



Jesus said:
"I am the resurrection and the life"



Life's VITAL ANSWERS

Is There Life After Death?



Death is a cruel reaper, and most people have felt the sadness it brings. There are many differing ideas concerning the state of death, ranging from an immediate heaven or hell, to a total end, or reincarnation, or a spirit world, to a quiet sleep in the grave awaiting the resurrection. With so many conflicting thoughts, it is comforting to find a definite answer in the Word of God.

Genesis 2:7. . . . the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and _____

Before we can understand death, we need to know something of life, and how it began. Mankind consists of two main ingredients:

1. The dust of the ground.
2. The breath of life.

Adam had a brain, but it was not thinking. He had a heart, but it was not beating. He had muscles, but they were not moving – until God breathed the breath of life. And what was the result?

Dust of the Ground + Breath of Life = A Living Being, or Soul.

In the same way, a light globe + electric current = a light. Take away the current and the light is non-existent. Remove the breath of life, and there is no soul – just a dead body. The “soul” is not something separate from the body, rather a living person is a soul. At death, people cease to be living beings.

Genesis 2:16,17 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”



Adam & Eve were tempted to believe that they were immortal

This is the Bible’s first mention of death. Adam and Eve had known only a world of life, and must have

This is the day of victory. Death is conquered. We will live forevermore. It is like a child who has been tucked into bed and closes their eyes in sleep, not knowing another thing until they awake in the morning. There has been no sense of the passing of time while they have been sleeping. So, when we close our eyes in the sleep of death, it will seem but a moment when we hear the voice of Jesus calling us to life everlasting. Some may have been dead for thousands of years, but time is compacted into a moment.

Some are concerned for those who have died in some terrible way, and the body has been mangled or eaten by wild animals, or some other tragic thing has happened. There is no need to be concerned. God promises in 1 Corinthians 15 to give us a new incorruptible body. We will not possess the same atoms of flesh we now have. In the meantime, God preserves our individual personality and character, then just as He created Adam, so He will re-create us – perfect – to live forever.



The righteous who have died shall be raised from the dead to receive eternal life

When we think of it, God’s way is best. The dead are not aware of the problems and trials of those they have left behind. If they were able to observe their loved ones in need or grief, they could not enjoy heaven. Instead, their first sight upon awaking from the sleep of death is Jesus. The troubles of this earth are over, and they awake to eternal joy and happiness.

My friend, there are two resurrections, one for the saved, and one for the lost. One is a resurrection of glory, and the other one of shame. Which one do you plan to be in? Jesus is The Way – choose Him.

If you should die before Christ comes the second time, is it your desire to be in the resurrection of everlasting life? _____

“Lazarus is dead,

Here we find Jesus referring to the death of Lazarus as a sleep, and this is not uncommon, for there are over 50 references in the Bible that call death a sleep.

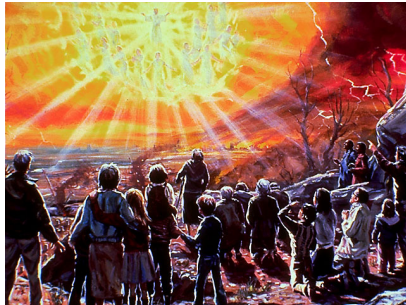
Psalm 13:3 Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;

This is but one of the references.

John 5:28,29 Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when _____—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

The sleep of death does not last forever; instead it will be broken by the voice of Jesus as He calls the dead to life on the day of resurrection. It can be clearly seen why the dead do not go to heaven or hell at death. If this were the case, there would be no need of the resurrection day to receive the rewards, for one would have them already.

1 Corinthians 15:19,20 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.



How can we be certain of the resurrection? Because Jesus was resurrected, we can have the absolute assurance that we too will be raised. Christ has already gained victory over death.

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and _____. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

looked upon death as a mystery, because they had never seen it. But here was God's warning if they disobeyed – death.

Genesis 3:3,4 . . . but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and _____' "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.



Here was the first lie – you shall not surely die. Eve had the choice of believing God or the serpent. God said death would come through disobedience, and the devil speaking through the serpent said there would be no death.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way _____, because all sinned.

Adam and Eve experienced death, but sinful tendencies were passed on to the whole human race, so that death became the lot of all people.

Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

The devil would have Adam and Eve believe they were immortal (not subject to death) but here it is clearly taught that our bodies are mortal (subject to death). Many today believe humankind is naturally immortal, even if they have been the worst of sinners, and that some part of us will never die. Millions have been deceived by the devil's assurance: "You will not surely die".

2 Timothy 1:10 . . . but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

For those who accept Christ as their Saviour, the "gift" of immortality

is given, but it is not naturally present.

1 Timothy 6:15,16 . . . which God will bring about in his own time— God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.



Only God is immortal. The teaching of the immortality of the soul has no Bible foundation.

Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; _____

If our body was broken down into its various minerals, it would be found that they are identical with the soil. When we die, our body turns to dust.

Ecclesiastes 12:7. . . and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

This text does not say that the spirit of “good” men returns to God – there is no distinction between good and bad. The logical question here is – “What is the spirit?” The Hebrew and Greek words for ‘soul’ and ‘spirit’ are used 1,700 times in the Bible. The word ‘Spirit’ is the Hebrew word (RUACH) that simply means ‘breath’. Sometimes it is translated ‘breath’, and sometimes ‘spirit’ – the words being used interchangeably.

Psalms 115:17 It is not the dead who praise the LORD, those who go down to silence;

The Bible never suggests that the “spirit” is a kind of second, living personality that can enjoy personal existence separated from the body. Rather, it teaches that we have no conscious awareness of anything after death. If the “spirit” that returned to God was something

capable of operating apart from the body, it would certainly praise God in His presence, but this text says the dead praise not the Lord. The simple explanation is that they cannot.

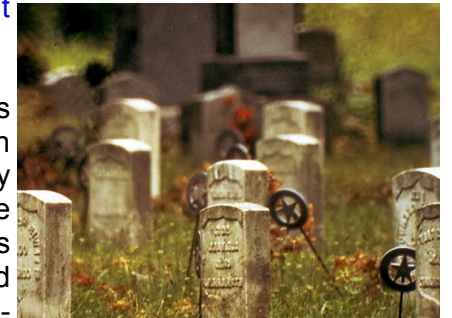
Ecclesiastes 9:5,6 For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun.

Here it is explained in a nutshell – the dead know nothing. Even their emotions, such as love and hate, cease to operate.

Psalms 146:4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

At death the body ceases to function. As a result a persons thoughts also cease.

Acts 2:29,34 Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. For _____, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand.”



God said David was a man after His own heart, yet even this great man did not go to heaven at death. Many hundreds of years after his death the Scripture records that his grave was still there, and he had not ascended to heaven. Death is not a continuation of life, as many suppose, but it is a waiting period until the call of the Life-giver is heard. There is no text in all the Bible which says we go to heaven or hell at death.

John 11:11-14 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “_____ but I am going there to wake him up.” His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly,