

#26

What Happens After You Die?

People from different cultures and religions around the world have a great many different beliefs about what happens after you die. This study is not concerned about what people believe but what the world of God says. Even most Christian churches have teachings that conflict with what the word of God teaches. I almost guarantee that no matter what your background, you will find something in this study that challenges what you believe.

The teachings of most Christian churches are based on the teachings of the Greek Philosopher Plato rather than the Bible. Many support their beliefs with dreams and what are called near death experiences. The truth is, only God knows what happens after death. God has provided this truth in his word. If we study and believe God's word, we will not be deceived. God instructs us to "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

As you shall see below, the Bible clearly tells us that only God has immortality. As we have previously studied, all sinners shall die. We know by experience that everyone eventually dies. Satan lied to Eve in the Garden of Eden. He told her she could eat the fruit and "Ye shall not surely die." What Satan told Eve was that she could sin and not die; he was a liar. Today, most of the world and most Christians believe the lie Satan told Eve. They believe that at death the spirit lives on which is to say we don't really die. Many believe these spirits can come and speak to us. Below we'll discover the truth of what God says about death.

Where Should We Seek Truth Concerning Death?

Isaiah 8:19-20 – ¹⁹ 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.

God Warned Adam That Death Would Result From Sin

Genesis 2:17 – But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

What Lie Did Satan Tell Eve?

Genesis 3:4 – And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

What Is The Wages of Sin?

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalms 89:48 – What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?

God Took The Tree Of Life Away From Adam And Eve

Genesis 3:22-24 – ²² And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: ²³ Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Adam And Eve Died

Genesis 5:5 – And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

What Did God Say Would Happen To Adam After He Died?

Genesis 3:17-19 – ¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, **till thou return unto the ground;** for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and **unto dust shalt thou return.**

What Is A Soul

The word “soul” comes from the Hebrew word “nephesh”, which literally means “a breathing creature”. Note in the following text that man did not become a “living soul” until after God breathed the “breath of life” into him. A living soul needs the breath of life but the breath of life is not a soul.

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.

Leviticus 7:25 – For whosoever eateth the fat of the beast, of which men offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, even the soul (living person) that eateth it shall be cut off from his people. (Words in parenthesis added for clarification)

Psalms 42:2 – My soul (whole living being) thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? (Words in parenthesis added for clarification)

Psalm 56:13 – For thou hast delivered my soul (whole living being) from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living? (Words in parenthesis added for clarification)

Revelation 16:3 – And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul (living creature) died in the sea. (Words in parenthesis added for clarification)

The Soul That Sins Shall Die

Ezekiel 18:4 – Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Ezekiel 18:20 – The soul that sinneth, it shall die...

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 37:20 – But **the wicked shall perish**, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

Psalm 68:2 – As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let **the wicked perish at the presence of God**.

All Have Sinned

Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

The Spirit After Death

Ecclesiastics 12:7 – Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

The Spirit Is The Breath of Life

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

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.

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

Psalm 104:29 – Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Without The Breath of Life – We Are Dust

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Genesis 3:19 – In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

The Dead Are In The Grave

Ecclesiastics 9:10 – Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Job 14:10-12 – ¹⁰ But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? ¹¹ As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: ¹² So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

Only God Is Immortal

1 Timothy 1:17 – Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:15-16 – ¹⁵ Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords 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 honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Who Has Control Over Life And Death?

Revelation 1:17-18 – ¹⁷ And when I saw him [Jesus], I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: ¹⁸ I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, **I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

Jesus Was Asked How Eternal Life Can Be Obtained

Luke 10:25 – And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luke 18:18 – And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

The Gift of Immortality

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 – ⁵¹ 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?

In Order To Gain Immortality – You Must Be Mortal

1 Corinthians 15:52-53 – 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.

Eternal Life Is Obtained Through Jesus Christ

Matthew 25:46 – And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

John 6:54 – Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 17:3 – And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Romans 5:21 – That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's Faithful Have Not Yet Received The Promise of Eternal Life

John 3:13 – And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Hebrews 11:32-40 – ³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: ³³ Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: ³⁶ And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ³⁸ (Of whom

the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And these **all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:** ⁴⁰ God having provided some better thing for us, that **they without us should not be made perfect.**

Acts 2:29 & 34 – ²⁹ Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.... ³⁴ For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

A New Body

Philippians 3:20-21 – ²⁰ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Death Comes Before Eternal Life

Ezekiel 18:20 – The soul that sinneth, it shall die...

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 – ²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Hebrews 9:27 – And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

The Dead Cannot Return Home

Job 7:9-10 – ⁹ As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. ¹⁰ He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

The Dead Do Not Praise God

Psalm 115:17 – The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

The Dead Can Do Nothing And They Know Nothing!

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

Psalm 6:4-5 – ⁴ Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake. ⁵ For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 – ⁵ 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.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 – Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for **there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.**

Mark 12:27 – He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

Job 14:2 – He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and **continueth not.**

Job 14:10 – But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

The Dead Shall Be Raised From The Grave

Luke 14:14 – ¹⁴ And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

John 5:28-29 – [Jesus said:] ²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

When Are The Dead Raised?

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 – ²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. ²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ shall all be made alive.** ²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; **afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.** ²⁴ Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ **The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 – ⁵¹ 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? ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:39,40, 44 & 54 – ³⁹ And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should **raise it up again at the last day.** ⁴⁰ And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and **I will raise him up at the last day.**

⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and **I will raise him**

up at the last day. ⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and **I will raise him up at the last day.**

John 11:23-24 – ²³ Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. ²⁴ Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Matthew 13:39 – The enemy that sowed them is the devil; **the harvest is the end of the world;** and the reapers are the angels.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 – ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For **the Lord himself shall descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: **and the dead in Christ shall rise first:** ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Mark 13:24-27 – ²⁴ But in those days, **after that tribulation,** the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, ²⁵ And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. ²⁶ And then shall **they see the Son of man coming in the clouds** with great power and glory. ²⁷ And **then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds,** from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

What Is The Fate of The Wicked – The Unsaved?

They Shall Be As If They Had Never Existed

Psalm 37:10 – For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

Psalm 9:5-6 – ⁵ Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever. ⁶ O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.

Obadiah 1:16 - For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

Eternal Death

The wicked or unsaved suffer eternal death. The following texts say that they are consumed by fire, destroyed; they suffer everlasting destruction which is the second death. There is no resurrection from the second death; it is eternal.

Matthew 13:37-42 – ³⁷ He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; ³⁸ The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; ³⁹ The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰ As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so

shall it be in the end of this world. ⁴¹ **The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;** ⁴² **And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

2 Thessalonians 2:8-11 – ⁸ **And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:** ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Revelation 20:5 & 12-15 – ⁵ But the rest of **the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,... ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And **death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.** ¹⁵ **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 – ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Jesus And The Thief On The Cross

Jesus told one of his two companions on the cross that he would be with him in paradise. But when did Jesus say this would happen? We must look to the original Greek and the rest of scripture to find the answer. The original gospels were written in Greek and there was no punctuation. The Bible translators had to decide where the punctuation marks would go. They made an obvious error in Luke 23:43. You see, Jesus did not tell the thief when he would join him in paradise, he just told him he would be there. Look at the texts below.

Luke 23:43 – ³⁹ And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. ⁴⁰ But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. ⁴² And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Now consider what happens when just one comma is moved: “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee to day[,] shalt thou be with me in paradise.” This punctuation change brings the text into harmony with all the texts above. It further brings the verse into harmony with the other statements Jesus made about his death. Jesus said he would be in the grave 3-days and 3-nights. And on the morning of His resurrection, he told Mary that he had not yet been to see his Father which is to say he hadn't been to heaven. Therefore, if Jesus wasn't in heaven, the thief could not have joined him there on the day of his death.

Mathew 12:40 – For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

John 20:11-17 – ¹¹ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, ¹² And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. ¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. ¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. ¹⁷ Jesus saith unto her, **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.

Summary

God warned Adam that if he ate the forbidden fruit, he would die. Satan told Eve that God was a liar. He said if she ate the fruit she wouldn't die. Adam and Eve died. Satan has perpetuated the lie and most people today believe that we have an immortal spirit that lives on after death. Satan is a liar and the teaching of an immortal spirit is a lie.

Only God is immortal. God has control over life and death. Eternal life is a gift from God. If immortality is a gift, one must be mortal to begin with. The gift of eternal life can only be obtained through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. God tells us that King David, the prophet Samuel and His other faithful servants have not yet received their reward in heaven.

God tells us that the dead cannot return home; they do not praise him; they have no love; they have not hatred; they have no wisdom; they have no thoughts. God said that Adam and Eve would turn back into dust after they die. This is our fate as well.

The faithful shall receive their reward of eternal life at one big event when Jesus returns. Those who have died will be raised from the grave with new glorified bodies. The faithful who are alive when Jesus return will be changed physically.

The wicked shall not inherit eternal life. Eternal life is a gift reserved for God's faithful only. The wicked will be judged and their lives will be ended for eternity. It is an eternal judgment.