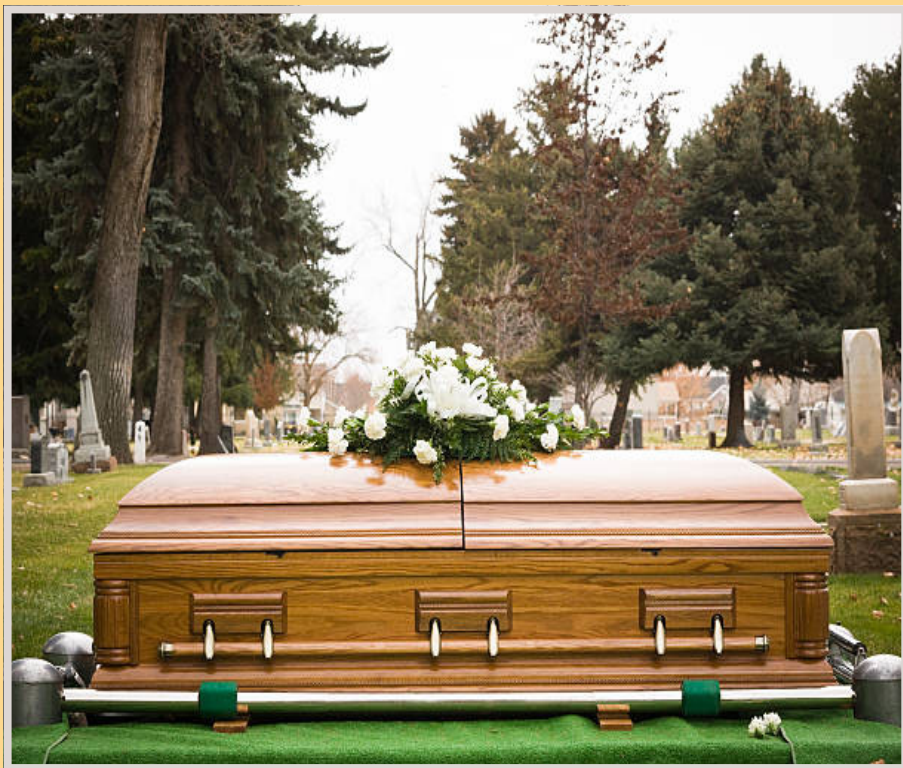


# **What Happens After Death?**



**Are our Loved Ones  
Living in Another World ?**

**Discover here!**

**A Bible Study on The State of The Dead**


# Death



This could be the most widely misunderstood subject in the world today. For many, it is surrounded by mystery and brings about feelings of fear, uncertainty and even desperation.

Some believe that loved ones that have died, ***HAVE NOT REALLY DIED***; and live in other places, under other conditions. The majority of the religions throughout the world today teach that the dead are transformed into spirits.

But, should this really be of concern to us? **YES**, it should concern us greatly, because the majority of those who do not understand the subject of **DEATH**, fall prey to Satan and are deceived in other issues as well.

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## To Begin This Study, Please Read The Following Bible Texts:

“And when they say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?” Isaiah 8:19.

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because *there is* no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20.

**“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalms 119:105.**

**“We have also a more sure word of prophecy;  
whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as  
unto a light that shineth in a dark place.”  
2 Peter 1:19.**



“But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.” Isaiah 28:13.

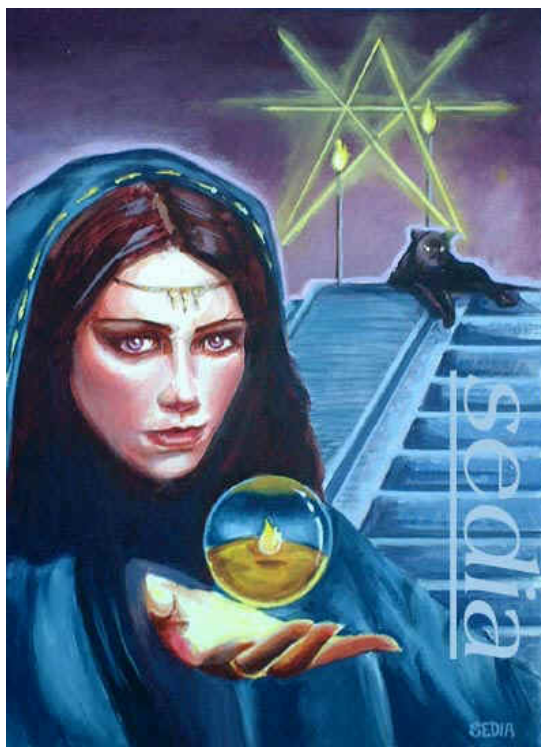
**Let us read what God says about those who teach that the dead are living and able to be contacted:**

“A man also or a woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood *shall be* upon them.” Leviticus 20:27.

“There shall not be found among you *any one that* maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or necromancer. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the Lord...” Deuteronomy 8:10-12.

“Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:31.

This teaching is such an abomination to our Creator, that we must study this very important topic together.





## HOW DID MAN COME TO EXIST?

“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.

**Note:** God did **not** put an immortal soul into Adam. **Adam became a living soul *after*** God “breathed the breath of life into his nostrils.” The combination of the body and the breath of life that God placed in Adam made him a living soul.

Let us read other examples:

• “And we were all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.”

Acts 27:37.

**Now, these souls were not hidden spirits in some corner of the ship, but rather living human beings (see Genesis 12:5.**



• “Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it to pieces, while there is none to deliver.”  
Psalm 7:2

• “Correct thy son and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”  
Prov. 29:17.

• “Let the enemy persecute **my soul** and take it: yea, let him tread down **my life** upon the earth, and lay my honour in the dust.”  
Psalms 7:5

- “Behold all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: **the soul that sinneth, it shall die.**” Ezekiel 18:4.
- “Quicken me, O Lord, for the name’s sake; for the righteousness’ sake bring my soul out of trouble.” Psalms 143:11.
- “And I will say to my soul, soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” Luke 12:19.

**The soul is a living being.** It is that combination of body + the divine breath of life (spirit), resulting in a being with emotions, feelings and thoughts.

When the **breath of life** [Spirit of God] is removed in the final moment of life, the spirit returns to God who gave it and the former living being **DIES**.

In other words:

**Dust + breath of life [spirit] = a living soul**

**Soul or living being — breath of life = a dead soul.**

“The conclusion we reach is that a soul is a living being, a person.”



### **According to the Bible, what happens to man when he dies?**

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” Ecclesiastes 12:7.

### **How can we be certain that the biblical expressions “breath of life” and “spirit” are one and the same?**

“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” Psalms 146:4.

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26.

“Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: *thou takest away their breath*, they die, and return to their dust.” Psalms 104:29.

“All the while my breath *is* in me, and the spirit of God *is* in my nostrils; My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.” Job 27:3-4.

### **Are the dead capable of sending messages to the living after the body returns to dust and the breath of life returns to God?**

Certainly **NOT**, because:

**There are no thoughts:** “His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” Psalms 146:4.

**There is no knowledge:** “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” Ecclesiastes 9:5.

**No emotions exist:** “Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 9:6.

**There is no activity:** “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” Ecclesiastes 9:10.

**There is no worship of God:** “The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.” Psalms 115:17.

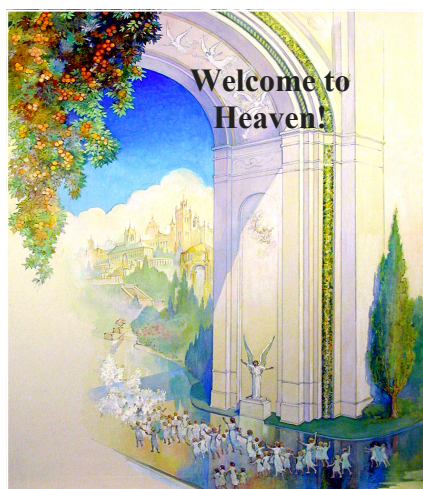
“For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?” Psalms 6:5.

**“Don’t the good go to heaven when they die, and the evil to either purgatory or hell?”**

No, no one goes to heaven, hell, or purgatory once they die. Their body returns to the earth once the breath of life departs from them; in other words, they go to their grave awaiting the day of resurrection.

“So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.” Job 14:12. Also look 7:9-10.

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.” Acts 2:29. When David died he was placed in a sepulchre and Acts 2:34 tells us: “For David is not ascended into the heavens....”



**Note:** David did not go to heaven when he died, but rather, his body was placed in a sepulchre, and the breath of life, or his spirit, returned to God. While he was alive, David tells us he was waiting to be resurrected in the likeness of God and go to heaven on that day. (see Psalms 17:15)

**How does Jesus demonstrate death?**

“...Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.” (John 11:11) The “sleep” to which Jesus is referring to here is that of death. “Then said his disciples, Lord if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking a rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.” John 11: 12-14.

When one is in a deep sleep, one is completely unconscious and unaware of their surroundings. Hours can pass as if it was a moment..

“...Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.... And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.” Luke 8:49-55.



**When did Martha expect her brother Lazarus to live again?**

“Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” John 11:23-24.

**Note:** Martha was a follower of Jesus. She had carefully listened to what He had taught regarding death. She believed that the dead would be resurrected at the last day, as Christ had promised.

## **When can we expect the resurrection of all those who have died in Jesus?**

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (When?) But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s (the dead) at his coming.” 1 Corinthians 15:22-23.

## **According to the Bible, whose voice will the dead hear prior to being resurrected?**

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” John 5:28-29.

## **According to the Apostle Paul, when will the good be resurrected and taken to heaven?**

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the rump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thesalonians 4:16-17.



## **How will our bodies be at the resurrection?**

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.” Philippians 4:16-17.

## **Following His resurrection, when Jesus appeared to His disciples, did He, as many have supposed, “have a body such as a spirit”?**

“And as they spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And He said unto them, Why are ye troubled” and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” Luke 24:36-39.

## **The following three passages in the Bible which have caused much controversy and confusion because they have been interpreted literally.**

**The first one, found in Luke 16, is the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Many ask, "How do you explain that Lazarus went to heaven and the rich man went to hell?**

According to the dictionary, the word “parable” means: a narration of what is deduced to be a moral teaching, or an important truth. In other words, the facts that are narrated in a parable should not be explained as something that literally took place but to illustrate a teaching.



In the parable of Luke 16, Christ is confronting the public on His own turf. The doctrine of the state of conscious existence between death and resurrection was maintained by many of those who were listening to His words. The Savior was aware of these ideas and thus narrated His parable in such a way to emphasize important truths via these preconceived opinions.

Before those listening, he placed a mirror in which they could see themselves as regards to their true relationship with God. He employed the prevailing opinion in order to present the idea that he wished to emphasize in a special manner: to let it be known that no man is to be esteemed for his possessions; all that he possesses belongs to him only as a loan that the Lord has given him. An incorrect use of these gifts or talents bestowed by God will place him at a level beneath that of the poorest and most afflicted man who loves and trusts in the Lord.

**Christ desires that His listeners understand that it is impossible for man to obtain salvation of the soul *after* death.** “But Abraham said, Son remember that thou in thy lifetime received thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.” Luke 16: 25-26. In this manner, Christ presented how irremediable it would be to attempt to seek a second opportunity for grace. This life is the only opportunity that has been granted to man to prepare for eternity.

The rich man had gone through life in his own complacency, and he realized too late that he had not made provision for eternal life. He understood his foolishness and began to think of his own brothers, those who would follow the same path as he, living only for self gratification. “Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” Luke 16:27-31.

The conversation between Abraham and the rich man is figurative. The lesson we are to learn from this is that each being has been granted sufficient knowledge and understanding to realize or accomplish those obligations which are required. Man’s responsibilities are proportionate to his opportunities and privileges. God grants sufficient light and grace to each so that he can effect the work which has been given him.

Lazarus represents those poor ailing souls who believe in Christ. When the trumpet sounds, and all those who are in the tomb hear the voice of Christ and arise, they will receive their great reward, their faith in Christ is not based on mere theory, but rather, a true reality.

On the other hand, if it were true that Abraham was in heaven, then the Bible would be contradicting itself when it says in Hebrews 11:13-16, 39-40 that Abraham, along with all the other righteous men mentioned here, died, not having received the promise of everlasting life. Instead, they are still waiting in their graves.



The second passage that is poorly interpreted is the following:

## The Thief at the Cross

“And he said unto Jesus, Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:42-43. This scene took place on Friday, when Jesus Christ had already been crucified between the two thieves. According to John 20:11-17, on the first day of the week, in other words, on Sunday morning, Jesus has an encounter with Mary Magdalene, and He tells her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father.” John 20:17. How is this? Jesus had not yet ascended to His father. Did he lie to the thief when he said that on that day, he would be with Him in paradise? Of course not! Let us review the scene that took place in the conversation between Jesus and the thief on that Friday.



If we accept the version of some Bibles, Jesus’ response is: ‘Verily I say unto you **that** today, you will be with me in paradise.’ In these versions, the translators add the preposition **that** and they include a **comma** following the word *today*. Should we understand it in this way, then we can come to the conclusion that Jesus lied to the thief on the cross, because, according to John 20:17, Jesus had not yet ascended to the Father (after the resurrection), telling Mary Magdalene to not touch Him.

He said, “Touch me not for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.” John 20:17. Once again we ask the question, did Jesus lie to the thief? Absolutely not. In fact, the thief, having been inspired by the Spirit of God, understood it in such a way that he told Jesus: **Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom**. He understood that it would not be on that day that he would ascend with Christ to heaven. This is why he said, **when thou comest**. It is very important to understand this.

He said, “Touch me not for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.” John 20:17. Once again we ask the question, did Jesus lie to the thief? Absolutely not. In fact, the thief, having been inspired by the Spirit of God, understood it in such a way that he told Jesus: **Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom**. He understood that it would not be on that day that he would ascend with Christ to heaven. This is why he said, **when thou comest**. It is very important to understand this.

**The correct manner in which to interpret this is:** ‘Verily I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in paradise.’ This, in fact, was a confirmation that yes, the thief would be with Christ in paradise. Dear reader, imagine, what a relief for that man! To hear those words from Jesus Himself telling him, ***thou shalt be with me in paradise***. How many of us would like to hear those same words uttered from the mouth of Jesus Himself as we are at the brink of death? The thief went to the tomb and there he awaits the coming of his Savior, thus fulfilling that promise.

Some say, “no, what appeared to Mary Magdalene was only the spirit of Jesus.” We know this is not true because Jesus himself said the following, in Luke 24:39: “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” He is here affirming that He is not a spirit. And also in verse 41 we see that Jesus requested something to eat. Had He been a spirit, he could not have eaten.

The last misinterpreted passage follows:

## Saul and the Witch of Endor

The word of God tells us that King Saul had already separated himself from Jehovah and being attacked by the Phillistines, and wanting to know the future of his kingdom, he desperately sought the counsel of the prophet Samuel. But there was a problem. Samuel had already died, yet Saul insisted on wanting to communicate with the prophet in order to know what God had to say concerning his kingdom.

We find this fact in 1 Samuel chapter 28. Please open your Bible and begin to read this chapter in order to familiarize yourself with this scene. The first point is found in verse 6: “And when Saul enquired of the Lord, **the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.**” Friends, this is very important, as the word of the Lord tells us here that He did not communicate with Saul, by any method whatsoever made available to the children of God throughout history. **Jehovah did not communicate with Saul.**

He who appeared to Saul that day was not the prophet Samuel, but rather, a phantom, one of Satan’s evil spirit apparitions. Once again, we stress that the word of the Lord tells us that Jehovah did not respond to Saul, and if He did not respond, then the response must have come from one of those demons that come to deceive the kings of the earth; and remember, Saul was a king who had revealed himself to be against God. The apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 11:14 that Satan will transform himself into an angel of light in order to deceive humankind.

But again, let us continue analyzing 1 Samuel chapter 28. We find here that Saul in his state of anxiety and desperation consults with a witch, sorceress or spiritist. Once again, do you believe that God, Jehovah Himself would permit one of his loyal servants (as was the prophet Samuel) to manifest himself to Saul via a witch, if in fact there would be a possible means of communication after death? Today, just as in Biblical times, witchcraft, astrology, sorcery, and any other likeness unto such, *were* and *continue to be* an abomination in the eyes of the Lord. **Deut. 18:10-12.**

Yet Saul, in his spiritual blindness, consults with this pythoness of Endor. Let us review verse 8: “And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, **divine unto me by the familiar spirit**, and bring me *him* up, whom I shall name unto thee.”

Dear reader, note once again that Saul came to this fortuneteller and recognized that she was possessed by a familiar spirit. But once again, remember, from where did this spirit of fortunetelling originate? Who was guiding this woman? Was it the Lord God or Satan? Please keep this in mind.

Noitice this woman’s response in verse 9: “And the woman said unto him, Behold thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?” Up until this moment **the woman was not able to discern that he who stood before her was Saul himself.** Remember, earlier we read how Saul had disguised himself. Had this woman really had a prophetic spirit sent on behalf of God, she would have known the man disguised before her was actually Saul.

But, she was unable to know this until later, when the evil spirit revealed it to her, she was being used as an instrument of Satan.

After they had come to an agreement, verses 11-13 tell us: “Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? For thou art Saul. And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: For what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.”

Note how she used the word gods, but it is emphasized in lowercase letters; what she was referring to was that she had seen spirits. But, what type of spirits were these? God was not guiding this woman according to the Bible, neither was Saul being watched over by God. If these spirits were not of God, where did they originate?



Then as the woman saw these spirits coming from the ground, verse 14 tells us, “And he (Saul) said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.” To whom was Saul showing reverence when he stooped before the supposed Samuel? Please keep in mind that this was a spirit disguised as Samuel himself, as this woman confirmed that what she saw ascending were gods or spirits; Samuel was not a god, but rather a prophet of God while he lived. God would never have permitted this to happen. 1Samuel 15:23.

Let us continue with verse 15, “...And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.” Because of this we know that he who responded to Saul was not, in fact, Samuel, as Saul tells us himself that God would not answer him by prophets.

Then the familiar spirit tells Saul in verse 16, “Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?” Dear reader, please note this – the demon himself disguised as Samuel is telling Saul how God has separated Himself from him. Satan knows when someone has separated himself from God and has turned over to his side.

Now note in verses 18 and 19, this demon disguised as Samuel continues to tell Saul: “Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the Lord, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day. Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the Lord also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.”

Note: Satan disguised as Samuel spoke truth mixed with deceit; in fact, throughout the entire Bible, this has been Satan's method. It is true that the Lord had separated himself from Saul. It is also true that the enemies of God at that time, the Philistines, were going to destroy the army of Israel, or at least Saul. But the lie that he presents here is that he tells him "to morrow shalt thou and they sons be with me", as stated in verse 19.

Please note well what the Bible tells us with regards whether this statement is true that Saul and his sons would be reunited with the supposed Samuel. Let us read Ecclesiastes 9: 5-6: "For the living know that they shall die: **but the dead know not any thing**, neither have they any more a reward; **for the memory of them is forgotten**. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; **neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.**"

These are very deep and profound verses. Notice how the verse says the dead know nothing. Therefore, they are unconscious. And it also tells us how they have nothing to do with what takes place on earth. So then, he who appeared was not the true Samuel, according to the verse that we have just referenced, it tells us that the dead know not anything. Also Saul and his sons were not going to be reunited with him – that was pure deceit. According to Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, we can clearly see that the dead have nothing to do with "any thing that is done under the sun." Therefore, it goes directly against the Bible to believe that it was Samuel that appeared that day to counsel Saul.

Now, however, if we were to read these Biblical verses in a literal form without analyzing them deeply, and we were to believe that, in fact, it was the prophet Samuel who appeared to Saul after being dead, would you not then believe that the word of God would be contradicting itself, especially when we analyze verses such as these? Ecclesiastes 3:19 tells us the following: "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast..." You can also read Ecclesiastes 9:10; Psalms 6:5 and 104:29; Job 14:21 and 34:15.

Dear reader, the Word of God **does not** contradict itself. What took place in 1 Samuel chapter 28, is, in fact, what we have been explaining up until this moment. These were demon spirits taking the form of Samuel, making Saul believe that he was seeing the very same prophet.

Finally, we need to remember that the dead are asleep" until the return of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-17 tells us: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are **asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which **sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are **asleep**. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead** in Christ shall rise first.".... and Samuel was one that died in the faith of Jesus. The Bible tells us that those who have died in Christ are asleep in the grave, awaiting the day that Christ will awaken them from the sleep of death with that final trumpet.



## Let us meditate on these marvelous promises:

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” Revelation 1:18.

“Behold I show you a mystery; We shall not all **sleep**, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, **for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

**Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you while reading the following:**

### THE MYSTERY OF IMMORTALITY

Since the beginning of time, Satan’s main efforts have always been focused on deceiving the human race. He who caused open rebellion in heaven has desired to lead the inhabitants of earth to unite in his conflict against God.

Adam and Eve had lived in complete happiness in the Garden of Eden while they obeyed the law of God. This fact constituted a perfect testimony against the assertions Satan had made while in heaven, as he indicated that the law of God was an instrument of oppression and was contrary to the good of his created beings. Moreover, Satan’s envy was awakened at seeing the absolutely beautiful home God had prepared for the innocent couple. He decided to cause the couple to fall from grace. And, once separated from God and brought under his power and control, Satan would then be able to take possession of the earth, thereby establishing his kingdom in opposition to the Almighty.

Had Satan manifested himself in his true character, he would have been rejected immediately, as Adam and Eve had been warned against the dangerous foe. However, Satan, using his guile, worked in obscurity, concealing his purpose in order to better realize his end.

Validating himself as a serpent, at the time a fascinating creature, he directed himself to Eve saying, “...Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Gen. 3:1).

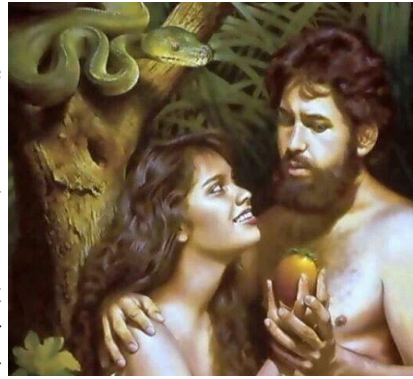
Had Eve refused to enter into a conversation with the tempter, she would have saved herself. Yet she ventured into dialogue with him and fell victim to his trickery. This is exactly how many, even today, are also conquered. They doubt and argue regarding the will of God. And instead of obeying His commandments, they accept human theories which do no more than conceal Satan’s deceitfulness.



“And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the

garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die: And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:2-5.

The serpent declared that they would become like God, that they would have more knowledge and wisdom than before, and that they would be able to enter an even more superior state of being. Eve yielded to the temptation, and because of her influence, Adam was also led to sin. Both accepted the declaration made by the serpent that God really did not mean they would “surely die”. They distrusted their Creator and even believed God was limiting their true potential and free will. They were led to believe they could obtain an abundance of knowledge and a higher elevation by breaking His law.



But, after sinning, how did Adam understand the meaning of “...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17). Did he understand what Satan meant by saying a higher level of existence would then occur? Had Adam really felt this way, he would have come out ahead following his transgression and Satan would have been seen as the great benefactor of the human race. But Adam confirmed that the meaning of the “divine” declaration was not so.

God sentenced man. His punishment would be to return to the dust from whence he came: “.... for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” Genesis 3:19. The words uttered by Satan: “...then your eyes shall be opened” (verse 5), were in fact true, however, in a very different manner: After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their eyes were opened. They could discern the result of their lunacy. They then knew what evil was. They tasted the bitter fruit of their transgression.

The tree of life, the fruit of which held the power to sustain perpetual life, stood in the very center of the garden of Eden. Had Adam remained obedient to God, he would have continued enjoying free access to that tree and would have lived for eternity. But once he sinned, he was no longer privileged to eat of the tree of life and was subject to death. The true divine sentence: “.... for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return...,” condemned man to death.

The immortality promised to man on condition of obedience, had been lost due to transgression. Had it not been for the sacrifice of Jesus, once again bringing immortality within our reach, there would never be any hope for the human race. So death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned ... But by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” Romans 5:12, 2 Timothy 1:10. Only through Christ can we obtain immortality. Jesus said, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life...” (John 3:36).

Every unworthy being can acquire such a valuable gift, should he submit himself to the necessary conditions. “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek

for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.” Romans 2:7.

The only one who promised Adam life through disobedience was the great seducer. And the declaration of the serpent to Eve in the Garden of Eden: “...Ye shall not surely die...” (Genesis 3:4), was the first sermon ever preached concerning immortality of the soul. Yet, this very statement, with its basis only on the authority of Satan, reverberates from the pulpits of Christianity and is received and accepted by the vast majority of human beings with equal promptness and diligence by our very first parents.

The divine sentence: “The soul that sinneth, it shall die...” (Ezekiel 18:30), is rather given the following meaning by man: The soul that sinneth shall not die, but instead, will live forever. One cannot help but find odd the conceit with which men believe the words of Satan yet act incredulously towards the words of God.

Had man, after his fall, been granted free access to the tree of life, he would have lived forever, thereby immortalizing sin. But cherubims with flaming swords “which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life” (Genesis 3:24), were placed at the entrance of the garden of Eden. But no member of Adam’s family was able to cross that dividing line and partake of the fruit of life. Consequently, there is no immortal sinner.

After the fall, Satan ordered his angels to make a special effort to inculcate the belief of immortality to man. And once having been able to lead the human race to accept this error, they could lead humanity to the conclusion that the sinner would live forever in eternal punishment.



Now the prince of darkness, working through his agents represents God as a vengeful tyrant, and declares that He sends all those who displease Him to an eternal hell; that He makes them feel the effects of His wrath for all eternity; and that while they suffer unspeakable torment, their Creator looks upon this and is satisfied.

This is how the Satan charges the Creator and Benefactor of humanity with his own attributes. God is love, and all that He created was pure, holy and kind, until sin was introduced by the first rebel. Satan himself is the enemy – the one who tempts man and later willingly destroys him whenever possible; and when he takes possession of his victim, he rejoices in the ruin he has caused. Had it been permitted, he would have apprehended all of mankind by his net of destruction. Were it not for divine intervention, no son or daughter of Adam would have ever escaped.

Today, Satan is trying to conquer men, just as he conquered our first parents, weakening their trust in the Creator and leading them to doubt the wisdom of His government and the justice of His laws. Satan and his emissaries represent God as a far worse being than themselves, in order to justify their own perverse and rebellious ways.

The great seducer strives to attribute his own cruelty to our Heavenly Father in order to make himself appear harmed by his expulsion from heaven for not having submitted himself to such an unjust sovereign. He presents to the world a freedom to sin that they would enjoy should they chose to live under his scepter, in contrast with the burden imposed by the severe decrees of Jehovah. This is how Satan steals souls away from the submission of God.

How repugnant to any love, mercy or sense or justice is this doctrine that after death the sinner be tormented with fire and brimstone in a hell that rages eternally! That because of the sins of one short earthly lifespan, a person should suffer an eternal torment for so long as God Himself should live! Nevertheless, this doctrine is widely taught and is even incorporated in many of the beliefs found throughout Christianity. Said a learned doctor of divinity: "The sight of hell's torments will exalt the happiness of the saints forever. When they see others who are of the same nature and born under the same circumstances, plunged in such misery, and they so distinguished, it will make them sensible of how happy they are."



Another used these words: "While the decree of reprobation is eternally executing on the vessels of wrath, the smoke of their torment will be eternally ascending in view of the vessels of mercy, who, instead of taking the part of these miserable objects, will say Amen, Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord!"

Where, in the pages of God's word, is such a teaching to be found? Will the redeemed in heaven be lost to all emotions of pity and compassion, and even to feelings of common humanity? Are these to be exchanged for the indifference of the stoic or the cruelty of the savage? No, no; such is not the teaching of the Bible!

Those who present the views expressed in the quotations given above may be learned and even honest men, but they are deluded by the sophistry of Satan. He leads them to misconstrue Scripture, giving to the language bitterness and malignity which pertains to himself, but not to our Creator. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" Ezekiel 33:11.

According to the teachings of these theologians, continued torture without hope of mercy maddens its wretched victims, and as they pour out their rage in curses and blasphemy, they are forever augmenting their load of guilt.

What would be gained by God by witnessing unceasing tortures and the groans and imprecations of the suffering creatures in the flames of Hell? Can these horrid sounds be music in the ear of Infinite Love? Endless misery of the wicked would be ruinous to the peace and order of the universe. Oh, dreadful blasphemy! As if God's hatred of sin is the reason why it is perpetuated.

It is beyond the power of the human mind to estimate the evil which has been wrought by the heresy of eternal torment. The religion of the Bible, full of love and goodness, and abounding compassion, is darkened by this superstition and eclipsed by this terror.



When we consider in what false colors Satan has painted the character of God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded, and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made millions of skeptics and infidels.

At the same time the doctrine is taught that the souls of all men pass directly to heaven at the hour of death. If this were true, then we might well covet death rather than life. Many have been led by this belief to put an end to their existence. When overwhelmed with trouble, perplexity, and disappointment, it seems an easy thing to break the brittle thread of life and soar away into the bliss of the eternal world.

Those who have chosen Satan as their leader and have been controlled by his power are not prepared to enter the presence of God. Pride, deception, licentiousness, and cruelty, have become fixed in their characters. Can they enter heaven to dwell forever with those whom they despised and hated on earth? No! Truth will never be agreeable to a liar; meekness will not satisfy self-esteem and pride; purity is not acceptable to the corrupt; disinterested love does not appear attractive to the selfish. What source of enjoyment could heaven offer to those who are wholly absorbed in earthly and selfish interests? The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice and their exclusion from heaven is just and merciful on the part of God.

In consequence of Adam's sin, death passed upon the whole human race. All alike go down into the grave. And through the provisions of the plan of salvation, all are to be brought forth from their graves. "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust;" (Acts 24:15).



"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:22. But a distinction is made between the two classes that are brought forth. "All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28-29.

Upon the fundamental error of natural immortality rests the doctrine of consciousness in death – a doctrine, like eternal torment, opposed to the teachings of the Scriptures, to the dictates of reason, and to our feelings of humanity. According to the popular belief, the redeemed in heaven are acquainted with all that takes place on the earth and especially with the lives of friends whom they have left behind. But how could it be a source of happiness to the dead to know the troubles of the living and to witness the sins committed by their own loved ones, and to see them enduring all the sorrows, disappointments, and anguish of life?

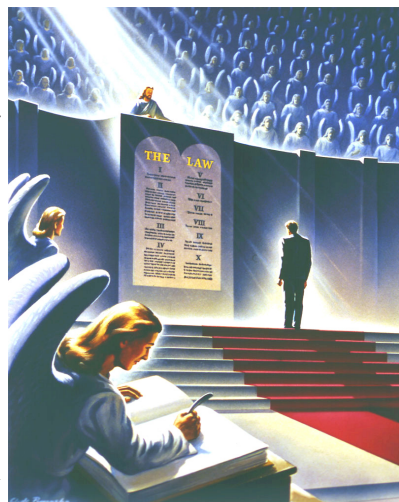
How much of heaven's bliss would be enjoyed by those who were hovering over their friends on earth? And how utterly revolting is the belief that as soon as the breath leaves the body the soul of the impenitent is consigned to the flames of hell!

To what depths of anguish must those be plunged who see their friends passing to the grave unprepared, to enter upon an eternity of woe and sin! Many have been driven to insanity by this harrowing thought.

What say the Scriptures concerning these things? David declares that man is not conscious in death. "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." Psalm 146:4. Solomon bears the same testimony: "The living know that they shall die; but the dead know not anything." "Their love and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." "There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecc. 9:5, 6, 10.

Before any can enter the mansions of the blessed, their lives must be investigated, and their characters and their deeds must pass in review before God. All are to be judged according to the things written in the books and to be rewarded as their works have been. This judgment does not take place at death.

Mark the words of Paul: "He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead." Acts 17:31. Here the apostle plainly states that a specified time in the future, has been fixed for the judgment of the world.



Jude refers to the same period: "The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." And, again, he quotes the words of Enoch: "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all." Jude 6, 14, 15.

John declares that he "saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: ... and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books." Revelation 20:12. If the dead are already enjoying the blessing of heaven or burning in the flames of hell, why is there a coming judgment? The teachings of God's word on these important points are neither obscure nor contradictory; they may be understood by common minds.

What candid mind can see wisdom or justice in the current theory? Will the righteous, after the investigation of their cases at the judgment, receive the commendation, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: ...enter thou into the joy of the Lord," when they have already been dwelling in His presence, perhaps for centuries? Are the wicked summoned from the place of torment to receive sentence from the Judge of all the earth: "Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire"? (Matthew 25:21, 41). Oh, solemn mockery! Shameful impeachment of the wisdom and justice of God!

Nowhere in the Sacred Scriptures is found the statement that the righteous go to their reward or the wicked to their punishment at death. The patriarchs and prophets

have left no assurance of this. Christ and His apostles have given no hint of it. The Bible clearly teaches that the dead do not go immediately to heaven. They are represented as sleeping until the resurrection. 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Job 14:10-12.

In the very day when the silver cord is loosed and the golden bowl broken, man's thoughts perish. Ecclesiastes 12:6. They that go down to the grave are in silence. They know no more of anything that is done under the sun. Job 14:21. What blessed rest for the weary righteous! Time, be it long or short, is but a moment for them. They sleep; they are awakened by the trump of God to a glorious immortality. "For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible ... So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory," (1 Corinthians 15:52-54).

As they are called forth from their deep slumber they begin to think just where they ceased. Their last sensation was the pang of death; the last thought, that they were falling beneath the power of the grave. When they arise from the tomb, their first glad thought will be echoed in the triumphal shout: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).



The doctrine of man's consciousness in death, especially the belief that the spirits of the dead can return to communicate to the living, has prepared the way for modern spiritualism. If the dead are admitted to the presence of God and holy angels, and privileged with knowledge far exceeding what they before possessed, why should they not return to the earth to enlighten and instruct the living?

If, as taught by popular theologians, the spirits of the dead are hovering about their friends on earth, why should they not be permitted to communicate with them, to warn them against evil, or to comfort them in sorrow? In reality, the fallen angels who do Satan's bidding appear as messengers from the spirit world. While professing to bring the living into communication with the dead, the prince of evil exercises his bewitching influence upon their minds.

Satan has the power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven, and without suspicion of danger, they give ear "to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." When they have been led to believe that the dead actually return to communicate with them, Satan causes those to appear who went into the grave unprepared. They claim to be happy in heaven and even to occupy exalted positions there, and thus the error is widely taught that no difference is made between the righteous and the wicked.

The pretended visitants from the world of spirits, sometimes utter cautions and warnings which prove to be correct. Then, as confidence is gained, they present doctrines that directly undermine faith in the Scriptures. With an appearance of deep

interest in the well-being of their friends on earth, they insinuate the most dangerous errors. The fact that they state some truths, and are able at times to foretell future events, gives to their statements an appearance of reliability; their false teachings are accepted by the multitudes as readily, and believed as implicitly, as if they were the most sacred truths of the Bible. The law of God is set aside and the Spirit of grace despised. The blood of the covenant is counted an unholy thing and the spirits deny the deity of Christ and place even the Creator on a level with themselves. Thus under a new disguise the great rebel still carries on his warfare against God - begun in heaven and for nearly six thousand years continued upon the earth.



These persons overlook the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the wonders wrought by Satan and his agents. It was by satanic aid that Pharaoh's magicians were enabled to counterfeit the work of God. Paul testifies that before the second advent of Christ there will be similar manifestations of satanic power. The coming of the Lord is to be preceded by "the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." 2 Thessal. 2: 9, 10.

And the apostle John, describing the miracle-working power that will be manifested in the last days, declares: "He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceived them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do." Revelation 13: 13,14. No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.

That mighty being who could take the world's Redeemer to an exceedingly high mountain and bring before Him all the kingdoms of the earth and the glory of them, will present his temptations to men in a manner to pervert the senses of all who are not shielded by divine power. To the self-indulgent, the pleasure-loving, the sensual, spiritualism presents itself under a less subtle disguise than to the more refined and intellectual.

In its grossest forms, they find that which is in harmony with their inclinations. Satan studies every indication of the frailty of human nature, he marks the sins which each individual is inclined to commit, and then he takes care that opportunities shall not be wanting to gratify the tendency to evil. He tempts men to excess in that which is in itself lawful, causing them, through intemperance, to weaken physical, mental and moral power. He has destroyed and is destroying thousands through the indulgence of passions, thus brutalizing the entire nature of man.

Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our



tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions. We must be prepared to withstand them with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils.

All who indulge sinful traits of character, or **willfully cherish a known sin**, are inviting the temptations of Satan. They separate themselves from God and from the watch care of His angels. As the evil one presents his deceptions, they are without defense and fall an easy prey. Those who thus place themselves in his power little realize where their course will end. Having achieved their overthrow, the tempter will employ them as his agents to lure others to ruin.

Just before us is “the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Revelation 3:10. All whose faith is not firmly established upon the word of God will be deceived and overcome. Satan “works with all deceivableness of unrighteousness” to gain control of the children of men, and his deceptions will continually increase. But he can gain his object only as men voluntarily yield to his temptations.

Those who earnestly are seeking a knowledge of the truth and are striving to purify their souls through obedience, thus doing what they can to prepare for the conflict, will find, in the God of truth, a sure defense. “Because thou has kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee (verse 10), is the Saviour’s promise. He would sooner send every angel out of heaven to protect His people than leave one soul that trusts in Him to be overcome by Satan.

Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. The foundation of his work was laid by the assurance given to Eve in Eden: **“Ye shall not surely die,” “In the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”** Genesis 3:4,5. Don’t be deceived.

**Note:**

**Excerpts from the book, The Great Controversy, are included in the section covering the Mystery of Immortality.**

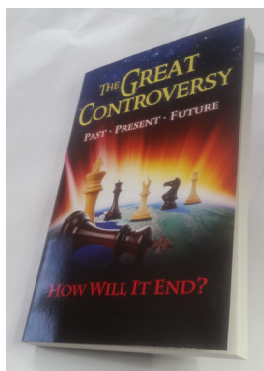


Dear Reader, if you have enjoyed this Bible study and have felt the influence of the Spirit of God reaffirming this truth, you are prepared to read the following :

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- The United States in Prophecy
- The Origin of Evil
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All these themes together with 37 others can be found in **one book** entitled *America in Prophecy*”

**Note:** In order to better understand each chapter, we suggest you read this book in order, from the beginning.



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“And he shall think to change times and laws {God Laws}”  
Daniel 7:25 “And he shall magnify himself...” Daniel 8:25

Written by: Lawrence Nelson, a retired evangelist and pastor who worked at the General Conference of Seventh day Adventist.

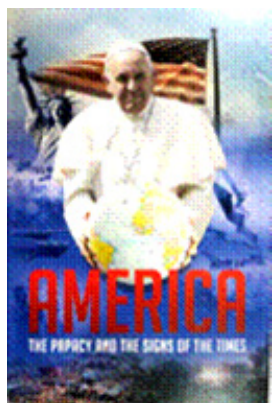
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*God bless you all !*

# The Secret Rapture

## Is this a Biblical doctrine or a human invention?

God gives us this warning as He does not want anyone to perish, but rather that all will proceed to repentance, before the wrath of God is poured over the Earth. Just as in the days of Noah, and in the days of Lot, God has always given sinners a warning prior to His judgments falling on the Earth. It is for this reason that Satan desires to introduce false doctrines within the churches, with the purpose of deceiving millions, in order for them to lose salvation.



Could it be that Jesus Christ will come in a secret or invisible manner to take you (as part of the church), so that you will not have to pass through the **GREAT TRIBULATION?**

**Please study in clear and simple terms this subject that is sadly causing millions to fall into the snares of Satan.**

If you are one of those who insist on basing your beliefs on those found exclusively in the doctrines outlined in the Holy Scriptures.....  
**YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN BE FOOLED!**



Those who teach the false doctrine of the secret rapture frequently take their texts from those found in Matt. 24:40-41 and in Luke 17:34-36 in order to establish that there will be a group of people that will be taken away mysteriously and another that will be left on earth during the seven years of the Great Tribulation. Let us allow the Bible, and **ONLY** the Bible, to be the source to clarify these texts once and for all, so that we can present the correct interpretation. Let us remember the words of Christ: “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32.

## “The Secret Rapture”

**Definition:** The so-called “secret rapture of the church” is the second greatest error regarding the advent of Christ. This is one that is narrowly equated with the full restoration of the land of Palestine to the Jews. Those who have this belief, think that the Second Advent of Christ will take place in two phases.

**The first phase** is known as the “secret rapture” of the church, the one that could take place at any moment. For that time, Christ would come partially to the Earth to resurrect the saints that sleep and transform them and glorify them along with those believers that still live. Both are then taken, that is, carried away secretly all of a sudden in an invisible form, and



joined with the Lord who is descending in the sky. This body of believers referred to as a “church”, will then ascend to heaven to celebrate with Christ the feast known as the Wedding of the Lamb for a period of seven years.

According to this doctrine, the secret rapture of the church to heaven will cause the start of the so-called, “**Great Tribulation**”, which will last seven years, a period in which a great list of events will take place on the earth, culminating with the **second phase** of the Coming of Christ, generally referred to as “the Return or the Revelation.” Then, Christ, in all His Glory and together with the saints, will return to Earth to destroy His enemies in the Battle of Armageddon, and establish His throne in Jerusalem, there beginnings His reign of 1,000 years.

**A careful study of the Biblical texts referring to the Return of Christ give evidence against the popular erroneous two phases leading to The Second Coming.**

The first reason to reject this false doctrine of the secret rapture of the church before the great tribulation is the fact that there is no text anywhere in the New Testament of this invisible and instant secret rapture taking place. The most noted description



of the Second Coming, quoted in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 reveals the complete opposite when it tells us “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be **‘caught up’** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...”

This ‘shouting voice’, or ‘call’, the ‘trumpet’ and the great reunion of the living and the resurrected saints, could never suggest an event that is **secret, invisible or instant**, but rather, quite the contrary. This is the text which most suggests joy and uproar at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ. The references “with a great sound of a trumpet” found in Matthew 24:31 where “He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”, and in 1 Corinthians 15:52, corroborates the visible and public nature the Second Coming of Christ. No trace of a **secret rapture** is found in these passages.

• **Christ told us how He would come in order to protect us from any deception.**

“Then if any man say unto you, Lo here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.” Matthew 24:23-26.

• **His angels will accompany Him at the Second Coming.**

“For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then he shall reward every man according to His works.” Matthew 16:27.

• **Every eye shall behold Him: (The entire world! Not just a few in any secret rapture).**

“Behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.” Revelations 1:7.

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30.



**In the epistle of Paul, there is no Rapture prior to the Tribulation**

The belief in a rapture prior the tribulation contradicts Paul's admonition found in 2 Thessalonians Chapter 1:7-8. Here the apostle promises that the church will have rest from being “troubled” at the time when the Lord Jesus shall come “in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God.”

**In other words, believers will experience deliverance from the sufferings of the current time, not through a secret rapture prior to the tribulation, but rather at the revelation of Christ at His 2nd Coming, following the tribulation.**

It is also important to mention Daniel 12:1 and 13 where the prophet writes the following: “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” And Daniel is told in verse 13, “But go thou thy way till the end *be*: for thou shalt rest, **and stand in thy lot at the end of days.**”

We are told in these verses that the people of God will pass through a time of tribulation “such as there never was.” And those who rest, among them being Daniel will rise again at the end of those days, not before.

## **There is no Rapture prior to the Tribulation According to Revelation**

More than any other book of the New Testament, the book of Revelation mentions in great detail the events associated with the great tribulation, such as the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the apparition of the beast that inflicts a terrible persecution on the saints of God, and the pouring out of the seven last plagues (Revelation 8-16). Although the Apostle John describes the event of the tribulation in great detail, he never mentions a secret coming of Christ prior to the tribulation, in order to take His church away.

John instructs the churches regarding the last day events; he is told specifically of an innumerable multitude of believers that would pass through the great tribulation: “These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Revelation 7:14.

The pre-tribulationists argue that these believers are only of the Jewish faith. However, Revelation 14:1-4 shows us that the 144,000 “were redeemed from among men.” The Apostle John does not tell us here that they are only Jews, as do those who believe in the secret rapture. Besides, Christian are the “true Jews” now in the Christian NT period. Gal. 3:29; James 1:1; Romans 2:28,29.

This reasoning is discredited due to the fact that in no part of the book of Revelation does the Apostle John, when referring to the tribulation of the saints, differentiate between Jews and Gentiles. John explicitly declares that the victorious believers which pass through the tribulation come from “all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues.” Revelation 7:9.

Let us analyze the following verses:

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.” Romans 2:28, 29.

“...For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: that is, they which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” Romans 9:6-8.

## The Church will not be Excluded from the Great Tribulation

One more reason to reject this belief of a secret rapture of the church prior to the tribulation is the fact that such a belief is not supported by the Biblical passages which refer to the tribulation. For example, in His sermon on the Mount of Olives, Jesus speaks of the “great tribulation” which immediately precedes His second coming found in Matthew 24:19-22, 29:

- “And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in **those days!**” (verse 19)
- “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day; for then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” (verse 20)
- “**And except those days** should be shortened there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” (verse 22)
- “Immediately after the **tribulation of those days** shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” (verse 29)

Also please note the similarity of the description of the rapture of the church that Christ mentions, in the sequence of the verses in Matt. 24:30-31 and as Paul declares in 1 Thess. 4:16-17. These verses reveal the descent of the Lord, the sounding of the trumpet, being accompanied by the angels and the reunion of the people of God. Such similarities suggest that both passages are describing **the same event**. Even in Matthew, the taking away of the church is explicitly placed “after the tribulation” (Matt. 24:29), when they will see Christ come “with power and great glory” (verses 29-30).

The parallelism that exists between these two verses clearly indicates the taking away of the church does not precede, but **follows the Great Tribulation**.

**Let us study the following verses in Revelation 7:9-10, 13-17.**

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **these are they which came out of great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

### Protection in the midst of the Tribulation

Christ never promised to deliver His church out of this world prior to a period before a tribulation. Instead of this, He promised His **protection in the midst of the same**. In His petition to His Father He said: “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.” John 17:15.

In a similar manner to the church of Philadelphia Christ promises: “Because thou has kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Rev. 3:10.

**[If the church was going to be absent from the earth during this time of trial, there would be no need for divine protection.]**

## **The Church suffers Tribulation but not Divine Wrath**

In Revelation 22:16, Jesus claims to have sent His angel to John, “to testify unto you these things in the churches.” It is difficult to understand how the messages given by the angel to John would be a testimony for the churches, if the church would not have been directly involved with the majority of the events described in the rest of the book. Revelation 4-19.

The fact of the matter is that the Church of Revelation will suffer persecution by the satanic powers during the final tribulation, but, she will not suffer divine wrath. Divine wrath, represented by the last seven apocalyptic plagues, is not poured indiscriminately on all, but rather, especially on those that “have the mark of the beast and worship his image.” Revelation 16:2 last part, and 14:9-10.

Just as ancient Israel was able to enjoy the protection of God during the last ten plagues (Exodus 11:7), so will the people of God be protected when divine wrath will fall on the wicked. This protection is represented in Revelation by an angel who seals the servants of God in their foreheads (Rev. 7:3), enabling them to be passed over when the wrath of God shall be poured out upon “those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.” Revelation 9:4.

## **What represents the Wrath of God?**

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the **seven last plagues**; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.” Revelation 15:1. “And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways and pour out the **vials of the wrath of God** upon the earth.” Rev. 16:1.

Let it then be established that the wrath of God is the seven last plagues which will fall on the earth over all those who are disobedient, over all those that reject the message of warning in Revelation 14:6-12.

## **Other Arguments**

- The promoters of the secret rapture, which teach that Christ will take away his church in a secret and mysterious way, often use the following biblical verse: ***“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...”*** 2 Peter 3:10 [These people pause here, in the first part].

However, we keep reading in the same verse: ***“...in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”*** [second part].

Dear reader, this verse **does not describe a secret or quiet, mysterious event!** Let us observe the condition of the earth after Christ returns as a thief in 1 Thessalonians 4:16: “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”



- The following verses are also misinterpreted: “I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; **the one shall be taken**, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; **the one shall be taken**, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; **the one shall be taken**, and the other left..” Luke 17: 34-36. But please read verse 30 of the same book. This verse gives us the understanding of these texts. Verse 30 states that these verses are going to be fulfilled at the 2nd Coming of Christ, and not during a previous “secret rapture.” Vs. 37 tells us that the bodies of the wicked are taken to the fowls of the air. This will all become more clear:

## What does it mean that Christ will come as a Thief in the Night?

The Gospel according to Matthew sheds sufficient light on this question:

- But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, And knew not until **the flood came, and took them all away**; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Matt. 24:37-39.

- Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. Matt. 24:42-44

Did the antediluvians know when the flood would come? NO! Even when Noah and his family entered the ark, an additional seven days passed before one drop of rain fell from the heavens (see Genesis 7:4-10). When the Bible says that Christ will come as a thief in the night, it is referring to the fact He will come unexpectedly to those who are not prepared; to those who are not keeping watch (see Matthew 24:44). The same occurred with the antediluvians, those who were not prepared and destroyed.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4 we read as follows: “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, **brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.**”

The above texts do not indicate that Christ will come in some secret form. Quite the contrary, destruction comes as a consequence of His return. Is the destruction in a silent manner? When we say that the day of His return could come upon us unexpectedly as a thief, we are emphasizing that we may not be prepared when that moment arrives, and as a result, we lose our salvation.

In Revelation 3:2-3 we read as follows: “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, **and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**”

In these verses, a call is made to us to repent and watch. If we do not take these two very important steps in our spiritual lives, we will become careless and jeopardize our salvation. Christ will surely come as a thief to those who neglect their spiritual preparation (see Revelation 16:15).

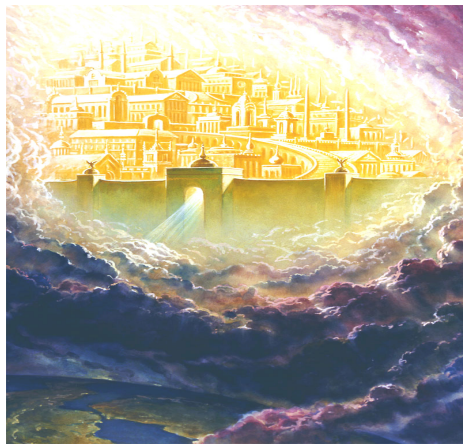
# The New Jerusalem and the End of the Conflict

Two thousand years ago, Christ's followers believed He would establish a kingdom here on earth. The believers of this pre-tribulation idea are making the same mistake in thinking the wicked will remain on the earth for a period of seven years [so that they may have a second opportunity at salvation], when the saints will go to heaven together with the resurrected saints during the secret rapture. But the truth is that not one human being will remain alive on earth once the thousand year period commences. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 tells us **the saints will "meet the Lord in the air."** It does not tell us we will return immediately to the earth.

The saints will remain in the New Jerusalem for a thousand year period and then descend to the earth with the city at the end. (Revelation 21:2). During that thousand years the saints will determine the judgment upon the wicked angels and men. Psalm 149; 2 Corinthians 4:5. New Jerusalem is a gigantic city. It is square and it has a circumference of 1,500 miles. Each side is 375 miles in length. And, the great city covers an area of 140,645 square miles. The promoters of the pre-tribulation doctrine insist that the saints need to be here on earth in order to govern together with Christ during the thousand year period. But as we have already read, when Christ returns, the wicked will be destroyed by the "brightness of His coming..." (2 Thessalonians 2:8). See also Jeremiah 25:33.

## **At the end of the thousand years, the saints and the New Jerusalem descend from heaven**

"And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God..."  
Rev. 21: 2, 10-11.



## **Satan will make his final attack against the New Jerusalem before finally being destroyed.**

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:7-10, 14-15. The fire will destroy the wicked, both root and branch, leaving only ashes. Malachi 4:1-3.

## **The earth is purified by the same fire that destroy the wicked**

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:10-13.

## **This earth, where death and pain are no longer, will become the eternal dwelling of the saints**

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21: 1.4.



“And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain... The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock...” (Isaiah 65: 21-23, 25).

## **Conclusion**

In light of the aforementioned reasons, we conclude that the popular teachings of the secret coming of Christ, in order to whisk away his church prior to the great final tribulation, are erroneous regarding the second advent and void of any biblical support. The Bible speaks of the Second Coming of Christ as one singular event—not broken up into separate and successive events.

**Dear Friend, the Bible is not mistaken. Those who are deceived twist the scriptures for their own destruction [see 2 Peter 3:16]. We need to realize and accept the truth and end our spiritual blindness because Christ, at His Second Coming, will indeed return and destroy all those who did not accept His gospel.**

**!! LET US PREPARE FOR THE ENCOUNTER WITH OUR LORD !!  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU!**

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# **The Secret RAPTURE**

**Pg. 23**



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