

The State of The Dead

1. How does the Bible characterize death?

1 Corinthians 15:26

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

2. According to the Bible, what is death?

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

3. What is the “spirit” that returns to God at death?

Job 27:3

All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;

4. Death is the opposite of life. How was man created?

Genesis 2:7

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The most common Hebrew word for “spirit” is *ruwach*, meaning both wind and breath. In other words, the movement of air. The Hebrew word for “a living being” is *nephesh*, which means soul; a breathing creature, a living being.

Dust (body) + Spirit (breath of God) = Soul (a living creature)

NOTE: At Creation, two things combine to make a soul; body and breath (dust and spirit). Until these two things combine, a soul does not exist. At death, these two components separate. The body returns to dust, and the breath returns to God. The Bible says that we do not have souls, *we are souls*.

5. Does the spirit, or breath, that goes back to God at death have any consciousness at all?

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10

For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any

thing that is done under the sun...Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Psalm 115:17

The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.

NOTE: King David lived 1,000 years before Jesus and the apostles. The Bible makes it clear that David was a man after God’s own heart and will be saved.

6. What did the apostle Peter say about David’s death?

Acts 2:29, 34

Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre (tomb) is with us unto this day... For David is not ascended into the heavens.

7. Keeping in mind that David had not yet ascended to heaven 1,000 years after his death, how did Jesus describe what it is like to be dead?

John 11:11-14

These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

8. Jesus described death as a sleep. With this in mind, when did David expect to see God?

Psalm 17:15

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

NOTE: David knew that death was an unconscious sleep. He knew that he would see the face of God only after he is awakened out of the sleep of death.

9. How did Job describe the grave? Is it consistent with the concept of sleeping?

Job 17:13

If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.

Job 21:32

Yet shall he be brought to the grave, And shall remain in the tomb.

10. When does the Bible say the saved will be awakened from the sleep of death?**John 5:28**

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

So many Christians believe that they have immortal souls. But the term "immortal soul" appears nowhere in the Bible.

11. Who does the Bible say is the only One who has immortality?**1 Timothy 6:15, 16**

...the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Ezekiel 18:4

The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Job 4:17

Shall mortal man be more just than God?

Many Christians mistakenly think that the dead go immediately to heaven when they die.

12. When did Jesus say the sleeping dead will rise?**John 6:39**

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

John 6:40

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:44

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

NOTE: All the saved will go home to heaven together at the second coming of Jesus.

13. What about the thief on the cross?**Luke 23:43**

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today (Friday) shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Did Jesus promise the thief on the cross immediate access to heaven when He said this? Did Jesus Himself go to heaven on that Friday?

John 20:17

(On Sunday) Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father.

Jesus could not have gone to paradise on Friday if He hadn't yet ascended to the Father by resurrection Sunday! The apparent problem vanishes when you consider that the original Greek manuscripts had no punctuation. The commas and periods were introduced into the text of Scripture by translators, who inserted them where they thought they should be. And a single comma can change the meaning of an entire sentence! The Lord's statement should read: "Verily I say unto thee today, Thou shalt be with me in paradise."

14. What are people seeing when they claim to have an encounter with the dead?**1 Kings 22:22**

And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.

Revelation 16:14

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles.

15. Why does Satan want us to believe that the spirits of the dead are really alive?

Matthew 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

16. What does God say about psychics and mediums?

Leviticus 19:31 (NIV)

Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 20:27

A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death.

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Revelation 21:8

...sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.