

A Bible Prophecy Series

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The Greatest Story Never Told: What happens when we die? Lesson #10

Introduction:

What Happens at Death? What happens to a person when they die? Where do they go? Does a person go to heaven, hell, purgatory, or are they reincarnated into some other life form either higher or lower? Or do they go anywhere? Is there consciousness after death? Can we communicate with the dead? Is There Life After Death? Today we will take time to answer all of these questions. Notice there is one thing all the people in the Bible that have been resurrected never talk about.

1. **Who has the keys of death?** – Rev. 1:18
Jesus has the keys of death and was dead and now lives. We must take His word on this topic.
2. **How was man created?** – Genesis 2:7
The dust + breath = a living soul. Another word for breath is spirit and these words are used interchangeably in the Bible.
3. **What is in Job?** - Job 27:3, 33:4
Job uses Hebrew poetic structure called parallelism. He says something in one sentence and then repeats it. Here breath and spirit are used interchangeably. The word for spirit means wind. This is not the Holy Spirit, this is the life energizing force, the thing that keeps us breathing and our hearts beating.
*When the elements of the earth are combined with the energizing force called the spirit or breath. Man **becomes** a living soul he is not given one.*
4. **What happens at death?** - Ecclesiastes 12:7, Psalm 104:29, 30
The exact opposite of creation happens at death. The dust returns to the earth and the spirit/breath returns to God.
LIVING SOUL (MINUS) BREATH = DEATH
What happens to the living soul that resulted from joining the breath and the dust? – The body is like a light bulb. When electricity is given to it you get light. Where does the light go when you turn off the switch? Did it go to heaven, hell, or purgatory? No, it simply ceased to exist. This is what happens to a person, he ceases to exist just like the light. The Bible describes this ceaseless state as a peaceful sleep.
5. **How does the Bible refer to death?**
-Acts 7:59, 60 – Luke (author of Acts) refers to death as a sleep.

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- John 11:11-14 – Jesus equated death with sleep
6. **What is this sleep like?** – Psalm 146:4, Eccl. 9:10
There is no knowledge or activity in death. Death is a peaceful sleep. In fact in death we won't even praise the Lord (Ps 115:17).
 7. **But don't we go straight to Heaven or Hell when we die?** – Acts. 2:29, 34
The Bible is very clear that David will be in Heaven but he is not yet there. The Bible teaches that in death we sleep until the resurrection then we will go either to Heaven or Hell.
 4. **What did Job say about death?** – Job 14:10-15
“Man dies...he gives up the ghost (breath) and where is he?” “Man lieth down...they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep...If a man die, shall he live again? All the days...will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer Thee.”
 5. **What about the resurrection?** - 1 Cor. 15:51-54, Job 21:30-32
First of all, if we went straight to Heaven or Hell at death, what would be the point of the resurrection? The Bible tells us that we are reserved (in the tomb) until the resurrection.
 6. **What was Satan's first lie?** – Genesis 3:4
“You shall not surely die.” Unfortunately many misguided Christians have been perpetuating this lie. The belief that one dies and goes straight to Heaven or Hell is not found in the Bible. History reveals that ancient pagan religions began teaching that people have immortal souls that never really die. The Egyptians, Persians, and Greeks taught this. When the Christians church fell away from the truth in the early centuries this erroneous view of death came into the church.
 7. **What happens to the soul that sins?** – Ezekiel 18:4
It dies. Of the 858 times the word souls is used, never is it linked with immortal.
 8. **Why would Satan perpetuate this lie?** – 2 Cor. 11:13
He personates dead people. Devils can look, sound, and act just like our dead loved ones. They can tell us things that only we and the deceased would know.
 9. **Does the Bible predict this deception?** - Matthew 24:24, Revelation 16:14
Yes, the number of adults who say they have been in touch with the dead rose from 27% in 1979 to 42% in 1989. Close to 20 million Americans now report mystical experiences. Satan is preparing people for his last great deceptions.
 10. **How do you explain those who have seen dead relatives in a dream?**
Two possibilities are – A. God may be comforting a grieving person who has lost a loved one by showing them that their loved

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one's eternal destiny is safe. Just because we see this person in Heaven doesn't mean they are there at the moment. The Bible says they are asleep. But God can comfort us with this assurance.

God often gave dreams to show people things that hadn't actually happened yet. John the Revelator saw in heaven those martyred by the papacy during the middle ages (Rev. 7:13,14). We know these people weren't actually in Heaven because the dead sleep and these martyrs had not even lived or died yet when John saw them in vision.

B. The devil may personate the deceased to deceive us. The way we can tell is if the dead loved one returns repeatedly and if they say things that contradict the Bible. We should always be very suspicious of anything that proposes the dead are not really dead.

11. What about near death experiences (Those who have had life after death experiences and have been brought back to life to tell about it?)

1 – The devil can give this person this illusion so he can use it to deceive. 2 – People who have had these experiences often are in the hospital and are under the influence of mind altering drugs. 3 – When a person's heart stops beating, there is still residual oxygen in the brain. Consequently for a period of time people can hear and sense things happening even though technically they are dead. Since the brain is being slowly starved of oxygen the person experiences hallucinations mingled with the reality of their surroundings. Hence they have the feeling of floating out of their bodies.

12. What about the thief on the cross, didn't Jesus said he would go to Heaven that day?

Luke 23:42, 43 "You will be with me in paradise". Rev. 2:7, 22:1,2 says paradise is Heaven. Some teach paradise is a stopping off point before Heaven. Paradise is Heaven but Jesus did not go there that day. Three days after His death, Jesus still had not been in paradise (John 20:18). The problem is punctuation. The comma is in the wrong place, punctuation was added hundreds of years after this text was written. Jesus was telling the thief "Verily I say unto thee today, you will be with me in paradise."