

Generally, the word “soul” in the Bible refers to a living being as summarized in Genesis 2:7: body plus breath equals soul (or living being). However, the word “soul” is sometimes used in the Bible when it means: Life itself (Job 12:10 and Luke 12:20; and The intellect or mind (Psalm 103:1; Psalm 139:14)

It makes no difference which of the three meanings is intended because in every case it takes two things combined (body plus breath) to make the soul. A soul does not exist (regardless of definition) unless the body plus breath are combined.

In Matthew 10:28, “Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul.” The word “soul” refers to life; that is, future life or eternal life. Man cannot take away our life finally or eternal life. That rests with God. This is made plain in Luke 12:4,5: “Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But... fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell.” Of course, the last part of Matthew 10:28, “rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell,” proves positively that the soul is not immortal and undying for it will be “destroyed in hell.”

An immortal or undying soul is impossible because God only has immortality (I Timothy 6:15,16).

The word “soul” is used 473 times in the Old Testament and 58 times in the New Testament, but never is it given any life, intelligence, knowledge or personality apart from the body. It is never once spoken of as deathless or immortal in nature, but rather always as short-lived and perishable.

The word “soul” in Revelation 6:9,10 refers to the “people” or living beings who had been killed for their faith. This passage is figurative and must not be taken literally. It is noteworthy that most commentators agree that this is a figurative passage of Scripture and is not to be viewed as literal. The well-known Presbyterian commentator, Albert Barnes, and Adam Clarke, the great Methodist scholar, both take this position.

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Connecting with Christ Through Prophecy

BIBLE PROPHECY EXPOSÉ

SCRIPTURE OUTLINE

Revelation Reveals the Secrets of Death

By
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Jesus is the one who has the keys to death, not the devil. (Revelation 1:8) Adam was created to live forever, but sin brought him death. (Romans. 6:23)

Had Adam not sinned, he would have lived in the flesh forever. Even after sinning, had he been allowed access to the tree of life, he still would have lived for ever as a sinner. (Genesis 3:22)

In the beginning there was no death, in the new beginning there will be no death. (Genesis 1, 2, Revelation 21:1-4)

Man (a living soul) is made of two components: breath and body. (Genesis 2:7)

When man dies, Jesus said, that man returns to the dust not heaven or hell. (Genesis 3:19, Job 34:15)

At death the body returns to dust and the "spirit" or breath to God. (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

The "spirit" is merely the "breath of life." (James 2:26 (margin); Job 27:3 (margin). Note: All spirits-- both good and bad-- return to God. Since sinners cannot enter into heaven, then this cannot be referring to the person.

We "are" souls, and souls do die (Ezekiel 18:20, Matthew 10:28; Acts 7:14; 27:37).

Since a soul is composed of body and breath, the soul ceases to exist when the breath leaves the body; therefore, it is incorrect to speak of a disembodied soul. According to the Scripture, there is no such thing as a soul apart from the body (Psalm 146:4; 104:29,30).

The dead are in their graves, (unless already resurrected--see Matthew 27:51-53, Jude 9, Matthew 17:3, Revelation 4:4,9), whether evil or righteous (Job 21:26- 34); John 5:28,29). Although David was

a righteous man (Hebrews 11:32,39,40) he was still in the tomb in Christ's day (Acts 2:31,34).

Man is unconscious completely and without any knowledge or feeling of any kind in death (Job 14:12, 21; Ecclesiastes 9:5,6).

Jesus compared death to sleep (John 11:11,14).

The 12 Apostles are still in their graves awaiting the fulfillment of Jesus words to them in John 14:1-3, that He will come again to receive them in order to take them home to where He is.

Therefore, the righteous dead (except Enoch, Elijah, Moses; those raised when Christ died (Matthew 27:50-53), and the 24 Elders of Revelation 4), are at rest in the tomb until Jesus shall return with His reward at the Second Coming when all shall be raised to life eternal (I Thessalonians 4:16,17; Revelation 22:11,12).

To know that the dead are not in Heaven watching our hardships and sufferings, or in eternal fire suffering excruciating pain, but resting in the tomb in quiet, undisturbed repose until the resurrection day, should bring great comfort to all (I Thessalonians 4:6-18). Note especially verse 18.

Though some people misuse Paul's statement "absent from the body and present with the Lord," Paul only believed and taught that all his hopes would be realized at the Second Coming of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13. Likewise did Peter: 1 Peter 1:7, and the Apostle John: 1 John 2:28.

Jesus died to deliver us from the fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14). Therefore, the hope of humanity is in the Resurrection of all the dead at His coming. 1 Corinthians 15:53-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.