

Hope Trending

[7] The Empty Chair—No More Fear of Death

- David Bowie and the Serpent—“You will not certainly die” (Genesis 3:1-4).
- John 11—the resurrection of Lazarus
 - John 11:14—“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. . . . Lazarus is dead.”
 - For the Creator and Giver of Life, death is a sleep.
 - John 11:25—“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he dies, yet shall he live.”
 - Death is a sleep from which we can be awakened.
- Genesis 2:7—the Creator’s two ingredients to make a “living soul” (Dust + Breath of Life = Living Soul)
- Is the soul immortal?
 - 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16—“. . . only God is immortal.”
 - Ezekiel 18:20—“The soul that sins shall die.”
 - 1700 references in the Bible to “soul” or “spirit” and not once is the adjective “immortal” ever attached to these words.
- Then what happens at death?
 - The body returns to dust and the breath/spirit/wind (Hebrew *ruach*) returns to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)
 - See Job 27:3—“. . . the spirit/breath of God is in my nostrils” (i.e., “spirit” and “breath” are synonymous and are not an immortal conscious entity).
- That is why there is a resurrection!
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
 - See also 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
- 1 John 5:12—“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

HOPE

Questions:

___Why is it most humans are afraid of death?

___How can Jesus' teaching that death is a sleep put our fear of death to sleep?

___Why would God promise a resurrection if we went to heaven when we died?

___How can Jesus' declaration, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," make a difference in how we live today?