which appeal strongly to me personally,

and which, according to my judgment, have most cogency and value.

Now the question which I invite you to investigate this morning is the fundamental question—Is there a future life at all? Is there anything awaiting us on the other side of the grave? Does death just make an end of us, or does it really introduce us into another state of being? *If a man die, shall he live again?* And you will observe that I am not touching now on the possible nature or character or conditions of a future life: I am dealing simply and solely with the naked possibility of there being a future life. Shall we, when this earthly life is done and over, still continue to exist? Is there another life in store for us? *If a man die, shall he*—no matter where, no matter how, no matter under what circumstances—but shall he really *live again?*

Let us begin by clearing the ground. Let it be stated emphatically once and for all that, however precarious and inconclusive may be the argument for a future life, still no one has ever been able to prove that there is *not* a future life. Unless it can be shown, beyond possibility of contradiction, that man's spirit or mind or soul is identified with his bodily organism; that it belongs to the body, is related to the body as effect to cause, is produced by the body as music, for example, is produced by a musical instrument; and that it cannot exist independently of the body—unless