

Spirits Ghosts and the End of the World

We learned yesterday that the Bible does not teach that hell lasts forever. It teaches that hell lasts a limited time, just long enough to get the job done.

It is interesting to note that the idea of eternal hell came as an outgrowth idea of the idea that the soul is immortal. If the soul cannot die, then hell has to last forever because it cannot destroy its victims. If the soul can die, then hell only has to last until the soul is consumed.

What is a soul?

“All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob’s sons’ wives, all the souls were threescore and six; And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.” (Genesis 46:26–27 KJV)

Obviously, souls here were Jacobs children.

The Bible shows us that a soul can actually be **any** living creature:

“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 died in the sea.” (Revelation 16:3 KJV)

A soul is a living thing.

“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.” (Genesis 2:7 KJV)

In the Bible, a soul is not some spiritual part of you that is invisible: it’s what you ARE, it is a living physical creature. It is the combination of the dust of the ground (material chemicals and organic compounds) and the breath of life (the life giving power of God).

Is this soul immortal? No. You never find the word “immortal soul” in all the Bible.

“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will **die**.” (Ezekiel 18:4 NAS95)

“God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **who alone is immortal** and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.”
(1 Timothy 6:15–16 NIV11-GK)

What is a spirit?

The word Spirit in the Old Testament, is usually the exact same word as “breath”. It means the power of life that comes from God. We see in the following text that both humans and animals have the same “spirit” - meaning both are made alive by the same power that comes from God.

“For the fate of humans and the fate of animals are the same: As one dies, so dies the other; both have the same breath.” (“breath and spirit,” AMP) (Ecclesiastes 3:19 NET)

“All the while, my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils.” (Job 27:3 KJV)

“The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” (Job 33:4 KJV)

“Everything with the breath of the spirit of life in its nostrils everything on dry land died.”
(Genesis 7:22 CSB17)

Is that breath or spirit that returns to God a thinking, conscious entity? No. The power of life that God gave simply returns to him.

“His breath [spirit, NIV] goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” (Psalm 146:4 KJV)

What happens when you die?

“and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the life’s breath (spirit KJV) returns to God who gave it.”
(Ecclesiastes 12:7 NET)

“After he said this, he added, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. But I am going there to awaken him.” Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died”. (John 11:11, 14 NET)

“Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death”
(Psalm 13:3 NKJV)

How much do dead people know?

“For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; Nevermore will they have a share In anything done under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 9:5–6 NKJV)

Where are dead people now?

“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” (John 5:28–29 NKJV)

Do dead people ever come back to talk with the living?

“As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up. He shall never return to his house, Nor shall his place know him anymore.” (Job 7:9–10 NKJV)

Who are Sprits and Ghosts then? With whom are Mediums communicating?

“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”
(2 Corinthians 11:14 NKJV)

“For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”
(Revelation 16:14 KJV)

“So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.”
(Matthew 24:26 ESV)

There are stories of mothers whose children have died, where the child appears to their mother in the night with comforting words. The apparition looked like the child, it sounded, it smelled, like the child. And the mother responded to the apparition “I know you cannot be my relative. The Bible says that the dead never return to their house again. So in the name of Jesus leave now.” And immediately the “child” vanished.

As we draw ever nearer the coming of Jesus, elements of spiritism will continue to become more and more deceptive. Many movies today are filled with allusions to communication with departed spirits. In music, in entertainment, in testimonies of celebrities, in pornography, communion with demons is becoming commonplace. Don't get involved in the Harry Potter movement, those books are an introduction in communicating with demons, with fallen angels. Don't touch them, run away. Leave all such things! Indulging in those things puts you on Satan's ground and under his direct control.

In the future, the Bible is clear that “Satan will transform himself into an angel of light” he will “work miracles”. The only way you can tell the true from the false is by the question: “What does the Bible say?” Not what do my eyes, my senses tell me. If you want to be safe in that time, you must now become acquainted with your Bibles. You must know what is the truth! And you must know Jesus, the source of truth. Would you like to commit yourself to Him today?