

Journey With Jesus



Lesson #14 Are the Dead Really Dead?

Note: This verse was incorrectly punctuated by the translators who were misguided by the unscriptural idea that man has an immortal soul. Does punctuation make a difference? Notice this: A woman without her man is a beast. Now let's try this one: A woman, without her, man is a beast.

1. The Bible wasn't divided into chapters until the 13th century. 2. Verses were not introduced until three centuries later, when the publisher, Robert Stephanus of Paris placed them in his Greek-Latin edition of 1551 to help in finding passages easier. 3. The translators were misguided by the unscriptural concept the dead enter into their reward at death. 4. When the Bible was written it was not punctuated. 5. The punctuation was added by man and is not inspired.

Let's change the punctuation to fit what the other biblical authors teach on the subject of death. "And Jesus said to him, Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise." The comma placed after the word "today" aligns Christ's words to the thief to fit the rest of His teaching on death.

In John 20:17 Jesus tells Mary on resurrection morning that He has not gone to heaven yet. If Jesus told the thief that they both would go to heaven on that (Good) Friday then He was lying to Mary (vice versa).

15. Can the dead have contact with the living? Job 7:9-10, Revelation 16:14

16. Who did King Saul contact by using a witch? 1Samuel 28:3-20

Note: The spirit was NOT Samuel because "the dead know nothing." Satan's angels have the power to impersonate the dead (Rev 16:14). Contact with the dead was forbidden by God (Lev. 20:27, Deut. 18:9-15. The Bible also says that Saul sinned against God by going to the witch (1Chron 10:13).

17. What is the key to eternal life? 1 John 5:12

A little girl chased a ball into the street and was killed. The time for funeral had come and the father who was unsaved said to his little girl, "Goodbye my little girl, forever." The mother who had hope in Jesus and in the resurrection said, "Momma is sure glad we had you for a little while. I'll see you when Jesus comes." What's the difference? Jesus, just Jesus.

MY CHOICE: Lord, give me the Son so I can have eternal life with you.

In the last twenty years there has been an explosion of interest in the afterlife. It seems as if spiritualism is being used to sell anything from Halloween costumes to car rentals. This begs the question, are the dead really dead? What really happens when a person dies?

1. Who has the keys of death? Revelation 1:18

Note: Satan has the power of death (see Heb. 2:14), but Jesus has the keys to death. God's ability to give life is greater than Satan's ability to destroy.

2. What is the biblical equation for life? Genesis 2:7

Note: Body + breath = a living soul. Did you notice that God breathed into Adam breath and he BECAME a living soul NOT his soul was added to him?

3. What is the biblical definition for a soul? 1Kings 17:21; 19:4

Note: Remember in Genesis 2:7 God gave Adam the breath of life and he became a living soul. The Old Testament Hebrew for word "soul" is nephesh"

which means “a breathing creature”. That was the word used for “soul” (1Kings 17:21) and in “life” (19:4). The Bible uses soul and life interchangeably. See also Mt 16:25 (in this text the Greek word for life and soul are both the same word, *psuche*) & Acts 2:41, 27:37.

4. Is the soul immortal? Romans 2:7, Ezekiel 18:4

Note: If man is immortal then why does Paul say we seek immortality?

5. Who alone is immortal? 1Timothy 6:15-16

Note: Mortal means subject to death. Immortal means imperishable. The Bible NEVER uses the terms “immortal soul” or “immortality of the soul.” So where did this idea of immortality of soul come from? It was the pagan concept that an immortal soul left the body at death and lived on. Plato, 428-348 B.C. the Greek philosopher and student of Socrates, taught that the body and the “immortal soul” separate at death. Early Christianity was influenced and corrupted by Greek philosophies as it spread through the Greek and Roman world. By A.D. 200 the doctrine of the immortality of the soul became a controversy among Christian believers.

6. What is the biblical equation for death? Ecclesiastes 12:7

Note: Remember our equation for life: body + breath = life. Death is simply creation in reverse: body – breath = death. The breath of life was the active agent that made the body alive (remember Gen. 2:7). So when a person stops breathing they cease to exist or die.

7. What is the spirit? Ecclesiastes 12:7, Psalm 146:3-4

*Note: The Old Testament Hebrew word for “spirit” is *ruach*” which means “breath.” In both instances the word “*ruach*” is spirit, which simply means Breath or air; therefore the spirit in this sense is the air we breathe.*

8. What then happens when we die? Genesis 3:19, Job 34:15

Note: The Bible says we return to the ground from where we were made.

9. How much do the dead know? Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

10. Do the dead praise the Lord? Psalm 115:17, 6:5

Note: The dead do not praise the Lord because they don’t know anything!

11. What did the Old Testament prophets teach death is like? Psalm 13:3

Note: Deut 31:16; 1Kings 2:10; 1Kings 11:43; 1Kings 14:31; 2Kings 8:24; 10:35; 13:9; 13:13; 14:16; 14:29; 15:7; 15:22; 15:38; 20:21; 21:18; 24:6; 2Chron 14:1; 16:13; 21:1; 26:23 all say that death is like a sleep.

12. What did Jesus say death was like? Mark 5:39, John 11:11-15, 24, 39, 43-44

Note: Jesus taught exactly what the OT prophets taught, death = sleep.

13. If death is like a sleep then when do the dead wake up? 1Corinthians 15:51-55, 1Thessalonians 4:13-18

Note: Notice that Paul uses the word sleep in both verses. Paul, like Jesus and other OT prophets taught that death is like a sleep that lasts until the resurrection or second coming of Jesus. When Jesus comes families all over the world who have been separated by death will be reunited. They will spend eternity together and with God. That is why Paul calls the second coming of Jesus “the blessed hope,” see Titus 2:13. See also: Luke 14:13-14; John 6:39, 40, 44, 54.

14. What about the thief on the cross? Luke 23:42-43
