

NOTE: Notice again Paul's usage of the Biblical term "sleep" for death. What glorious hope the apostle Paul holds out to believers. Death will be swallowed up in victory. Death is not something wonderful to transport us to the realms of bliss. According to the Bible, death is an enemy that shall be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26) (1687) [1145].

21. What will be eliminated in the new earth? Revelation 21:4 (1823) [1234]

"There shall be no more _____."

NOTE: Thank God, death is forever eliminated from God's universe.

22. What kind of bodies will we have in the resurrection? Philippians 3:21 (1725) [1170]

"Who shall change our _____ body, that it may be fashioned like unto His _____ body."

NOTE: Amazing truth! Our bodies will be like Christ's glorified resurrected body!

23. What was Christ's glorified resurrected body like? Luke 24:36-42 (1544) [1047]

"A spirit hath not _____ and _____, as ye see me have."

NOTE: Jesus's resurrected body was not a spirit body, but He possessed flesh and bones. He even ate before the disciples. Jesus had a real physical body in the resurrection. So will the righteous. Our hope in the resurrection indicates that for the Christian, life after death is not a spooky, spirit existence, but a real existence with a real body where Christians do real things in a real world. Thank God for the reality of the Christian's hope.

24. Are you thankful for the glorious resurrection hope of scripture?

PS-17



PROPHECY SEMINAR



WHEN DANIEL GOES TO HEAVEN

The last few lessons have talked extensively about the judgment. We have looked at the three phases of the judgment:

1. The pre-advent judgment of the righteous (1844 to the second coming of Christ).
2. The judgment of the wicked during the 1000 years.
3. The execution of the judgment at the end of the 1000 years.

Obviously, judgment is necessary before rewards or punishments could be meted out. The reward for the righteous is everlasting life, while the reward of the wicked is eternal death (Matthew 25:31-41) (1442) [978]. This may have posed a conflict in some peoples' minds. If, as Daniel teaches, the judgment of the righteous does not begin until 1844, how could the righteous receive their reward and go to heaven when they die? Likewise, if the wicked are not judged till the 1000 years, how could they go to hell when they die, since they have not yet been to judgment?

The judgment concept in Daniel obviously raises the related question of what happens to a person at death. Therefore, it is important that we take the next two lessons to examine what the Bible says on the subject of death and the punishment of the wicked. To be consistent with Scripture, our understanding of death must be in harmony with the concept of the judgment that we have discovered in Daniel.

There are two basic teachings in Christendom concerning death. The first suggests that when righteous people die, they go straight to heaven because they have an immortal soul. Thus they receive everlasting life immediately upon death. When wicked people die, they go straight to hell and spend eternity burning there.

The second teaching suggests that when people die they go into the grave and sleep, and know nothing until the resurrection. At that time they are resurrected and given immortality. Likewise, the wicked are resurrected at the end of the 1000 years to receive their punishment.

A careful examination of both teachings reveals that the second concept is in beautiful harmony with Daniel's perception of the judgment, whereas the first teaching presents a dramatic conflict with Scripture. Since Scripture is always in total agreement, the second concept would seem to be the most logical choice for the Scriptural concept of death. To be certain, let's carefully examine what Daniel and the rest of Scripture say about death.

DANIEL'S CONCEPT OF DEATH

1. **What was Daniel told he would do after he died? Daniel 12:13 (1320) [895]**

"For thou shalt _____"

2. **When would Daniel be resurrected? Daniel 12:13 (1320) [895]**

"... stand in thy lot at the _____ of the _____"

15. **Do people praise God when they are dead? Psalm 6:5 (862) [583]**

NOTE: Could you imagine people being in heaven and not remembering God or praising Him?

16. **What happens to peoples' thoughts on the very day that they die? Psalm 146:3, 4 (964) [654]**

They _____

NOTE: Could you imagine anyone being in heaven with no thoughts?

17. **How much does a person know when he's dead? Ecclesiastes 9:5 (1013) [687]**

"The dead know not _____."

NOTE: Could anything be clearer than this verse? The wise man, Solomon, declares that **the dead know not anything**. Nowhere does the Bible say anything about people going to heaven at death. (For information on the thief on the cross, see Exhibit 2.) Instead, the Bible is unquestionably clear that when people die, they know nothing until the glorious moment of the resurrection. They sleep in the tomb until that glorious day.

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

18. **Who goes to heaven first, the righteous living or the righteous dead? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 (1736) [1176]**

They "shall be caught up _____ . . . in the clouds"

NOTE: The apostle Paul is very clear that the dead do not meet Jesus before the living. They meet Him together at the second coming.

19. **How should believers comfort one another when they lose a loved one? 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (1736) [1176]**

"With these _____"

NOTE: It is the hope of the resurrection at the second coming of Christ that is the Christian's comfort when loved ones die.

20. **When does the apostle Paul say that both the dead and the living are given immortality and meet Jesus? 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 (1688) [1146]**

"At the last _____," which is at the second _____ of Jesus.

11. Can the soul die? Ezekiel 18:20 (1235) [838]

"The soul that sinneth, _____"

NOTE: Since all souls have sinned (Romans 3:23) (1651) [1120], all souls must die. Therefore, there can be no such thing as an immortal soul.

12. The word "Immortal" means "not subject to death." When do Christians receive immortality? 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 (1688) [1146]

At the _____ trump, which is at the _____ coming of Jesus.

NOTE: The righteous do not receive immortality when they die. They are not born with it. They receive it from God at the second coming.

13. Why did God send His Son? John 3:16 (1550) [1051]

To give us _____ life.

NOTE: The reason Jesus died on the cross was to give us everlasting life and immortality. If every person is born with an immortal soul, there would have been no need for Jesus Christ to come and die on the cross. If people went straight to heaven when they died because their soul was eternal and immortal, there would be absolutely no need for the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus died so we could receive immortality at His second coming.

Amazing, friend! Think of it! This one teaching that says that when a person dies he goes straight to heaven destroys the need for the doctrine of the resurrection, the second coming, and the cross. Once these three great pillars of the Christian faith are destroyed or undermined, there is simply no need of Christianity. By introducing the concept of the immortal soul into the Christian church from pagan religion, Satan has virtually undermined the uniqueness of Christianity.

WHERE ARE THE DEAD NOW?

What happens then to people in the interval between death and the resurrection? Let's discover what the Bible says about this period of time.

14. How did Jesus refer to death? John 11:11 (1569) [1064]

"Our friend Lazarus _____"

NOTE: The Biblical term for death is "sleep," and is used 66 times in Scripture (See Exhibit 1.) The only hope that Jesus held out to Mary and Martha (John 11:25, 26) (1569) [1064] was the resurrection hope. Jesus never tried to assure them that Lazarus was enjoying the bliss of heaven while he was dead, but He held out to them the great resurrection hope.

NOTE: Daniel is clearly told in this verse that he is to rest from his labors until the end of the days. At the end of all of these prophetic time periods, at the second coming of Christ, he would stand in his lot and be resurrected with everyone else. Clearly Daniel did not expect to go to heaven until the second coming of Christ.

3. What word does Daniel use to describe people who have died? Daniel 12:2 (1320) [895]

"Many of them that _____ in the dust of the earth."

NOTE: To Daniel death was like going to bed at night and sleeping. The next thing a person knows after death is the morning of the resurrection.

4. According to Daniel, when do the righteous and the wicked receive their reward or punishment? Daniel 12:2 (1320) [895]

"Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall _____, some to everlasting _____, and some to shame and everlasting _____."

NOTE: Daniel's point is that people awaken (are resurrected), to either eternal life or eternal damnation at the resurrection, not when they die.

THE RESURRECTION HOPE

5. How important is the resurrection hope to Christianity? 1 Corinthians 15:13-17 (1687) [1145]

"If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ _____: . . . And if Christ be not raised, your faith is _____; ye are yet in your _____"

6. If there is no resurrection, what has happened to people who have died? 1 Corinthians 15:18 (1687) [1145]

"They also which are fallen asleep in Christ are _____"

NOTE: Note Paul's point clearly. If there is no resurrection, there is no afterlife. The only way to life everlasting is through the resurrection. In fact, Paul knows of no everlasting life, except through the resurrection, for it is one of the most essential, pivotal doctrines of the Christian faith. Without it there could virtually be no Christianity. The doctrine of the resurrection is one of the unique doctrines of the Christian faith. No religion but Christianity teaches the resurrection of the dead. The removal of this teaching from the Christian faith would virtually destroy Christianity. Yet if people went to heaven at death, why would

there have to be a resurrection? The teaching that suggests that when people die they go straight to heaven destroys the need for the most essential of Christian doctrines, the doctrine of the resurrection.

7. Why is Jesus coming the second time? John 14:1-3 (1575) [1068]

"I will come again and receive you unto _____
that where I am, there _____ may _____ also."

NOTE: Jesus states categorically that the reason He comes back the second time is to take His people to His Father's house. Why would Jesus come back the second time to take His people to His Father's house if they immediately went there when they died? Not only does the teaching of consciousness immediately after death destroy the doctrine of the resurrection, but it also destroys any need for the doctrine of the second coming of Christ.

IS THE SOUL MORTAL OR IMMORTAL?

Proponents of the teaching that when people die they go straight to heaven suggest that every person is born with an immortal soul. They teach that while the body dies and goes into the ground, the soul goes back to God, and therefore the resurrection is necessary to reunite the soul with the body. Therefore the question must be very clear in our minds: does man have an immortal soul?

The term "immortal soul" was very popular in the ancient world. The pagan Egyptians, the pagan Greeks, and the pagan Romans all taught the concept and used the terminology "immortal soul." The only religious literature from the ancient world that does not use the terminology and the concept of the immortal soul is the Bible. Doesn't it seem strange that the Bible never uses the term or the concept of the immortal soul if the Bible teaches the immortality of the soul?

8. The adjective "immortal" is used only one time in the Bible. Who does this text describe as immortal? 1 Timothy 1:17 (1742) [1180]

NOTE: This is the only time in the entire Bible that the adjective "immortal" is used, and it refers to God.

9. Who does the Bible say is the only one who possesses immortality? 1 Timothy 6:15, 16 (1746) [1183]

NOTE: If God is the only one possessing immortality, how can any person claim to have an immortal soul?

10. How does the Bible define the soul? Genesis 2:7 (3) [2]

"God formed man of the _____ of the _____,
and breathed into his nostrils the _____ of
_____ ; and man became a _____ soul.

NOTE: Here is the biblical definition of the soul. When God created man, He united the body, (the dust of the ground), with the breath of life (spirit). When these two elements became united, man **became** a living soul. Please note that the Bible says the body is part of the soul. The soul is not a part of the body. The soul is the whole being of a person, rather than a separate entity entombed in the body. To illustrate: An electrical light consists of two elements. There is a filament in a bulb that is connected to a power source. As long as the power is connected to the filament in the bulb, you have light. When you disconnect the power source, does the light travel back through the wires to the electric company? No! The light ceases to exist. The light only has existence when it is united with the power source. Likewise, the body only has life when it is connected to the breath of life given by God, the power source.

