

16 IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?

Many times, we wonder what happens after death. There are those who, after an accident have been resuscitated and tell of their experience at the point of death. We often hear that the dead manifest themselves; some even speak with them.

Is it reasonable to be afraid of death?

Quite often we meet face to face with death; when we attend a funeral of a friend or a relative to say our goodbyes, or when we see a hearse followed by a procession of mourners in black. We wonder, is there life after death? Maybe when we place a wreath on a tomb we ask ourselves, do the dead have consciousness?

A wife, heartbroken by pain and flooded with tears wonders, will I ever see him again?

There are various opinions about this. Some say a person who dies goes directly to heaven, purgatory or hell; others believe he or she goes to the spirit world or reincarnates later in a newly born being; some say that all has come to an end; others say that a dead person knows nothing until the day of resurrection. Who is right? What does God say? What answer does the Bible give? Job 14:14.



THE PROCESS OF LIFE AND DEATH

1. To understand the process of death, we must first consider: how life began? Genesis 2:7.

The human being is composed of these two elements. God took the first element from dust of the ground. Man's body is composed of protein, fat, minerals (such as phosphorus, iron, magnesium, calcium, etc.), and a high percentage of water. The actual value of these elements is not more than \$5; this is the material value of our body. How little would we be worth without God's breath of life! The union of these two elements made man, a completely new being.

- If we expressed this with a mathematical equation we could say:
matter (earth) + **breath of life** = **living being** (living soul).
- When God created man, he became a living soul (living being); it does not say that God gave a soul or that man has a soul, but the union of matter and the breath of life made him a living being; therefore, man is a soul. When we say that 3,000 souls were baptized, we don't say that 3,000 spirits were baptized but persons.
- There are different chemical products that, when mixed, produce something totally different. For example, by mixing two atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen, we get water, H₂O.
- If an electric lamp receives electricity, it produces light due to the electric current that reaches it. When the energy is shut off the light goes off. The lamp cannot give light by itself, and neither can electricity.

2. Since the process of death is the opposite of life, what happens when somebody dies? Ecclesiastes 12:7; Psalms 104:29.

***Matter** (body) - **breath of life** = **death**. As in the case of the lamp, the matter becomes inactive when God withdraws the breath of life.*

IS DEATH A CONSCIOUS STATE?

3. Do the dead know anything? Ecclesiastes 9:5. _____

4. What happens to their feelings? Ecclesiastes 9:6, 10. _____

5. Are the dead in a conscious state? Psalms 146:4. _____
6. Do the dead know anything about their relatives? Job 14:21. _____
7. Are they in heaven praising God? Psalms 115:17; Isaiah 38:18, 19. _____

WHAT IS DEATH COMPARED TO?

8. What did Jesus compare death to? John 11:11-14. _____

Job also compared death to sleep. The dead sleep; they are unconscious until they wake up at the resurrection. Job 14:10-12.

9. What other example do the Scriptures give? Job 14:1, 2.

WILL WE SEE AGAIN THOSE WHO HAVE DIED?

10. What is the glorious hope of those who died believing in God? Isaiah 26:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17. _____

11. Are the faithful of old who have died already enjoying eternal life? Hebrews 11:39, 40; Daniel 12:13. _____

There is a contradiction among those who preach immediate punishment or reward and at the same time believe in the resurrection and the judgment. If a person receives his reward when he dies, why will Jesus come to judge the dead and the living? What will He judge? What has already been received?

THE GREATEST, OLDEST LIE THAT DECEIVED MILLIONS

12. God told Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed they would die (Genesis 2:16, 17). However, what was Satan's great lie? Genesis 3:4. _____

For 6,000 years, Satan has preached this lie, which has been believed by most cultures. The cult to the dead existed among the Egyptians, who placed furniture, food and valuable treasures in the tombs of the Pharaohs. There are millions today who believe that the dead are enjoying eternal life or suffering punishment in purgatory or hell.

13. Who alone possesses immortality? 1 Timothy 6:15, 16.

Jesus wants to give immortality to His children, at His second coming. 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

14. Do we already have immortality, or do we seek it? Romans 2:7. _____

CONCLUSION

Death is the opposite of life. When man dies, he ceases to exist; he becomes unconscious. In spite of this, our great hope is in Jesus' second coming, when we will meet our loved ones who died in Christ.

15. What will Jesus finally do with death? Revelation 21:4.

We should always be prepared because our life hangs by a thread.

My decision: I believe the dead know nothing and are asleep until the final resurrection.

Yes No