

UNLOCKING PROPHECY #10

The Mystery of Death

What Are We Made Of?

- † 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.”*
- † Dust + Spirit (breath) = A living soul.
- † Elements of Earth + Breath = A living being. A “living soul” means a “living person.” The Bible does not teach God placed an immortal soul in Adam at creation as if it were a separate entity we possess.
- † I don’t have a soul. I am a soul, a living creature, a person, and so are you.
- † Death is creation in reverse. What happens when a person dies? Ecclesiastes 12:7, *“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”*
- † The Old Testament Hebrew word for “spirit” is “ruach” which means “breath.” So spirit and breath are the same thing; not spirit and soul. The spirit and soul are different. A lot of people get confused about this. Does the Bible say the ‘soul’ goes back to God? No. But some people think the spirit and the soul are the same thing. That’s not so—the Bible does not teach that.

Breath & Spirit

- † Notice how the Bible teaches that the breath and spirit are the same thing. Job 27:3, *“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils.”* The spirit of God is in my nostrils. In other words the power that God gives me to live. James 2:26, *“... the body without the spirit [or breath] is dead. . .”*
- † Psalms 146:4, *“His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish.”*

How Much Do the Dead Know?

- † Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, *“For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing . . . Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished.”*
- † Psalm 115:17, *“The dead do not praise the LORD, nor any who go down into silence.”*
- † Job 14:21, *“If his sons are honored, he does not know it; if they are brought low, he does not see it.”*

Do We Have an Immortal Soul?

- † Ezekiel 18:4, *“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.”* Can the soul die according to the Bible? Yes.
- † There is another name for “soul” in the Bible that surprises some people. And that is “person” or “life”.
- † There is NO such thing in the Bible as an “immortal soul.”
- † Only God is immortal. 1 Timothy 1:17, *“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”*
- † 1 Timothy 6:15, 16, *“... He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light . . .”*
- † So where did the idea of an immortal soul come from if it didn’t come from the Bible?
 - Babylon, in the Old Testament, was the center of false teachings about death. It was the concept of the Babylonians that an immortal soul left the body at death and lived on. Therefore the Babylonians established a system of gods and goddesses, worshipping the spirits of those who supposedly lived on. Pagan Greek philosophy also taught the immortality of the soul.
- † Justin Martyr, one of the early church fathers, said in the Ante Nicene Creed, Vol. 1, p.239—*“If you have fallen in with some who are called Christians, but who do not admit this [truth of the resurrection], and venture to blaspheme the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; who say there is no resurrection of the dead, and that their souls when they die, are taken to heaven; do not imagine that they are Christians.”*
- † The early church clearly identified the doctrine of the soul's natural immortality as coming directly from Satan.

What Really Happens When We Die?

- † John 11:11-14, “These things He said, and after that He said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.’ Then His disciples said, ‘Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.’ However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead.’”
- † Listen to what Jesus said to Martha—John 11:23, “*Your brother will rise again.*” Now, notice the words very carefully. Jesus didn’t say to Martha, “Martha good news, praise God, Martha don’t cry because Lazarus’ soul is up in Heaven.”
- † What did Martha believe about death? John 11:24, 25, “*Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’*”
- † Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:44). The resurrection of Lazarus is the proof that Jesus will raise our believing loved ones, too.

The Thief on the Cross

- † Luke 23:43, “And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”
- † Did Jesus go to paradise that day? No. Jesus said to Mary on Sunday morning after His resurrection, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God’” (John 20:17).
- † If we believe Jesus met the thief in heaven on Friday, it contradicts the entire Bible teaching on death.
- † The placement of a comma can make a world of difference. We must remember that the punctuation found in the Bible is not inspired. In fact, the original Greek New Testament had no punctuation at all! Punctuation was not added until about AD 1400 or so, that’s 1400 years after Christ. The punctuation certainly was not inspired.
- † The entire meaning changes if you put the comma AFTER the word today like this: “*And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise.’*”

The Devil Keeps Repeating the Same Lie

- † God said the first humans would die if they ate from the forbidden tree (Genesis 2:16, 17).
- † The devil, through the serpent, told Eve that she would not die (Genesis 3:4). Part of the devil’s very first deception included a lie about death—he told Eve she would not die!
- † And he’s been telling that same lie to humanity ever since. And with the resurgence of spiritualism in these last days—he’s deceiving millions (even billions) today.

The Resurrection of the Righteous at the Second Coming of Jesus

- † Revelation 20:6, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”
- † 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will 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 has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”
- † 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”
- † Revelation 1:18, “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

Additional Bible Texts: Romans 2:6-7; 6:23; Isaiah 8:20, 2 Cor 11:14-15, Psalm 13:3, 2 Kings 2:11; Jude 1:9; Luke 9:30;