

# Facts From The Scriptures Concerning Death

## II. WHAT IS DEATH?

1. Death is a return (Gen.3:17:19).

“Dust thou art, and unto  
dust shalt thou return.”

Psa.146:2-4

Eccl.3:19,20

Job 34:14,15

Eccl.12:1-7

Death is a return of the person, of the  
body, and of the Spirit.

2. Death is the opposite at life, or the absence of life,  
not life in some other form or place.

2 Kings 20:1 “thou shalt die and not live”

Rev.20:4-6 “the dead live not live until”

Num.4:19 “that they may live, and not die”

3. Death is a sleep.

Psalm 13:3 “lest I sleep the sleep of death”

1 Th.4:13-18 “concerning them that are asleep”

Daniel 12:2 “them that sleep in the dust”

Both the righteous and the unrighteous are said  
to be asleep when they are dead.

4. Death is an enemy.

1 Cor.15:26 “the last enemy abolished is death”

## II. WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

1. They are all in one place (Eccl.3:19,20).

Psa. 22:15

Job 7:23

Gen.3:19 compare Gen.2:7

2. Their place is one of silence and repose.

Job 3:11-22           Psa.115:17  
Psa.88:10-12        Eccl.9:10

3. They are not with Christ in heaven.

John 3:13            Acts 2:34

The statement that David ascended not into the heavens is made after the resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The only way believers get to be with the Lord is by His coming for them. See 1 Thess.4:16,17. "so shall we ever be with the Lord." Also John 14:3, "I will come again and receive you unto Myself that where I am, there you may be also." Death is never said to take one to be with the Lord.

4. The dead are in their graves.

John 5:28,29    "all who are in their graves"  
Dan.12:2        "them that sleep in the dust"  
Isa.26:19        "ye that dwell in the dust"

In the word of God the dead are always said to be where their bodies are.

### III WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE DEAD?

1. They sleep and rest.

1 Thes.4:13-18      1 Cor.15:51-57  
Acts 7:60   compare Acts 8:2  
John 11:11 compare John 11:14  
1 Cor.13:3-20      Dan.12:2

The Scriptures never speak of the sleep of the soul, nor of the sleep of the body. They always speak of the sleep of the person with reference to death. The sleep of death obliterates the interval between this life and the next. In so far as consciousness is concerned.

2. They praise not the Lord nor exercise mental powers.

Psa. 6:5            Psa.115:17      Psa.88:10-12  
Eccl.9:4-6        Psa.146:4      Isa.38:18,19

3. They do not live until resurrection.

Rev.20:4-8

1 Cor.15:12-21

#### IV. WHAT COMFORTING ASSURANCE DOES GOD GIVE CONCERNING THE DEAD?

1. That they will all be resurrected.

John 5:28-29

Rev.20:11-15

2. That they will all ultimately receive fulness of life through the saving work of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor.15:23-28

1 Tim.2:4-6

Rom.5:18,19

1 Tim.4:9-11

#### WHAT ABOUT THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL?

The Scriptures never speak of the ‘immortality of the soul.’ On the contrary here are many places where the soul is said to die. See Isa.53:12; Ezek.18:4,20; Psa.78:50; 116:1-8; Matt.26:38; etc.

The word “immortality” occurs altogether only three times in the original Scriptures:

1 Tim.6:13-16 “Christ only hath immortality”

1 Cor.15:53 “this mortal must put on immortality”

1 Cor.15:54 “this mortal shall have put on immortality”

Believers receive immortality when, not before, Jesus Christ returns. Faith in Christ as Saviour does not swallow up death in victory. Even believers are said to be dead (1 Thess.4:16, “the dead in Christ”; 1 Cor.15:51,52; John 11:25). For believers, death is swallowed up in victory when Jesus Christ returns and raises the dead and transforms the living. See 1 Cor.15:54-57.

The teaching that man is inherently immortal robs Jesus Christ of glory that belongs to Him for it is only through Him and His saving work that man receives immortality.

“Death of the body” and “resurrection of the body” are expressions not to be found in the Scriptures. Death is of the person. Resurrection is of the person. In the Scrip-

tures the *person* is said to die. See Deut.10:6; Josh.1:2; 24:33; 1 Sam.4:17-19; Rom.5:6; etc.

### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SOUL AND THE SPIRIT

The Scriptures distinguish clearly between the spirit and the soul. The spirit and the breath are closely related as may be seen in the expression "the breath of the spirit of life" (Gen.7:22, Revised Version or marginal readings in other Bibles; 2 Sam.22:16; Psalms.18:15; Isa.42:5). The spirit is that invisible life force from God which when united with the body produces the consciousness, the sensation, the ego. The soul<sup>1</sup> is the consciousness, the sensation, the ego (Isa.29:8; Gen.42:21; Deut.12:15-23; Job 10:1; 21:25; Psalms.43:5; 107:18; etc.). The soul of the flesh is said to be in the blood (Lev.17:11; Gen.9:4; etc.). The word translated *life* in these passages is the Hebrew for soul, *nephesh*.

An electric light serves as a good illustration of the difference between the body, the soul, and the spirit. Let the bulb and its filament, which is made from elements out of the earth, represent the body. Let the electricity, an invisible force, represent the spirit. Let the light and heat produced by the union of the electricity with the bulb, represent the soul. When the connection is broken the light goes out. Out where? To the unseen or unperceived.

When God created man He formed him out of the dust of the ground. He then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and as a result man *became* a living soul (Gen.2:7).

Death is a reversal of what happened in the creation.

---

1. The Hebrew word for soul, *nephesh* is translated in more than thirty different ways in the Authorized Version. Some examples are as follows: any, appetite, beast, life, lust, man, mind, mortally, pleasure, will, thing, self, etc. A booklet entitles "What is the Soul?" which contains all the references of those translations may be had from the Concordant Publishing Concern.

At death, the spirit (not the consciousness, but the force from God which when united with the body produces it) returns to God from whence it came. The soul (the sensation, the consciousness, the ego) dies. The body returns to the dust and the person is dead until *resurrection*.

The spirit, the soul, and the person go to different places at death. The spirit returns to God (Eccl.12:7). The soul goes to Hades (Acts 2:27). The person is said to be in the grave (John 5:28). When our Lord Jesus Christ died His spirit went to God (Luke 23:46); His soul went to Hades<sup>2</sup> (Acts 2:22-32); He, Himself, is said to have been in the tomb during the days He was dead (1 Cor.15:3,4; Mat.12:40).

Failure to understand and believe what the Scriptures teach concerning death lays a firm foundation for spiritism. If the dead are alive somewhere, communication with them is within the realm of the possible. If they are actually dead, communication with them is an impossibility.

Failure to grasp the truth concerning death strikes at the very heart of the gospel. Whatever the wages of sin is, Jesus Christ endured it to the full, in order to become man's Saviour. If the wages of sin is eternal punishment, Jesus Christ could not be the Saviour of anyone, for He did not endure that. If the wages of sin is annihilation, He could not be the Saviour of anyone, for He did not endure that. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom.6:23). "Christ died for our sins, was buried and was raised the third day" (1 Cor.15:1-5).

Failure to recognize the facts concerning death makes resurrection unimportant. If the dead are alive enjoying

---

2. Hades and Sheol are different words for the same place. Hades is the Greek word used in the New Testament and Sheol is the Hebrew word used in the Old Testament. Compare Psalm 16:10, Revised Version with Acts 2:27, R.V. There is a close connection between the *grave* and *sheol* or *hades*. Hades means the unseen or the unperceived. The spirit is never associated with *hades* in the Scriptures. It is the soul that goes to *hades*.

the bliss of a better life without a body, what real need is there for a resurrection? When the fact that the dead are really dead is understood, resurrection becomes all important. "If there is no resurrection, let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die" (1 Cor.15:32). The only scriptural hope for the dead is resurrection, apart from which there is no further life for them. "The dead live not until (resurrection)." See Rev.20:4-12 and compare John 5:28,29. Two resurrections separated by a thousand years are referred to in these passages.

Wrong views concerning death result in wrong views concerning the future punishment of the wicked. The combined result of this is a teaching that slanders God and dishonors the Lord Jesus Christ.

There will be wrath and punishment for the wicked but it will fit the crimes and will accomplish a good purpose (John 5:22,23). God is going to be *All in all* in due time (1 Cor.15:28). This is brought about by and through the saving work of Jesus Christ, Who is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). There is no life during death but through Him all will ultimately receive fulness of life, or immortality. In this manner death, all death, the first and the second, will be abolished from God's universe (1 Cor. 15:22-28). When all have been Justified (Rom.5:18,19), Reconciled to God (Col.1:20), and Subjected to the Son (1 Cor.15:27,28; Phil.2:9-11; Eph.1:9,10), then the Son will deliver up a perfected universe to the Father and God will be *All in all*. Nothing short of being the Saviour of all men will satisfy Him (1 Tim.4:9-11; 1 Tim.2:3-6).

J. E. K. & G. L. R.

We also publish a book by Joseph E. Kirk entitled: Death Resurrection Immortality. It is 110 pages and sells for \$8.00.

If you wish to purchase it you may do so by going to [concordant.org](http://concordant.org), or you may write us.

The introduction of the book states:

The aim of this work is to set forth as accurately as possible what God has revealed in the Scriptures on *death*, *resurrection* and *immortality*, and on related subjects of *soul* and *spirit*. Since the Scriptures were originally given primarily in the Hebrew and Greek languages, an accurate translation is the first requirement if one is to learn the truth.

A number of good translations have been compared and used in this work. Some of these are: Young's Literal Translation of the Bible by Robert Young, LLD; The Emphasized Bible by Joseph Bryant Rotherham; The American Standard Version (1901 edition) and The Concordant Version.

In this work the words *soul* and *spirit* are never used synonymously or interchangeably, but are always kept distinct and different as in the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures.

It will be clearly seen that there is no difference between the teaching of the Old Testament and that of the New Testament on the subjects of soul, spirit and death. By *spirit* we do not mean the Holy Spirit but *spirit* as in the expression "The breath of the spirit of life" (Gen.7:22).

There is no word for *resurrection* in the Hebrew Old Testament though the fact that the dead are to be raised is clearly taught (Dan.12:1,2; Isa.26:19; Ezek.37:11-14). Much additional light concerning resurrection is revealed in the New Testament.

In the Old Testament nothing is revealed concerning *immortality*, and in the New Testament the Greek word for *immortality* is used only three times (1 Tim.6:16; 1 Cor. 15:53,54).

**Concordant Publishing Concern**  
**Post Office Box 449, Almont, MI 48003, U.S.A.**  
**[www.concordant.org](http://www.concordant.org)**