



The State of the Dead

Welcome to our Bible Study on the State of the Dead.



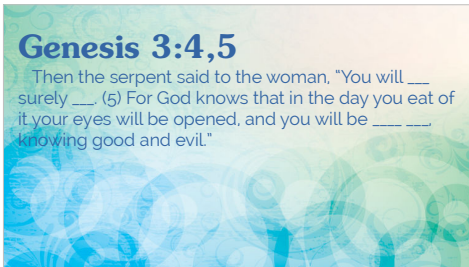
The deceptions about the state of the dead go clear back to the Garden of Eden. Satan, an outcast of heaven, plotted to ruin Adam and Eve and get them to join him in his rebellion against God and His law. Everything in creation is designed to work in harmony with the law of God, the divine government. God gave Adam and Eve the ability to understand His love and the justice of His laws. Obedience to them would ensure their happiness.



Next verse: Genesis 3:4,5

Adam and Eve were given a simple test to see if they would love and obey God. They had been warned about Satan, but at the tree of knowledge of good and evil, disguised as a serpent, he tempted Eve. His goal was to get her to eat fruit from the one tree God had forbidden.

What did he say to her?



Genesis 3:4,5

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will ___ surely ___. (5) For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be ___ ___ knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:4,5

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will **not** surely **die**. (5) For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be **like God**, knowing good and evil."



Adam and Eve yielded to temptation. They believed the words of the serpent — that God did not mean what He said. They distrusted His love and wisdom, and thought He was restricting their freedom. By breaking His law, Satan told them, they would reach a higher level of life: equality with God.

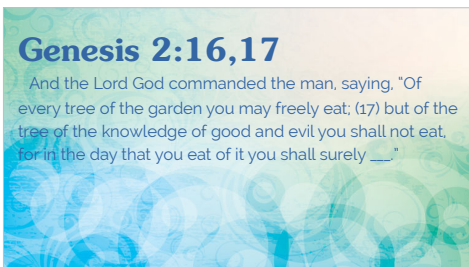
Did good result from their disobedience?



Next verse: Genesis 2:16,17

God hadn't planned for Adam and Eve to know anything about evil. He had withheld that knowledge for their good. He had made them rulers of the earth, but now they, along with all nature, were in rebellion against divine law. Because of disobedience, they were now subject to death.

What had God said would happen if they ate the forbidden fruit?



Genesis 2:16,17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; (17) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely ___."

Genesis 2:16,17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; (17) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely **die**."

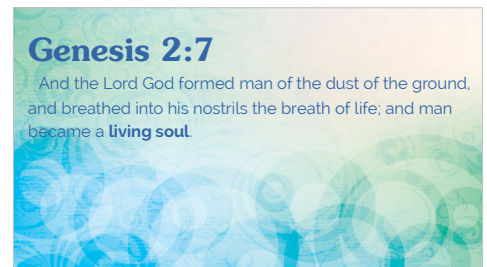


Next verse: Genesis 2:7

Satan had lied to Adam and Eve. Death, not life, resulted from sin. God had said "You [will] return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." This could not be more plain. Death meant the utter extinction of their life. They would return to the GROUND.

"The wages of sin is death".** In order to understand what death is, let's look at how God created man in the first place.

*Genesis 3:19; ** Romans 6:23



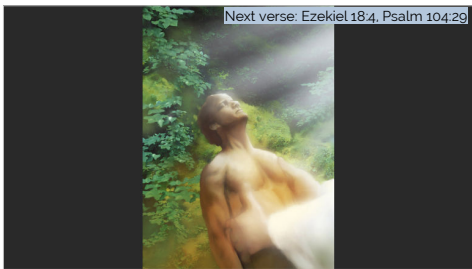
Genesis 2:7

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**.

Genesis 2:7 KJV

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**.

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Next verse: Ezekiel 18:4, Psalm 104:29

The Bible says God made Adam of the dust of the earth. Then He breathed into him the breath of life, and Adam became a living soul, or being. Notice that it does not say that God **gave** him a soul, but that he **became** a soul. A soul, or living being, exists only when body and breath come together to make a living person. Nowhere does the Bible say that souls exist apart from the body.

Can souls die?

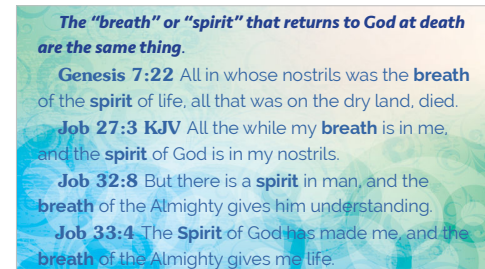
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Ezekiel 18:4
...the soul who sins shall **die**.

Psalm 104:20
You take away their **breath**, they **die** and return to their **dust**.

The State of the Dead 12



The "breath" or "spirit" that returns to God at death are the same thing.

"All in whose nostrils was the **breath** of the **spirit** of life, all that was on the dry land, died." Genesis 7:22

"All the while my **breath** is in me, and the **spirit** of God is in my nostrils;" Job 27:3 KJV

"But there is a **spirit** in man, and the **breath** of the Almighty gives him understanding." Job 32:8

"The **Spirit** of God has made me, and the **breath** of the Almighty gives me life." Job 33:4

The State of the Dead 13



A person is a living soul, made up of the **dust of the ground + the breath of life**. When the breath leaves the body, it returns to dust, and the state of that man is exactly what it was before the breath joined the body. Think of a box that is made of boards which are fastened together with nails.

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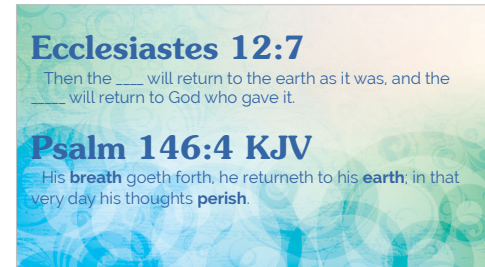
Next verse: Ecclesiastes 12:7, Psalm 146:4 KJV

If you remove the nails, the box no longer exists. When the **breath** (which is the **spirit**, or **life force**) leaves the body, the person, or soul, ceases to exist. He is **dead**.

It is the **breath** (the spirit, or life force) **NOT THE SOUL** which returns to God at death. At that point, the soul **dies**, and no longer exists, on earth, in heaven, hell, or anywhere else.

How does the Bible describe this process?

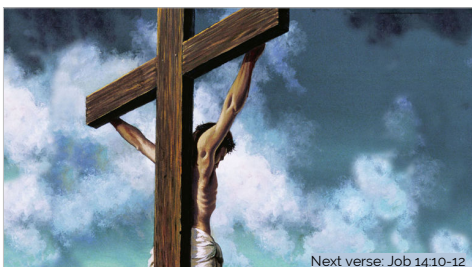
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Ecclesiastes 12:7
Then the **dust** will return to the earth as it was, and the **spirit** will return to God who gave it.

Psalm 146:4 KJV
His **breath** goeth forth, he returneth to his **earth**; in that very day his thoughts **perish**.

The State of the Dead 16



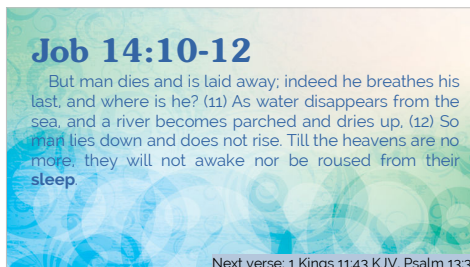
Next verse: Job 14:10-12

When Jesus died, He said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit". After His resurrection, He said to Mary, "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.'" * This shows that although Jesus' breath (spirit) returned to God at His death, He did not see His Father until after His resurrection.

How does the Bible describe death?

*John 20:17

The State of the Dead 17



Next verse: 1 Kings 11:43 KJV, Psalm 13:3

Job 14:10-12
But man dies and is laid away; indeed he breathes his last, and where is he? (11) As water disappears from the sea, and a river becomes parched and dries up, (12) So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their **sleep**.

The State of the Dead 18



1 Kings 11:43 KJV And Solomon **slept** with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father:

Psalm 13:3 Consider and hear me, O Lord my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I **sleep** the **sleep** of death;



Next verse: Ecclesiastes 9:5,6; Job 14:21

When Jairus' daughter died, Jesus said, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."** He raised her back to life.

When Lazarus died, Jesus said to His disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." They misunderstood Him, so "...Jesus said to them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead'"** Jesus raised him back to life. Lazarus had been dead four days. Neither he nor Jairus' daughter had anything to say concerning their experience in death. Sleep is a good illustration of death. When we are asleep, we aren't aware of what is going on around us.

Can the dead see us or know what we are doing?

*Mark 5:39; **John 11:11,14

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6

For the living know that they will die; but the dead know _____ and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now _____; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun.

Job 14:21

His sons come to honor, and he does _____ know it; They are brought low, and he does _____ perceive it.

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6

For the living know that they will die; but the dead know **nothing**, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now **perished**; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun.

Job 14:21

His sons come to honor, and he does **not** know it; They are brought low, and he does **not** perceive it.



Next verse: Psalm 115:17; Psalm 146:4

The dead are asleep. Like Lazarus, who spent four days in the grave, they have no awareness of what is happening around them.

Some people think they are in heaven praising the Lord. What does the Bible say about this?

Psalm 115:17

The dead do _____ praise the Lord, nor any who go down into _____.

Psalm 146:4

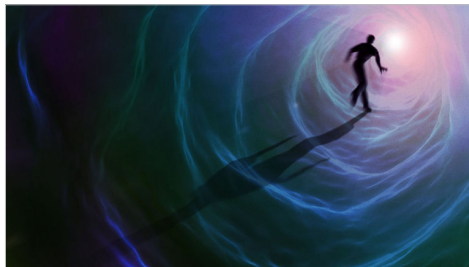
His spirit departs, he returns to his _____; in that very day his plans _____.

Psalm 115:17

The dead do **not** praise the Lord, nor any who go down into **silence**.

Psalm 146:4

His spirit departs, he returns to his **earth**; in that very day his plans **perish**.



Some people wonder about near-death experiences. Our understanding must be based on the Word of God, rather than on an interpretation of someone's near-death experience. Research has shown that what people claim to have experienced is largely affected by their existing belief system. For example, Christians may say they saw God, while others may claim to have seen Buddha or a heathen deity. This does not line up with the Word of God, which tells us Jesus alone is the way to heaven. Near-death experiences are often impacted by one's mind not having the proper amount of oxygen. The Bible states that when you die, you are dead and do not know anything.



To those who have lost loved ones to death, the Bible has a message of comfort. Our hope is in Jesus!



He sees our tears and knows our grief. We can look forward to a day when death and pain will be banished forever. We will see our loved ones again.



Next verse: Daniel 12:2; John 5:28,29

The glorious resurrection of Christ is an assurance to us that He will also raise the dead in the last day. He knows all those who are asleep in their graves.

What will happen to the dead when Jesus returns?

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who _____ in the dust of the earth shall _____, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

John 5:28,29

...the hour is coming in which all who are in the _____ will hear His voice (29) and come forth—those who have done good, to the _____ of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who **sleep** in the dust of the earth shall **awake**, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

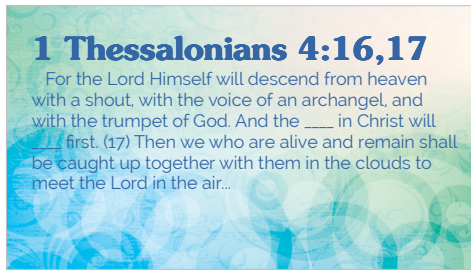
John 5:28,29

...the hour is coming in which all who are in the **graves** will hear His voice (29) and come forth—those who have done good, to the **resurrection** of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.



While the earth is reeling, thunder roaring, and lightning flashing, He calls His sleeping saints, "Awake, awake, you who sleep in the dust, and arise!" Then the earth will give up its dead. Throughout the whole earth they will come back to life.

When does this happen?

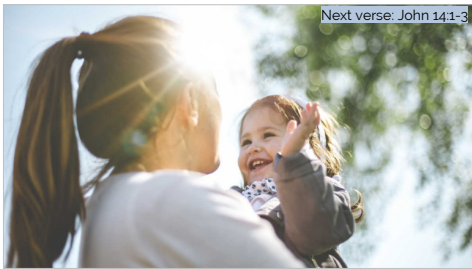


1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

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. (17) 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.



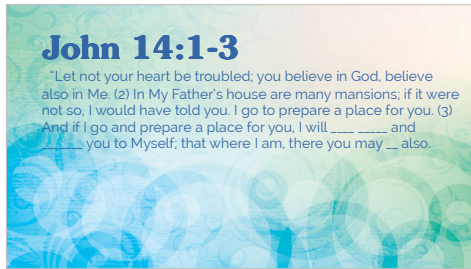
This glorious event takes place when Jesus returns! Those that are in the graves will hear His voice and come out.



We will see our loved ones again. Those that sleep in Jesus will be raised to immortal life. Children that have died are brought by angels back to their mother's arms. Friends separated by death are reunited forever. All are "caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*

What assurance did Jesus give us that this is true?

*1 Thessalonians 4:17



John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. (2) In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will **come again** and **receive** you to Myself; that where I am, there you may **be** also."



Jesus will keep His promise. He is coming back to **receive us to Himself**. If we were already with Him, this would not be necessary.

Some will be alive when Jesus comes. Like Elijah, they will be taken to heaven without seeing death.

How was Elijah translated?



2 Kings 2:11,12

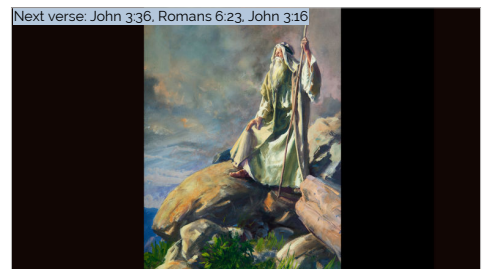
Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went **up** by a whirlwind into **heaven**. (12) And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more.



Elijah did not die. God took him to heaven. He is an illustration of how the saints who are alive when Jesus comes back will be changed — "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet".* They will be given immortality and translated to heaven without seeing death.

Who represented those who will be raised to life when Jesus comes?

*1 Corinthians 15:51



Moses died and was buried at the top of Mount Nebo. Satan claimed that the words of God, "dust you are, and to dust you shall return" gave him possession of all who had died. But Christ broke the power of death. Moses was a sinner like we are, but in the name of our Redeemer, he received a title to eternal life. Satan's claims were defeated, the body of Moses was resurrected,** and Jesus demonstrated that the dead will live again.

Why is it important that we understand the truth about death?

*Genesis 3:19; **Jude 9

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has _____; and he who does not believe the Son shall _____ see _____, but the wrath of God abides on him.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is _____, but the gift of God is _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not _____ but have _____.

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has **everlasting life**; and he who does not believe the Son shall **not see life**, but the wrath of God abides on him."

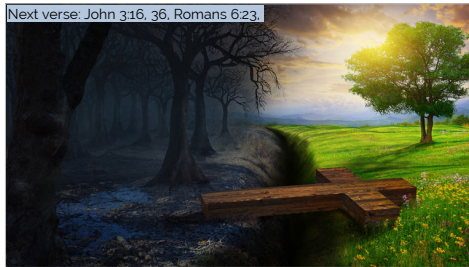
Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is **death**, but the gift of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not **perish** but have **everlasting life**.

Next verse: John 3:16, 36, Romans 6:23.



We have only **two** choices: **eternal, everlasting life, OR death.**

Eternal life for the **sinner** is not a Biblical teaching. The only one who ever promised Adam life in disobedience was Satan.

Next verse: 1 Timothy 1:17, 6:15



From the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he preached the first sermon ever given on the immortality of the soul. His words, "*You shall not surely die*", have been accepted and echoed by most of the world just as they were believed by Eve. The divine sentence, "*The soul who sins shall die*"* is made to mean, "the soul who sins shall not die, but live eternally."

Are we immortal?

*Ezekiel 18:20

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, _____, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:15

Who _____ hath _____, 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.

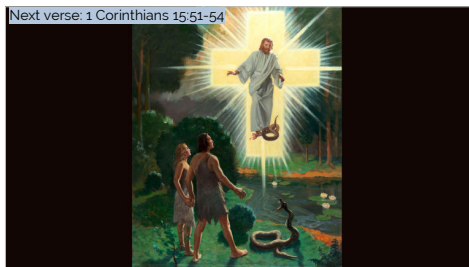
1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, **immortal**, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:16

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 honor and power everlasting. Amen.

Next verse: 1 Corinthians 15:51-54



These verses make it clear that God alone is immortal. We are *mortal*, subject to death. As Job said, "*Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?*"*

But though "*death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*", Christ "*brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*"*. **When do we receive immortality?**

*Job 4:17, **Romans 5:12, 2 Timothy 1:10

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, _____ the _____ trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this _____ must put on _____. (54) 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 Corinthians 15:51-54

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— (52) 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. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this **mortal** must put on **immortality**. (54) 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."

Next verse: Romans 2:7



Immortality is a gift given to the saints at the resurrection, when Jesus comes back. No one possesses it now.

Who is it given to?

Romans 2:7

eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing **good** seek for glory, honor, and _____;

Romans 2:7

eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing **good** seek for glory, honor, and **immortality**.

Next verse: Genesis 3:22-24



If we seek for it, it is not something we have now. The Bible clearly shows us that we are sinners, mortal, subject to death; and that only the saints receive immortality, when Christ comes back to earth.

God told Adam and Eve, "*In the day that you eat of it [the forbidden fruit] you shall surely die*"* — not live forever in hell. Satan's lie, "*You shall not surely die*"**, has led men to believe that sinners have natural immortality. **Why did Adam and Eve have to leave the Garden of Eden after they sinned?**

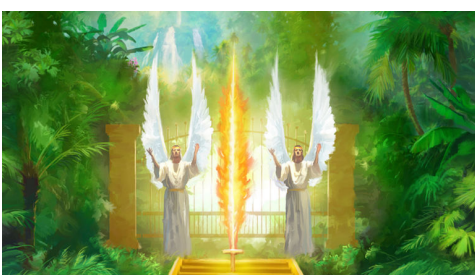
*Genesis 2:17. **Genesis 3:4

Genesis 3:22-24

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — (23) therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. (24) So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:22-24

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and **live forever**" — (23) therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. (24) So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the **tree of life**.



Adam and Eve were prohibited from eating of the Tree of Life after they sinned. God did not want to immortalize sinners. But "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world"* made a special effort to get people to believe that man is naturally immortal, and then he led them on to conclude that the sinner would live on in eternal misery! **How has this belief turned millions of people into skeptics and infidels?**

*Revelation 12:9



Next verse: Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9

Satan represents God as a revengeful tyrant who plunges all who do not please Him into hell. God is loving and merciful, but Satan paints Him out to be a monster of cruelty, like himself. He has made people believe that God loves to burn and torment the creatures He has made in the fires of an unceasing hell. Who would want to worship and serve such a god? This false doctrine, part of the wine of Babylon, has caused many people to fear, dread, and hate God. **Does God delight in the death of the wicked?**

Ezekiel 33:11

Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have _____ in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to _____.

Ezekiel 33:11

Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have **no pleasure** in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to **repentance**.



Next verse: Exodus 34:6,7; Psalm 145:20; Psalm 37:38

Many people who don't believe in hell are driven to the opposite belief, that God is too good to punish anyone. They think that sinners can disregard the requirements of God's law and that everyone will finally be saved. The Bible teaches that "the wages of sin is death". **How is this consistent with the character of God?**

*Romans 6:23

Exodus 34:6,7

The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, (7) keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the _____.

Psalm 145:20

The Lord preserves all who love Him, but all the _____ He will destroy.

Psalm 37:38

But the _____ shall be destroyed together; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.

Exodus 34:6,7

"...The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, (7) keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the **guilty**."

Psalm 145:20

The Lord preserves all who love Him, but all the **wicked** He will destroy.

Psalm 37:38

But the **transgressors** shall be destroyed together; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.



Next verse: Genesis 6:5

God will make an end of sin. In mercy to the world, He blotted out its inhabitants in Noah's time.

Why did He do this?

Genesis 6:5

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil _____.

Genesis 6:5

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil _____.



In mercy God destroyed the corrupt people of Sodom and Gomorrah. And in mercy to the universe, He will finally destroy those who persistently reject His grace. The destiny of the wicked is determined by their own choice. "The day which is coming shall burn them up," says the Lord of hosts... "for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet".* This is God's "strange work",** but He will create "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells".

If the dead are not in heaven or burning in hell right now, can we talk to them?

*Malachi 4:1,3; **Isaiah 28:21; ***2 Peter 3:13

Next verse: Deuteronomy 18:10-12



Another spin-off from Satan's lie, "You will not surely die"* , is that we can keep in touch, or communicate, with those who are dead. Many people, including presidents and leaders, try to get counsel from those who have died. **What does the Bible say about this practice?**

*Genesis 3:4

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices _____, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, (11) or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a _____ or one who calls up the ____ (12) For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord.

Next verse: Revelation 21:8

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices **witchcraft**, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, (11) or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a **spiritist**, or one who calls up the **dead**. (12) For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord...

Revelation 21:8

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, _____, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Revelation 21:8

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, **sorcerers**, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."



Next verse: Revelation 16:14 KJV

The practices of witches, sorcerers, psychics, and all who attempt to communicate with the dead are strictly forbidden by God. Modern spiritualism, ancient witchcraft, and idol worship are all based on the first lie of Satan in Eden: "You shall not surely die"* Paul described idol worshipers who "sacrifice to demons and not to God". ** They thought they were worshiping dead men, but they were really worshiping demons. Witches cannot communicate with the dead. **Who are they really in contact with?**

*Genesis 3:4; **1 Corinthians 10:20; **Psalm 106:37,38

Revelation 16:14 KJV

...they are the spirits of devils, working miracles...

Revelation 16:14 KJV

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Next verse: 1 Chron. 10:13,14 KJV

Saul, the king of Israel, had forsaken God. Now he was facing an important battle, and decided to consult a witch for counsel. Although most of the mediums had been destroyed, Saul's servants managed to find a sorcerer hidden in a cave. Disguised as a common man, Saul asked her to conduct a séance and bring up Samuel, a prophet of God who had died. An apparition appeared which, to Saul, looked like the prophet. He predicted utter defeat for Israel, and told Saul that he and his three sons would be killed in the upcoming battle the next day. After this discouraging news, the army had no will to fight. The battle was lost, and Saul and his sons were killed.

Who was Saul really communicating with?

1 Chronicles 10:13,14 KJV

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, **to enquire of it**; (14) and enquired not of the Lord.

1 Chronicles 10:13 KJV

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, **to enquire of it**; (14) and enquired not of the Lord...



Next verse: Isaiah 8:20

People who think they are communicating with someone they have known and loved are actually listening "to *deceiving spirits, and doctrines of demons*". * It is not difficult for Satan to impersonate anyone on the earth. He knows their life and history as well as anyone. The Bible says he can even "transform himself into an angel of light". ** In this way he can teach false doctrines that contradict the plain teachings of the Bible. The Bible says that he "deceives the whole world".*** **How can we know what is truth?**

*1 Timothy 4:1; **2 Corinthians 11:14; ***Revelation 12:9

Isaiah 8:20

And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? (20) To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to _____ it is because there is no light in them.

Isaiah 8:20

And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? (20) To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to **this word**, it is because there is no light in them.



Next verse: Matthew 4:4; James 4:7

The Bible gives us the truth on this subject.

Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils impersonating relatives or friends that they loved. They will assert the most dangerous heresies. These visitors will appeal to their sympathy and they will work miracles to support their deceptions. We must be prepared to resist them with the Bible truth that "*the dead know not anything*"* and that those who appear are the spirits of devils. Satan will deceive all who are not firmly grounded on the Word of God. Like Eve in the garden, we have a choice who to believe.

How can we defeat the devil?

*Ecclesiastes 9:5

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by _____ that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

James 4:7

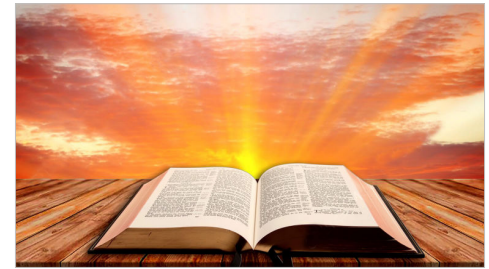
Therefore _____ to God. _____ the devil and he will flee from you.

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

James 4:7

Therefore **submit** to God. **Resist** the devil and he will flee from you.



God will have people that are faithful to Him, that are "*kept by the power of God, through faith*" in His word. They will cling to it though the whole world is swept into delusion. They will make it their rule of life. They will learn from it what is truth, and trust its words. It reveals the deceptions of Satan. It prepares us to stand through the trials of earth's last days.

Will you choose to trust and believe the Word of God?

*1 Peter 1:5