

“... for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.”



Revelation 18:23

The question of death, and what happens when one dies, are questions that have intrigued mankind since the very dawn of time. Even today, with significant advances in technology, medicine, and science, the question of the mystery of death remains entirely unanswered. Truth be told, science is ill equipped to deal adequately with the issue of death. Death is more than the ceasing of physiological functions and activities. It has mental, emotional, and certainly spiritual ramifications both for the dying and for those who remain. The Bible, the Holy Scriptures, contains the keys that unlock this mystery. Answers to questions about death are found in the Bible. The Bible alone can illumine the dark door of death.

1. Did Saul actually see Samuel the prophet? If not, what did he see?

2. All spiritualism, both ancient and modern, can be rooted in two essential, foundational tenets. List them.

1) _____

2) _____

3. The first lie recorded in the Bible was told by the father of lies himself, satan. In Genesis 3:4 what words does Satan whisper to Eve?

God had said, "In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Genesis 2:17. Who told the truth? God, of course! Yet today there are many who would rather believe the devil's enticing lie than the plain teaching of the Word of God.

4. According to Genesis 2:7, God formed man of two elements. What were they?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

5. After these two elements converged, then what?

"Man became a _____"
 Notice that it says he "became," not that he "had" or "was given" a _____.

This is utterly essential. Like a light bulb, which needs both the physical housing and the electricity to create light, man is the coalescing of the physical body and the breath of God.

Creation of Mankind

Body + Breath = Living Soul

Dust (elements of the earth) + Breath of God = A Soul

This is simple mathematics — 1+1= 2

6. Notice carefully, death is simply creation in _____. The body minus the breath of God results in death. Like a box that is constructed of nails and boards, when the nails are removed the box simply ceases to exist. It does not go to "box heaven!"

7. What is the spirit that returns to God upon death?

Many Christians believe that "the Spirit" that returns to God is some kind of conscious entity. Nowhere does the Bible teach this. The "Spirit" is simply the "breath" of God, as both the OT and NT translations of this word make clear.

8. What do the following texts have to say about death?

1) Psalm 115:17 _____

2) Psalm 6:5 _____

3) Job 7:10 _____

4) Isaiah 38:13 _____

5) Psalm 146:4 _____

9. The above texts all speak of death as the end of conscious _____.

10. What happens at death? Ecclesiastes 12:7

11. How does David refer to death in Psalm 13:3?

12. How does Paul refer to death in 1 Corinthians 15:51?

13. How does the Bible refer to death in 17 books and more than 60 times?

The story of the raising of Lazarus, found in John 11, is one of the clearest stories in the Bible concerning death.

Note first of all that Jesus Himself refers to death as a “sleep.” The disciples did not understand Jesus’ reference, so He then told them “plainly, Lazarus is dead,” in John 11:11-14. When Jesus later encounters Martha, Lazarus’ sister, notice carefully what she says about her brother’s resurrection. She says it will occur “at the last day,” v. 24. We might legitimately ask the question: What did Martha believe about death? The answer is simple: She believed that death was a temporary state of unconsciousness that would be ended by the “resurrection at the last day.”

This is exactly what the Scriptures teach.

14. There are multiple resurrections throughout the Bible. What did those that came back to life have to say about their experience?

15. According to Ecclesiastes 9:5, what do the dead know?

16. How do we know the thief on the cross did not go straight to heaven on Good Friday (Luke 23:42,43)?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

17. What did Paul mean when he tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:6 " ... knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord"?

In this passage, Paul is comparing his earthly perishable body with his eternal glorious body. How many of you tonight would rather be in heaven with Jesus and have a new body. This is what Paul is talking about. Notice that in 2 Corinthians 5:6, Paul never tells us when we will receive our reward.

18. According to 2 Timothy 4:6-8, when does Paul inform the believers that they will receive eternal life?

19. Doesn't the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 teach an eternal hell of torment? If not, what is the point of the story?

God has a solution to the problem of death, and that solution is the Second Coming of Jesus and the great resurrection. Are you thankful for the Bible, which tells us the truth on this sensitive subject of death?
