

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 10**Lesson 10: “What Do The Dead Know?”**

Funerals can be very confusing because there are different doctrines taught on what happens to a person when he or she dies. The reality is that many well respected and sincere people are not clear on the subject of death, Biblically. The state of the dead is one of the most misunderstood subjects in our world today. For many, death invokes fear, misery, mystery and hopelessness. For others, they believe their dead love ones are not really dead but are living immortal lives in another place. Some believe that a person becomes a “spirit” when he/she dies. But, what does the Bible say about death? Is it really important for you and me to clearly understand the subject of death? This subject of death must be understood clearly in order to resist the deceptive wonders of the devil. We are going directly to the Word of God and let it answer questions about death, such as: Are the dead really dead? Does a person go to heaven when he/she dies? What happens when a person dies? By the end of this study, you will have a clear Biblical understanding on the subject of death. This Bible study will also reveal how Satan is trying to confuse many on the subject of death so he can deceive many people on other things in these last days. If the subject of death is not studied carefully and prayerfully you can easily be misled. Let’s see what the Bible says about death.

1. In order to understand death we must understand how we were made and how life was given.

Read ALL the following Bible text: Genesis 2:7

Write Bible Answer:

The Bible reveals that after God formed the human body of the first man created, Adam, He “breathed” or physically blew into the nostrils of Adam’s **LIFELESS (no consciousness or awareness)** body the “breath of life”. God is the Source of all living things. God gave man His life-giving “breath”. This breath that sparked life into Adam thousands of years ago still continues from person to person today. The Biblical formula for our existence is body (made from dust) + breath (from God) = a living soul or life. In the original Hebrew of Genesis 2:7 a “soul” is a “breathing creature.” It is clear that a soul is a living person, consciously aware and breathing that was given to him by God. So if the body or breath is subtracted from the Biblical formula there is no soul or life. Imagine the light of a light bulb representing life, now if the electricity is cut off from the light bulb the light will cease to exist. The same is true with human life, when the breath is taken from the body, the living soul, ceases to exist. Let’s go deeper into our study to get a better Biblical understanding of this.

2. Does the Bible give us evidence that souls die?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Ezekiel 18:20; 1 Timothy 6:15, 16;

Write Bible Answer:

The Bible is clear that souls die. Remember that a soul is simply, according to the Bible, a living person with vitality and consciousness that is breathing with the breath that was given to Adam by God Himself. It is not a conscious invisible spirit that floats in space unable to die. ***First Timothy 6:15, 16*** says that only God is immortal, not subject to death. “Immortality” means “deathlessness” or “not subject to die.”

3. **What happens to a person when he or she dies? Does a person go straight to heaven or hell?**

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Ecclesiastes 12:7; Genesis 3:19; Psalm 146:4; James 2:26; Job 27:3; Job 7:9,10; Acts 2:29, 34; Isaiah 38:18, 19; Psalm 6:5

Write Bible Answer:

Ecclesiastes 12:7 makes it plain that when a person dies the body which was made up of the dust of the ground decomposes and returns to the dust of the ground and the spirit goes back to God. Before we move on we must understand what is meant by “spirit” in this text. Does it mean that a spirit is a bodiless person with a conscious existence that goes to heaven or hell? To clearly understand what “spirit” means in Ecclesiastes 12:7 we must go back to the Old Testament Hebrew meaning. The Hebrew word for spirit in Ecclesiastes 12:7 is “ruwach” which literally means, “breath”. In other words Ecclesiastes 12:7 reveals that when a person dies their body which is made from dust returns to the dust of the earth and that the **breath** goes back to God. There are many places in the Bible that the word “spirit” means “breath” or “to breathe”. There are a couple of examples in James 2:26 and Job 27:3. **James 2:26** says, “²⁶For as the body without the spirit is dead.” The Greek word for spirit in this text is “pneuma” [pnyoo’-mah] which also means “breath”. So the text literally reads, “For as the body without the breath is dead.” A person can not live without breathing, right? Job 27:3 says, “³All the while my breath *is* in me, and the spirit of God *is* in my nostrils.” If you have a margin in your Bible in Job 27:3 it gives the Hebrew meaning of “spirit” as “the breath which God gave him.”

Based on what we just read from the Bible, when a person dies the spirit that goes back to God as explained in Ecclesiastes 12:7 is simply the breath of life, and nothing more. The breath that is taken is given back to the one who gave it, God. Nowhere, did we find that the “spirit” is a conscious living bodiless person floating in heaven or hell. Peter himself reveals in Acts 2:29, 34 that the beloved king David is buried in his grave and is not in Heaven at this time singing with the angels.

4. **Is a person aware of anything after he or she dies and can he/she communicate with the living after death?**

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6; Psalm 115:17; Isaiah 38:18, 19; Job 7:9,10

Write Bible Answer:

The Bible is abundantly clear, that when a person dies he or she is not aware or conscious of anything. The dead are not living in another existence in heaven or hell. They are not enjoy the bliss of heaven or being tortured in the flames of hell. They are simply dead in there graves with no consciousness or awareness. They are not floating around as “ghosts” like some movies like to portray.

5. How does Jesus describe death in the New Testament?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: John 11:1 – 44; Luke 8:41,42,49 - 55

Write Bible Answer:

Jesus describes death as sleep, a state of unconsciousness. Contrary to popular opinion, the Bible clearly shows us that the dead can not communicate with the living and the living can not communicate with the dead. Nowhere did we read that when a person dies they go directly to heaven or hell. Matter of fact, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave in John 11:43, Jesus said, “come forth Lazarus”. He did not say, Lazarus come down from heaven. When Jesus rose up the little twelve year girl in Luke 8, it was clear that she was dead, but Jesus called it a sleep. In Luke 8:55, the “spirit” that was given back to her was simply her breath. In either case of Lazarus or the twelve year old girl, there is no mention that either one is in heaven. Even after each one was resurrected to life, there are no testimonies from either one about their heavenly experience. Neither one went directly to heaven after death. In ***John 20:17*** Jesus makes it clear that after His death on the cross that He did not automatically go directly to Heaven. Matter fact, when Jesus rose from the dead Jesus said to Mary when He saw her, “I am not yet ascended to my Father.”

We all know that death is a part of our present life. We see it around us everyday. But it is Biblically clear that when a person dies he or she does not have a conscious existence after death. They do not go directly to heaven or hell. That teaching is not Biblical. When a person dies they just simply know nothing like a person in a deep sleep without breath. When Stephen the martyr was stoned and killed ***Acts 7:60*** called his death a sleep.

6. What does Paul call death for those who die in Christ?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 Thessalonians 4:13 -18

Write Bible Answer:

7. Did Jesus go straight to heaven after His death on the cross?

Read ALL the following Bible text: John 20:17

Write Bible Answer:

8. Since we know that a person does not go straight to heaven after death, when will the righteous and faithful who die in Christ while on this earth go to heaven?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 Thessalonians 4:14 – 18; 1 Corinthians 15:51 - 55;

Write Bible Answer:

The Bible is clear, when a love one dies in Jesus he or she will be resurrected at the second coming of Jesus Christ. It also reveals that immortality [eternal life] is NOT given at our death, but at the second coming of Christ. So those who are faced with death or who are grieving the death of a love one should be comforted with words of Biblical truth that the righteous will live again at the return of Christ.

The Bible is abundantly clear on the subject of death. So, why is there so much confusion about death what happens to a person when he or she dies? As we already discovered in our study, the Bible does not teach the popular misconceptions that are taught in many of our churches and world today such as the following that people are immortal when he/she dies; that dead people go to directly to heaven or hell when they die; that the living can speak with the dead or the dead with the living; that people reincarnate and exist as something else when they die; or that people’s “spirits” or “souls” continue to live after death. These again are all lies, not Biblical as you saw from this study. Do you notice one prevailing theme that exists in all of these lies we just mentioned? You guess it, the “immortality” of the soul. Remember that “immortality” means “deathlessness” or “not subject to die.” All of these lies indicate that the dead do not ready die as described in Biblical teaching. Now the originator of all of these lies and deceptions comes from the author of lies and deception, Satan, the devil. ***John 8:44*** says that the Devil, “is a liar, and the father of it”

9. What was Satan’s first lie to Eve?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Genesis 2:16 - 17; Genesis 3:4

Write Bible Answer:

God said in ***Genesis 2:17*** that they would “surely die” if they disobey Him and eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God said it and means that when a person dies he/she cease to exist, they are dead. They are not immortal. They are surely dead. In ***Genesis 3:4*** Satan plainly lied. He told Eve that she would not surely die which is directly opposite to what God said, who is the Creator and all truth.

Satan is still using this same old lie today to deceive billions of people. He is still telling people that they will “not surely die.” Satan is inferring here that people will die but not “really” or “surely”. He is deceiving many in believing that a person acquires a higher state of existence after death – immortality and that they can still be contacted. This is not true. When a person dies they do not go on living some place else. That is Satan’s lie.

10. Why is it important for us to not to believe in these lies, especially in these last days?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Matthew 24:5,11,and 24; 2 Peter 3:17; 2 Peter 2:1 – 3; Revelation 18:1-4, 23; Revelation 16:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 11:13 - 15

Write Bible Answer:

In these last days as described in ***Revelation 18:23*** Satan and his demons will use sorcery, great signs and wonders to deceive billions of people. Satan and his angels will impersonate dead love ones, well respected leaders, and even apostles of Christ as described in ***Second Corinthians 11:13*** to deceive many in believing in other lies that will lead them to eternal death. In ***Second Corinthians 11:14*** Satan himself will transform himself into an angel of truth. If people believe in Satan's lies of immortality of the soul, or that the living can communicate after death they will be ***easily*** deceived in these last days. Beware! Do you know that Satan and his evil demons can impersonate dead loved ones even down to the details? So if a dead love one like a dead mother appears in someone's bedroom or some where else, it is not really his or her love one? It is Satan or an evil demon impersonating the dead. If this is happening to you or happens to you, tell God to have it to leave in name of Jesus. It will flee. We must remember that Satan wants all to be destroyed. ***First Peter 5:8*** reveals that we must be totally aware and we must be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

11. What does the Bible say about sorcery, witchcraft, wizards, necromancer?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Leviticus 19:31, Leviticus 20:6, 7, 27; Deuteronomy 18:10-14; Galatians 5:19 – 21

Write Bible Answer:

God is the light of His people...

12. Will God's faithful people be deceived by Satan's lies? The answer is simply NO. Why?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Acts 17:11; John 5:39; 2 Timothy 2:15; Isaiah 8:18 - 20

Write Bible Answer:

Those who are faithful to God and who sincerely study the Bible daily will not be deceived by Satan's wondrous miracles in the last days. They will use the Word of God to test all things including doctrine. If it is not in line with the Bible they will throw it out. They will not guess about truth, but they will know truth for themselves through diligent study of the Bible. My appeal to you is simple today; study the Word

of God daily. Do not take any belief or doctrine for granted. Get in the habit of saying, "what does the Bible say about that." Search diligently for truth. Sincerely pray to God for understanding and acceptance of Biblical truth. He will lead you to all truth, He promises.