



Death
&



Hell Fire

“What The Bible Reveals”

Lesson 6

Death & Hell Fire

KJV Bible Lesson Series: Lesson 6

Funerals can be very confusing because of the many beliefs taught in regard to the state of the person after death. To many people death is a mystery and when a loved one dies, fear and helplessness fills their heart. Others think that their loved ones are not really dead but are living as “spirits” in Heaven. What does the Bible teach about this? Are the dead really dead? Do they directly go to Heaven or Hell after death? Is there any hope of ever seeing them again? All this will be answered in this study.

In order to understand death you first must understand the creation of life. How is life given?

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.”

Write the Bible Answer:

After God formed Adam He physically blew into the nostrils of Adam’s lifeless (no consciousness or awareness) body the “breath of life”. God’s “breath of life” that sparked life into Adam about 6000 years ago still continues from person to person today. The Biblical formula for our life is body (made from dust) + breath (of God) = a living soul or life. In the original Hebrew of Genesis 2:7 a “soul” is a “breathing creature.” A soul is a living person with God’s “breath of life”. If the body or breath of God is subtracted 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 God’s breath is taken from the body, the living soul, ceases to exist.

Body + God’s Breath = Living Person / Body - God’s Breath = Dead Person

Does the Bible give us evidence that living souls can die?

Read Ezekiel 18:20.

Write the Bible Answer:

A soul is not a conscious invisible spirit that floats in space unable to die but a “living being (with life in the blood).” (See Brown Drivers Briggs Definition)

What happens to a person after death? Does a dead person go straight to heaven or hell?

Psalms 146:4 “His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”

Read also Ecclesiastes 12:7; Genesis 3:19; James 2:26; Acts 2:29; Acts 2:34; Psalms 6:5.

Write the Bible Answer:

The Bible is pretty plain on what happens after death. According to Ecclesiastes 12:7 when a person dies the body decomposes and returns to the dust of the ground and the “spirit” goes back to God. “Spirit” in the context of Ecclesiastes 12:7 is not referring to a bodiless person with a conscious existence. It’s referring to the Old Testament Hebrew word “ruwach” which means “breath”. In other words, when a person dies their body decomposes back to the dust of the earth and the breath of life goes back to God. In James 2:26 the Greek word for “spirit” is “pneuma” which also means “breath”, in other words, “For as the body without the breath is dead”. The “spirit” is not a conscious living bodiless person floating in heaven or hell. In Genesis 3:19 God did not tell Adam that he would go to heaven after death, but return to the dust of the earth. Peter 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.

Are the dead aware of anything after death? Can they communicate with the living after death?

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6 “For the living know that they shall die: but **the dead know not any thing**, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory

of them is forgotten. 6 Also their **love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished**; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun.”

Read also: Psalms 115:17; Isaiah 38:18; Job 7:9,10.

Write the Bible Answer:

The Bible is abundantly clear, the dead are not aware or conscious of anything. They are not enjoying the bliss of heaven or being tortured in the flames of hell.

They are simply dead in their graves with no consciousness or awareness, resting in peace. They cannot communicate with the living after death.

How does Jesus describe death in the New Testament?

Read John 11:11-14; Luke 8:52,53.

Write the Bible Answer:

Jesus describes death as sleep, a state of unconsciousness. When Jesus raised the twelve year old 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 the breath of life. In either case of Lazarus or the twelve year old girl, there is no mention that either one went to Heaven after death. There are no testimonies from either one about an Heavenly experience.

What does the Bible say about Stephen when he was stoned?

Read Acts 7:60.

Write the Bible Answer:

When Stephen the martyr was stoned and killed, **Acts 7:60** calls his death

a sleep.

What promise does God give for those who go to sleep or die in Jesus Christ?

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall 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 shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory**. 55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?"

Read also: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 5:25, 28,29.

Write the Bible Answer:

At the second coming of Jesus Christ those who die in Christ will rise again. The righteous will then receive the gift of “everlasting life”. This mortal will then put on immortality. Those that were raised from the dead and those living will be “caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.” Families will be reunited. This is the blessed hope. Death is swallowed up forever! The righteous will forever live with God.

When Lazarus was dead Martha, his sister, expressed her confidence of seeing him again. (Read John 11:23-27.) Job also expressed hope in seeing his Redeemer at the last day. (Read Job 19:25,26.) And Daniel was told that he would rest and then “stand in thy lot at the end of the days.” (Read Daniel 12:13.)

Now, let’s look at some misunderstood text.

Did the repentant thief on the cross that was next to the cross of Christ go directly to heaven after death according to Luke 23:43?

Read Luke 23:42,43.

Does this text mean that the thief went straight to heaven after death?

First, let's answer some basic questions: Jesus and the thief died on the same day Friday, the sixth day of the week.

Did Jesus go straight to heaven after death on the cross? Jesus was in the tomb for three days. What did Jesus tell Mary on the day of His resurrection?

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her [Mary], Touch me not; for **I am not yet ascended** to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Write the Bible Answer:

Jesus himself did not immediately go to heaven after His death on the cross.

So, what does Luke 23:43 mean?

The early Greek manuscripts of the New Testament did not contain any punctuations at all. The words and sentences were written in all capital letters with no spaces or punctuations. Punctuations were added later to the Greek manuscripts as it was translated into other languages. In English a comma can make the difference in the meaning of a text. When you place the comma before today, "I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" it appears that Jesus and the repentant thief on the cross went straight to heaven. But we know from John 20:17 that Jesus did not go to heaven the same day He died.

If we place the comma in its proper place then the text will make more sense and it will totally agree with the evidence of the Bible concerning death: "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Today is referring to what Jesus was presently saying. The repentant thief had an assurance that his sins were forgiven, and he would dwell with God.

Hell Fire

The Bible has made it abundantly clear that the "**dead praise not the LORD,**" nether know anything. Also the Bible gives us the hope of the

resurrection of the righteous at the second coming of Christ. They will be “**raised incorruptible**” and will receive the gift of everlasting life along with the righteous living. Now we will study some things about hell fire.

Will the wicked have everlasting life in hell fire?

Read: Romans 6:20,21, 23; Psalms 37:38.

Write the Bible Answer:

God “...gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. But those who continue to be servants of sin will not have everlasting life, “for the wages of sin is death”.

What was Satan’s first lie to Eve?

Genesis 3:4 “And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die.**”

Write the Bible Answer:

God told Adam and Eve in Genesis 2:17 that if they disobeyed Him and ate from the forbidden tree of knowledge of good and evil that they would “surely die”, meaning cease to exist with no awareness or life after death. In **Genesis 3:4**, Satan as a snake plainly lied!

Satan is inferring that people after death will still have eternal life after death even if they disobey God.

How will God get rid of sin forever?

Revelation 21:7,8 “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and

the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Read also: Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10.

Write the Bible Answer:

Satan, his demons, and all the wicked that hold on to sin will be destroyed by “everlasting fire”.

Is “everlasting fire” meaning that the people will be burning forever through the ceaseless ages of eternity?

Malachi 4:1-3 "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for **they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts."**

Read also: Isaiah 47:14; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 21:8.

Write the Bible Answer:

The wicked will be totally burned up or eradicated and become ashes. The Lord will “leave them nether root nor branch”, and they will receive the wages of sin – death.

Did you know that Sodom and Gomorrhah burned with “eternal fire”?

Read Jude 1:7 .

Sodom and Gomorrha and the “cities about them” were destroyed with “eternal fire” because of their wickedness.

Is Sodom and Gomorrha still burning now?

Read 2 Peter 2:6; Luke 17:29.

Write the Bible Answer:

Sodom and Gomorrha are not burning now, but turned to ashes. So what does “eternal fire” mean?

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9.

Write the Bible Answer:

This “eternal fire” brings about everlasting destruction. Sodom and Gomorrha has been eternally destroyed, so the wicked will be destroyed with everlasting fire that will lead to eternal destruction.

Is Revelation 20:10 saying the wicked will burn and be tormented with fire throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity?

Read Revelation 20:10.

Write the Bible Answer:

We see from this text that the fire will be burning day and night, but forever in this context is a specific “period of time” of “continual” burning until they burn up. The Bible has already made it clear that the wicked will not live eternally in hell fire, but will “burn up”, and as a result of their sin, die. The Bible will not contradict itself.

The belief of consciousness after death goes directly against the plain “it is written” of the Bible; **“the dead know not any thing”**.

If the Bible is abundantly clear on the subject of death why are so many people and even churches confused about death?

John 8:44 says that the Devil “is a liar, and the father of it.” His lies have caused so much confusion that lead others in traps of deception. Who are you going to listen to?

He also lies and deceives many people in believing that the living can communicate with the dead. Remember, the dead know nothing and cannot come back to communicate with the living. Beware, the Devil and his evil demons can transform themselves to look like a dead loved one. (**Read 2 Corinthians 11:13 – 15**). If a dead loved one seems to appear, it is not really your dead loved one but is Satan or an evil demon impersonating the dead. We need not to be deceived because the Bible has revealed the truth!

Will God’s faithful people be deceived by Satan’s lies about death? The answer is simply NO. Why?

Isaiah 8:19,20 "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them."

Read also 2 Timothy 2:15; John 5:39; Acts 17:11.

Write the Bible Answer:

Those who are faithful to God and who sincerely study the Bible daily will not be deceived by Satan’s lies. They use the Word of God to test all things. 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. Get in a habit in studying God's Word daily. Search diligently for truth and sincerely pray to God for understanding and acceptance of Biblical truth. He will lead you to all truth, He promises.

The Bible Brain Challenge

How did God give man life at Creation?

What is the Biblical formula for life?

_____ + _____ = Living Soul

What happens to a person after death?

Fill in the Blank

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6 “For the living know that they shall die: but the _____ any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now _____; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun.”

What promise is given for those who die in Christ?

How will God forever put an end to sin?

Will the wicked literally burn forever with no end?

These Bible lessons are by Pathway to Peace Ministries



Pathway to Peace Ministries

Matthew 9:35 & Revelation 14

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