

Let's start off with a ghost story titled "Saul and the Spirit Medium." Israel's King Saul had wandered far from God's instructions. The prophet had given many warnings to the king, but Saul ignored these warnings from God. Now Samuel had died and was buried in his hometown.

Under the instructions from God, Saul had all the mediums and spiritualists removed from Israel. Leviticus 19:31 says, "Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God."

The Philistine army had come against Israel and Saul wanted to know what was in his future. Because Samuel had died he attempted to contact God but due to his backsliding the Lord did not answer him. So he turned against God's word. "Seek for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go and inquire of her." As it turns out, one of his servants knew where a spirit medium was and we find the king of God's chosen nation entering her place with the request, "Bring Samuel up for me."



Suddenly the woman recognizes Saul and is alarmed because all mediums were under a death sentence. After reassuring her of safety, Saul asked, "What do you see?" She replied, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe." And Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did homage. That was quite a story and you can find it in 1 Samuel 28.

1. This story must bring up some questions:
  - a. Was King Saul where he was supposed to be? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Was the king doing what he was supposed to be doing? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Could the medium be performing a lie? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Can the dead be brought back? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. We can find the answer to most of these questions by reading our Bible. Was God giving any information to King Saul? 1 Samuel 28:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. In this story we have a dead prophet supposedly communicating to Saul through the workings of an illegal spiritist and talking to him under conditions that God has forbidden.
  - b. Do you really think that a medium can bring "up" this dead prophet of God to talk to a king who God is not communicating with?
  - c. Maybe we better go to the Bible to discover what happens to the dead.
  
3. Let's go back to Genesis and review how we were created by God. 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. (KJV)

Note: The recognized modern translations NIV, NKJV, & NASB use "being" for the word soul. The KJV (used above) and ASV use the word soul.

- a. What two things were necessary for Adam to become a living being or soul?
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- b. What was produced when God breathed into this body formed from the ground?  
 \_\_\_\_\_



- c. What is the Bible’s simple formula for a living soul?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = a living soul
4. Here is a very important point to this lesson. Which phrase is correct according to 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.”
- Man had a living soul?
  - Man became a living soul?
  - What is necessary for a person, you and me, to be a living being or soul?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  - We should give thanks every day to God for giving us His breath of life so we can live.
5. What happens when a person (soul or living being) dies? Ecclesiastes 12:7  
 Then the dust will \_\_\_\_\_ to the earth as it was,/And the spirit will \_\_\_\_\_ to God who gave it.
- Now hold on. Have we added something new, a third element, to the formula of a living being? → spirit
  - We did have this biblical formula. → body + God’s breath of life = soul
  - What is this spirit thing that returns to God?
    - Are spirits of the dead floating around?
    - Did the medium really bring up Samuel?
    - Can we communicate with the dead?
    - Are the dead conscience and able to think and react to the things on this earth?



6. Let’s take a lesson in translating the Old and New Testaments.
- In the original languages the word “spirit” and the word “breath” are synonymous.
  - Old Testament: the Hebrew and the Aramaic word for spirit is *rûach*.
    - rûach* means → breath, wind, vital element, mind
    - It appears in the Old Testament 377 times and is most frequently translated as “spirit” or “wind.”
  - New Testament: the Greek word for spirit is *pneuma*.
    - pneuma* means: breath, to blow
    - In our translated language we have taken the word for spirit, Greek – *pneuma* and made application for breath, wind, or blow.
    - Two questions → When you have pneumonia:
      - Are you having spiritual problems?
      - Or are you having trouble breathing?
    - Here’s a question for mechanics → What is a pneumatic tool?
      - A pneumatic tool is powered by air pressure. → wind
      - If a pneumatic tool runs out of air pressure you have a dead tool.
    - We must understand that the translators had a very difficult task.
      - Not every word translates with the same meaning.
      - Not every meaning translates with the same word.



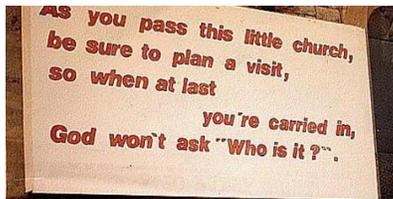
7. Let's look at some translations to see what the Bible teaches concerning death. (All **bold** lettering is supplied for emphasis.)
- a. Job 27:3 → Job is stating that as long as he is breathing he is alive.
    - i. NKJV "As long as my **breath** is in me,/And the **breath** of God in my nostrils,"
    - ii. KJV "All the while my **breath** is in me, and the **spirit** of God is in my nostrils;"
    - iii. NASB "For as long as **life** is in me,/And the **breath** of God is in my nostrils,"
    - iv. ASV "(For my **life** is yet whole in me, And the **spirit** of God is in my nostrils);"
  - b. Psalms 146:4 → The psalmist is stating that at death the thought processes cease.
    - i. NKJV → "His **spirit** departs, he returns to his earth;/In that very day his plans perish."
    - ii. KJV → "His **breath** goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."
    - iii. NASB → "His **spirit** departs, he returns to the earth;/In that very day his thoughts perish."
    - iv. ASV → "His **breath** goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; In that very day his thoughts perish."
  - c. Psalms 104:29 → The hymn writer is restating Job's premise that when a person stops breathing he or she will die.
    - i. NKJV → "You hide Your face, they are troubled;/You take away their **breath**, they die and return to their dust."
    - ii. KJV → "Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their **breath**, they die, and return to their dust."
    - iii. NASB → "You hide Your face, they are dismayed;/You take away their **spirit**, they expire/And return to their dust."
    - iv. ASV → "Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled; Thou takest away their **breath**, they die, And return to their dust."
8. God grants to the living what two necessary things to maintain life? (See question 3-a)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ → translated: wind breath, vital element (life), spirit, mind
9. None of the above texts teach that when a person dies they continue to have thoughts. What is the situation of the dead?
- a. Do they know anything? Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 & 10  Yes  No
  - b. Do the dead know what their loved ones are doing? Job 14:21  Yes  No
  - c. Can a dead person return to their home? Job 7:9-10  Yes  No
  - d. Can the dead praise the Lord? Isaiah 38:18  Yes  No
10. David wrote, "I will extol You, my God, O King;/ And I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You./ And I will praise Your name/forever and ever./ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised..." (Psalm 145:1-3) We know that David is dead. Is he now in heaven praising God? Acts 2:29  Yes  No
11. When David died did he ascend into heaven? Acts 2:34  Yes  No
12. For how long did David claim he would praise God? Psalm 104:33
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13. The Death and Resurrection of Lazarus:

- a. Let's start at the beginning of this story. John 11:1-5
- b. So Lazarus is sick and Jesus is the Great Healer. Did Jesus rush to Bethany to heal His friend? John 11:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. While Jesus and the disciples were traveling to Bethany what announcement did Jesus make? John 11:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What did the disciples assume? John 11:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Then Jesus made a very startling or disturbing statement about Lazarus. John 11:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Jesus finally got to Bethany and the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Many people were there to console Mary and Martha. Martha was the first sister to speak with Jesus. What statement of faith did she make to Jesus? John 11:21-22 \_\_\_\_\_
- g. What promise did Jesus make to Martha and to you and me? John 11:25 \_\_\_\_\_



14. Will we ever see those who have died and when? John 5:28-29  Yes  No



15. By whose power is the resurrection possible? Philippians 3:10-11  
 \_\_\_\_\_

16. Who only is immortal? 1 Timothy 6:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_



17. When will we be given immortality? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53  
 \_\_\_\_\_

18. What is the event of the "last trumpet?" Matthew 24:30-31  
 \_\_\_\_\_



19. From question #17:

- a. When Jesus returns will the faithful stay the same or be changed?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What will this change be? \_\_\_\_\_

20. In question #14 we read Jesus' words about the two resurrections. We've discussed the resurrection of those who have died believing in Jesus. Some teach that the wicked will burn throughout the ages of eternity. Will the wicked burn forever?

- a. A description of the first and second resurrections. Revelation 20:4-6  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What will be the final reward of the wicked? Revelation 20:13-15  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- c. How complete will be the second death of the wicked be?  
 Revelation 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and **devoured** them.  
 Hebrews 10:27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will **devour** the adversaries.  
 Psalms 37:20 But the wicked shall **perish**;/And the enemies of the LORD,/Like the splendor of the meadows, shall **vanish**./Into smoke they shall **vanish away**.

21. Let's finish our study by completing the story of Lazarus.

- a. After talking to Mary and Martha what did Jesus ask? John 11:34  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Jesus and the crowd went to the tomb. (John 11:38)
- c. Was Lazarus really dead? John 11:39  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. At that Jesus prayed and then what unexpected command did Jesus issue? John 11:43  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. What happened? John 11:44  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson: Jesus is able to refer to death as sleep because He is able to call us from death.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."



22. The best summary text is in one of the most well known texts in the Bible. John 3:16-17  
 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life**. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
23. Jesus came to this earth to save you and me. Do you have faith He can give you eternal life?
- Yes  
 No  
 Still deciding

Our next Lesson: "I Have Been Crucified with Christ."