

Daniel



Lesson 26-Life, Death, and the Resurrection!

Focus: Daniel 12:1, 2

- ❖ **When Jesus returns, what will happen to the dead in Christ? (v.1,2; 1 Thess. 4:16)**
 - How does the Bible describe their death in this verse? (v.2) What word does the Bible use to describe it?
 - How does Jesus describe death? (**John 11:11-14**)
 - Over 53 times in 17 different books of the Bible, death is mentioned as a sleep.
 - **Who alone has the keys to unlock death and the grave? (Revelation 1:18)**
 - **Does God love and care about those who have died? (Psalm 116:15; Matthew 10:29-31).**
- ❖ **Why do Jesus and the other Bible writers describe death as a sleep? (Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10)**
 - “The dead know _____.” “They _____ longer have a part in anything that is done under the sun.” According to the Bible, the dead cannot come back to interact with the living once they have died (Spirits of evil angels can interact with our world, but not dead loved ones— Revelation 16:14).
 - How much are we aware of when we are sleeping? Do we realize any time passing by?
 - **Does the Bible teach us that dead Christians are up in heaven praising the Lord once they die? (Psalm 6:4,5)**
- ❖ **So many people (Christians included) teach that we have an “immortal soul.” Is that true? Does the Bible teach that? (Can the soul just live on apart from the body?)**
 - **Is a “soul” incapable of dying or does the Bible say that a soul will die? (Ezekiel 18:4)**
 - **Who alone has immortality? (1 Timothy 6:16)**
 - What does the Bible say we are “seeking for”? (**Romans 2:7**) Why should any “seek” for immortality if they already have it? We can have the gift of eternal life from Jesus today. But, we do not experience the gift of immortality until the second coming of Jesus (See **1 Corinthians 15:53, 54**).
 - The Bible uses the word “soul” 858 times. Never once does it say the words “immortal soul”— it’s just not there.
 - **What elements does it require for a soul to exist? (Genesis 2:7) _____ + _____ = _____** (just like it takes both a light bulb and power (electricity) to produce light!)
 - **What happens at death? (Ecclesiastes 12:7)** The “spirit” that returns to God is the breath that was given to us (the Greek word is Nooma; the Hebrew word is Ruach; it means “spirit, breath, wind”. One clear example of this is in **Job 27:3**. Death is the reverse of Creation. The “soul” ceases to live. There is no consciousness in death; No existence outside of the body. God himself preserves our soul in His very hands, but we are not consciously aware. Death is like a sleep! We must await for the bodily resurrection. Jesus said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit...” (Luke 23:46). Our identity is held safely in the hands of God. Our soul rests with Him (unconsciously).

- **Think about it:** When a person gets knocked out, or they have some kind of head trauma, they are no longer aware of anything. They don't know what happens to them. Death is the same. The body, brain, and mind are no longer functioning; therefore, thoughts are not produced.
 - **Where did the idea of the immortal soul come from?** Many pagan cultures around the world all believe this idea. The Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle taught about it too. From the Greco-Roman culture this idea came into the polluted church of the middle ages. It has stuck with many Christian groups even to this very day! Satan himself originated this idea that when you die, you don't really die. He said, "You will not surely die!" (Genesis 3:4).
 - **What about near death experiences?** That is all they are: NEAR death experiences. They are not actually an entire death. The brain is receiving very low oxygen and begins to play tricks on people. Hallucinations begin to take place. People who have eaten poisonous mushrooms or taken hallucinatory drugs have reported the same kind of experiences as NDEs.
- ❖ **The Christians' hope is in the Resurrection!**
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 make this very clear.
 - **When does Jesus say we get to be "present with the Lord"? (John 14:1-3)** Jesus told his followers he was going to prepare a place for all of us. And, if so, then "he is coming back" to receive us unto himself so that we can be with him. If the dead went directly to heaven or "hell" upon death, as many teach, then **there would be no need for Jesus to come back and get us, or to even resurrect our bodies.** (it would not be needed in the slightest if we'd already entered heaven upon death). That's why the dead in Christ rise when Jesus returns...and **we all meet the Lord in the air together—no one meets him before!** "Christ the firstfruits; afterwards those who are Christ's at his coming..." (1 Cor. 15:23).
 - The Bible tells us King David (who we know is saved) has not gone to heaven yet (Acts 2:29,34). Only a couple men we know of were taken to heaven already; Enoch (Gen. 5:24), Elijah (2 Kings 2:11), and Moses, who was resurrected from the dead (Jude 1:9).
 - What about the Thief who died on the cross next to Jesus? Didn't he go to Paradise with Jesus on that very day? The English version of Luke 23:43 shows us the words of Jesus, "Surely I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." If you take only that verse, as it is, you'd think the thief went right to heaven on that day. However, the rest of the Bible doesn't teach that. The comma is simply in the wrong place (punctuation was not in the original manuscripts; the comma was added later by translators). The phrase should read, "...I say unto you today [though it doesn't look like I could save a soul...TODAY], you will be with me in paradise." We know this for sure because Jesus didn't even go to see the Father in heaven until after his resurrection on Sunday morning (See John 20:17). Jesus also died early on Friday, the thief didn't even die that day—that's why the Roman soldiers had to break his legs (John 19:31-33).
- ❖ **How can we be sure to have eternal life? (1 John 5:12)**

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to trust your life into Jesus' hands and to receive His gift of eternal life? _____ Is it also clear to you that death is an unconscious sleep in the grave until the resurrection? _____