

Can the Dead Speak?



How many of you dare to go to a cemetery at midnight? But a cemetery is probably the safest place on earth. We have been told it is a spooky place, but really it is not. People say that ghosts come out at night from the cemetery. Some people have actually seen something, but what were they? What did they see? Were they their long time ancestors coming to them?

What we want to talk about now is “Can the Dead Speak?” What does the Bible say?

Our previous lesson talked about the very last deception, and that last deception is about Jesus. It was about the way He would come, and we learned that His coming would not be secret, but public and open. The very first deception was about man. The last deception will be about Christ. Who will be the deceiver? What does the Bible say? It calls him the old serpent, the deceiver. He came in the beginning of this world and he spoke these deceptive words to Eve.

Genesis 3:4 “*And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”* he told her she would not die. Is there a word for not dying? It is called immortal. Satan says it does not matter what you do. You can do whatever you want Eve, you are an immortal being. You will not surely die. God has fooled you. He said you would die but you will not die. And we’re hearing that same old deception today. Nothing has been changed my friends. The devil is still speaking to us today saying we will not die. Who only is immortal? Our God in heaven is only immortal.

1 Timothy 6:15 *Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”*

The Bible tells me only God has immortality. So when Satan says you shall not die he is suggesting that you are a god, but only a good god when you know the knowledge of good and evil. Then you become high as God. Who only has immortality? God. Then who is mortal? Let the Bible speak.

Job 4:17 “*Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?”* So

the Bible makes it clear that only God is immortal and man is mortal, meaning he is subject to death. When you die you are told your spirit continues to live, so are you dying? Did you die?

When Jesus died, how hard was it for Him if death is only transferring from living in the body to living in the spirit? So suicide is a freedom from living in the body and living in the spirit. What does the Bible say about body and soul? Some believe that the soul cannot die, they believe in immortality of the soul. But when you receive Jesus, only then do you receive immortality of the soul. But before then the soul can die. Look from the Bible.

Ezekiel 18:20 *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”* The Bible makes it clear that a soul can die, it does not continue to live, it can die. Let’s hear from the words of Jesus, if the soul can be killed.

Matthew 10:28 *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* So from the words of Jesus a soul can be killed and can die and will have its end.

So how do we understand the subjects of body, spirit and soul? What is life and what is death?

We must go to the beginning, and see how man was created. What formula did God use to make man?

Genesis 2:7 *“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.”* Adam’s body was made out of the dust, which means all of his organs, everything about his body was made out of the dust, and you can see that body lying on the ground. Is there life? No it is only a body made out of the dust. Would you call that a soul? No you would call that a body. So then what did God do? He breathed into his nostrils the breath of God. What is another word for the breath of God?

Job 27:3 *“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;”* Another word for breath of God is the spirit of God. So breath of God is equal to the spirit of God. So when God breathed into the nostrils of Adam, the breath of God or the spirit, it was the spirit that sparked the actual life in Adam. So there are two things combined, dust made the body and the breath of God gave Adam the spirit. When the two things are combined, then he became a living soul. So the soul is the combination of two things. When they are combined you have a soul. Separate and alone they are not a soul.

What is spaghetti? Noodles. But just having noodles alone do you have spaghetti? If you just have sauce do you have spaghetti? You have to have put together the noodles and sauce.

Here’s one for the men. What is light? You have to have a light bulb and electricity combined, and then you have light. Adam’s body is the light bulb, and the spirit or breath of God is the electricity that brings life. The spirit is what gives life.

So now what is death? If life is bringing them together, then death has to be separating them. So at death the body goes back to the dust, and the spirit goes back to God. The same if you were to separate the light bulb from the electricity. It does not work until you put it together.

James 2:26 *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”* Death is a separation of the body and the spirit.

So when we die what happens to our body and what happens to our spirit? **Ecclesiastes 12:7** “*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*”

The dust goes back to the earth, and the spirit goes back to God who gave it. More specifically, if the body goes back to the earth where it came from, and the spirit goes back to God where it came from where does it go? Where did the spirit come from? God’s breath! His mouth. So God who was the life giver, takes away your life.

So now on the way to heaven, can the spirit stop and say I want to come and visit you? I know I died yesterday, but I just wanted to stop and say hello. No!

If you are able to have an image and speak, that means you have life. In the same way, just because you have electricity does not mean you have light. Just because you have the spirit does not mean you have life. The spirit itself cannot speak to you; it is only a life giving power from God. And it goes back to God.

The Bible also tells us when we die, something happens to our thoughts.

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

His breath goes back to God and the body goes back to the earth and his thoughts perish. They are no more. So no one can come to you and speak. If that happens, quote scripture and rebuke that evil spirit.

What happens to you when you die? Ecclesiastes means preachers; he preaches about life and death. **Ecclesiastes 9:5** “*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.*”

The dead know not anything, their memory is forgotten. They cannot remember anything. They have no more reward meaning after you die, you have no second chance.

Ecclesiastes 9:6 “*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.*” They have no part with anything or any activity that goes on in this world under the sun after they die.

We like to think as soon as we die we go to heaven. But the Bible says that when Jesus comes back the second time there will be a resurrection. But if you believe that when you die you go straight to heaven and then on the second coming of Christ you will have to come back down again, go into the grave and come out again. That does not make since. So how do we understand this? Let the Bible speak.

What does the Bible say about dead people?

John 11:11-14 “*These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. 12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. 13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. 14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.*”

Jesus spoke of death as a sleep. When you’re sleeping how conscious are you? You don’t actually recognize what is going on around you, you have no idea what is happening around you. Only by the grace of God that when we die the first time we are sleeping. And when you are sleeping you have to be

awakened out of sleep. When do you wake up? If you believe in Jesus Christ, when He comes the second time you will be awakened. Now let's believe when you die you go straight to heaven for a moment. Lazarus was dead for 4 days, which means he was enjoying his time in heaven for 4 days eating fruit, meeting people, singing with the angels. He heard his name, Lazarus come forth. What must he have thought? God must be a miserable person to have me come live in that earth again. It does not make since. If Lazarus went to heaven, there should be books about what Lazarus saw in heaven, but there is not, because he was not there, he was sleeping. That's why Jesus said Lazarus come forth and He put the spirit back into Lazarus, to demonstrate to the world that Jesus had the power to give life. And Lazarus is an example of what Jesus will do when He comes back the second time.

Acts 7:58-60 *“And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”* Stephen was cast out of the city and stoned, and while he was stoned, he called out to God and said receive my spirit; because he understands that his spirit goes back to God. And after he asked God not to lay this sin upon their charge he “fell asleep”.

What happened to Stephen? He fell asleep. Our forefathers have it straight, on the graves its says R.I.P = rest in peace.

What does the Bible say in the Old Testament? **1 Kings 2:10** *“So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.”* What happened to David? He died, but the Bible says slept.

1 Kings 11:43 *“And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.”* He slept and was buried, meaning died.

So, all of the people who died from Adam and Eve where are they? They are sleeping, their bodies went to the dust of the earth, and the spirit went back to God who gave it. They are all waiting for God to come back and resurrect them.

From the Bible, when will the resurrection be? **Job 14:10-12** *“But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? 11 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: 12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.”* Man lieth down to sleep and riseth up, or is awoken until the heavens be no more. They are asleep and are raised up out of their sleep.

When will the heavens (atmosphere) be no more? **2 Peter 3:10** *“ 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.”* The day of the Lord, is the second coming of Christ. This is the time they will be awakened out of their sleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: (second coming) and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain (in the truth) shall be caught up together with them (the resurrected) in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”* Those which are alive and those who are resurrected from the grave will meet together in the air to meet the Lord.

The day is coming, Jesus is life and He is our resurrection, He will give life back to those who are faithfully trusting in Jesus. **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,”* We shall not all sleep, meaning some will sleep on beyond those that are changed. **52** *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.* **53** *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”* It makes it very clear that we shall receive immortality at the second coming of Christ, at the last trump, at the resurrection of Christ.

Although you keep your body healthy it will still corrupt. But we should focus on getting a healthy mind. If we get a new mind, God can give us a new body, but if we keep our old mind, God cannot give us a new body. Even Jesus said it in a similar way. You cannot put new wine in an old bottle. So we need to have a new mind, our character renewed.

What about the thief on the cross, didn't Jesus tell him he would be with Him in heaven today? **Luke 23:39-43** *“And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day, shalt thou be with me in paradise.”* The thief did not say Lord, send me to heaven today. He said remember me **WHEN** you come into your kingdom. In other words, remember me when you come or go into your kingdom. This is like the butler and Joseph. But when did Jesus go to heaven, that day? No, remember when He saw Mary and she was about to touch Him, and He told her not to touch Him as He had not yet ascended to His Father? So that means that Jesus did not go to heaven until at least Sunday. Jesus did not go to heaven on Friday. So it would be a lie, to say to the thief that today you shall be with me in paradise. Would God lie? No, He wouldn't. There is also the possibility that the thief did not die that day. **John 19:32** *“Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.”* They did not break the legs of Jesus because He was dead. They did however break the legs of the thieves because they were alive. Death on the cross was a slow death. So what does it mean when Jesus said to day you will be with me in paradise? What does it mean, today? Let's read it like the Bible explains it based upon the fact that Jesus did not go to heaven on Friday and based upon the fact that the thief had not died on Friday (possibly). Also in the original Greek manuscript, there is not comma, period or semicolon in verse 43. So when the comma is put there you read the meaning wrong. But the meaning of the word must be based off of the context of the verses. You should read it this way; *Verily I say unto thee to day, ye shall be with me in paradise.* He is telling the thief today, on this day, before I die ye shall be with me. Before Jesus closed His eyes in death, He was letting the thief know that his sins were forgiven and he would receive the gift of salvation and would be permitted into the kingdom of heaven.

The Bible makes it very clear what death is. And the devil is going to do great signs and wonders in the last days. **2 Corinthians 11:13** *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”*

Read the story about King Saul, the first king of Israel, he was rejected by God as a king of Israel. And one of the last sins he committed was going to a witch, a sorcerer to bring back Samuel, because it was a pagan practice to consult witches and bring back the dead. But it was the devil transforming himself into a person like Samuel. It was not Samuel because he was dead. While Samuel was alive he tried to give all sorts of counsel to Saul, but he would not listen, and now that he is dead, he wanted counsel. Saul

knew what the Bible said about consulting witches. But when you are so sinful and desperate you will do anything. This same thing can happen today in these last days. But they are not people, only evil angels.

Do not be deceived about the devil, there are no dead spirits walking around, they are evil spirits.

Now we saw that the dead will be resurrected at the second coming at the last trump of God. They have not yet risen into heaven, but their breath has gone back to God who gave it, and the body being separated from the breath goes back to the earth from whence it came.

May the Lord help us not to be deceived by this spiritualism. May we have a new mind, that we may receive a new body when He comes. Amen!

Transcript of a Bible Study by Peter Gregory