



Where Does Your Soul Go When You Die? (Part II)

1 Thessalonians 5:23: (KJV) *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*



A few weeks ago we began to look at the nature of the soul as defined in the Bible - not as defined by traditions or mythology or different social groupings - but as defined by the Bible. What we found was the Bible clearly states that the soul - the being of man and animal - is mortal and subject to death, which is the absence of life. Today we look at Scriptures that seem to contradict this conclusion as well as the difference between soul and spirit. What does the Bible tell us?

Please refer to "Where Does Your Soul Go When You Die? (Part I)" from March 15, 2015.

recap
recap

First, let us do a quick review from Part I. How is the nature of the soul defined in the Bible?

Genesis 3:19: (NASB) *By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Mankind will return to the elements - not just your body...“you.” Is death defined here? Yes, we believe that death is simply going back to the pre-life state - death is the absence of life.

If this foundation of life and death found in Genesis is true, it should withstand the test of the rest of the Bible. That death is the absence of life should be verifiable throughout all of the Holy Scriptures.

This text refers back to the original sentence for sin given in the garden:

Romans 6:23: (NASB) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

This text corroborates Genesis 3:19. Sin brings death. Even in his enlightened state, the Apostle Paul does not add to or change the simple Genesis equation. He *does* add that there is a miraculous hope beyond the grave.

Two of the many other Scriptures that show death is the absence of life:

Ecclesiastes 9:10: (KJV) *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.*

This is a simple statement that says when you die there is nothing happening. There is no activity, no life, and no consciousness in death.

Psalms 115:17: (KJV) *The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.*



The audio clips by Bill Wiese we will play throughout the program are graphic and show a very different and contradictory perspective from the one we hold.



Introduction, Bill Wiese, What Happens When I Die, CBN

- *Death is a topic that most people think about. There are many questions and different beliefs on what happens once life is over. New York Times best selling author Bill Wiese has found answers to some of those questions in his new book, "What Happens When I Die?" Bill shares this knowledge and first-hand accounts of what takes place in the afterlife.*

Job suffered many things and in his anguish was begging for death. How did he describe it?

Job 14:13-14: (NASB) ¹³Oh that You would hide me in **Sheol <7585>**, that You would conceal me until Your wrath returns to You, that You would set a limit for me and remember me! ¹⁴If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait until my change comes.

Job asks to be hid in Sheol (hell/grave/pit). The word is interchangeable.

Who else goes in Sheol?

Bad people:

Psalms 9:17: (KJV) *The wicked shall be turned into **hell <7585>**, and all the nations that forget God.*

Good people:

Psalms 49:15: (KJV) *But God will redeem my soul from the power of the **grave <7585>**: for he shall receive me. Selah.*



Everyone suffers the same end. The advent of Jesus brings resurrection, which is another part of the story.

Some people claim to have out of body or near death experiences. We are going to follow some of these out of body experiences throughout our program and try to put it in perspective.

Introduction, Out of Body Experiences, Mystery Explained, YouTube

- *Out of body experiences are one of the strangest, unexplained medical phenomenon. For the people who experience them, they are incredibly real despite not being physically possible. Individuals picture themselves rising out of their bodies, seeing the world working around them, exploring their surroundings and even being able to look at themselves from the outside. Many people suffer these experiences as a result of a traumatic accident; others are able to experience the phenomenon at will, but so far no one has been able to explain what the heck's actually happening until now.*

The point of an out of body experience is that you seem to be outside of your body. Some people look at that as proof that the soul can leave the body. We will come back to this with an explanation later in this program.




We move onto the concept of immortality. According to the Webster's Online Dictionary, to be "immortal" is to be exempt from death or exempt from oblivion. If human beings automatically have immortality in our being, would we have to actively seek for it?

Romans 2:7: (KJV) *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.*

If immortality were inherent in the human soul, why would we ever have to seek for it? It doesn't make a lot of sense from a scriptural standpoint to say that there is a part of the human form that cannot actually die.

Is there a difference between the soul of man and the spirit of man?

 **Floated up over my body, NDE (Near Death Experience) Not Now My Daughter, iands.org** (A women going through a near death situation in an emergency room explaining what she remembers from that experience)

- *...and once I accepted what was inevitable, and by then of course the bells in the hospital emergency room were going off, people started running around, and I remember smiling and my smile was my last physical memory of this earth. And I remember a loud roaring sound, a buzzing sound, bells going off and this kind of a "sinking within" to myself. At that point I was in the most beautiful, peaceful, what I call a subsistence of existence. I wasn't there, I wasn't here; I didn't know anything except this amazing peace. There was no pain. At that moment, I found myself at the top of the hospital room and I was floating there and I remember my face was upward, and I also remember consciously thinking the body is back there. I kept referring to it as the body is down there, down there, but I also knew I did not want to look at my body.*

This type of experience has been documented many times, so we know she is not making this up. What does this mean?

We will first look at the difference between the *soul* of man and the *spirit* of man.

Soul and the spirit are two entirely different things and are represented by completely different New Testament Greek words:

Soul: Strongs #5590 psuche (psoo-khay'); breath, i.e. ...concretely (the animal sentient principle only) (The being itself)

Spirit: Strongs #4151 pneuma (pnyoo'-mah); a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze



When we say *spirit*, we don't normally think of a current of air. But a current of air has power to it. When you think of very strong currents of air, you think of tornados, hurricanes and things like that. You see the amazing power of things you can't physically see. When the wind stops blowing does it mean the air is gone? No, it just means the power or the influence of the air has stopped exerting itself.



Varied uses of *pneuma* - "spirit:"

God's power and influence:

John 1:32: (KJV) *And John bare record, saying, I saw the **Spirit <4151>** (the power and influence of God) descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.*

This took place at the baptism of Jesus. God's Spirit is descending and its image is like a dove. Keep that image in mind. That image doesn't necessarily carry through.

John 4:23: (KJV) *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father **in spirit <4151>** and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.*



When it says to *worship the Father in spirit* it means with whatever power and influence we can exert with the focus of our minds and the focus and force of our being.

The *soul* is the being and the *spirit* is the expression and the influence of that being.

The word for *spirit* is also used to describe human power and influence:

Romans 1:9: (KJV) *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my **spirit <4151>** in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;*

We have seen God's Spirit looking like a dove. We have seen worshipping the Father with strength. We have seen the human spirit. Now let us see where several *spirits* are combined into one Scripture. Remember, it is all the same Greek word.

Multiple powers and influences - multiple "spirits."

Romans 8:14-16: (KJV) ¹⁴*For as many as are led by the **spirit <4151>** of God (power and influence of God) they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the **spirit <4151>** of bondage (spirit of power and influence of being captive) again to fear; but ye have received the **spirit <4151>** of adoption (influence of being an adopted child of God versus being in bondage), whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The **spirit <4151>** itself beareth witness with our **spirit <4151>** (our exerting of our will; we make our will in accordance with the will of God), that we are the children of God:*

If you apply "power and influence" to each of these five times *spirit* is used, it really does make sense. All of this is not talking about the soul; it is talking about the spirit. It is talking about the power and influence that is exerted from the soul.

Colossians 2:5: (KJV) *For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the **spirit <4151>** (with the expression of my own will and spiritual fellowship), joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*

What is the difference?



**THE SOUL IS
WHO WE ARE -
THE COMBINATION OF
BODY AND BREATH.
IT CAN LIVE AND DIE.**



**THE SPIRIT IS
THE EXPRESSION
OF POWER, WILL
OR FORCE.**

 **23 minutes in Hell, *What Happens When I Die*, Bill Wiese, CBN**

- *(Pat Robertson) Let's hear again that story. You went to bed. You were a Christian. You weren't particularly thinking about dying and all of a sudden something happened to you.*
- *(Bill Wiese) Thank you, Dr. Robertson. It's an honor to be here with you. Thanks so much for having me, but yeah, this was not a near death experience I had. This was an out of body experience that would be classified as a vision in the Bible, that's 2 Corinthians 12:1-2 when Paul was caught up in heaven in a vision. So, God gave me a vision and showed me this horrible place of hell.*
- *(Pat Robertson) Twenty-three minutes in hell. What did you see specifically?*
- *(Bill Wiese) I saw prison cells, I saw a large open area, a pit, a fire that was about a mile across, I saw people burning in this prison, this big pit. There were demons shoving people back in, tormenting people. The stench. I smelled the stench. It's the most foul odors, you can't imagine.*

This started off with the attitude that “this man has answers.” God created us so we want to go to His word for answers. If you are not going there, then you can go anywhere and believe what you want to believe. You could believe Satan the deceiver, you can believe man, but there are so many holes in this.

How would such a vision explain this next Scripture?

Matthew 10:28: (KJV) *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the **soul <5590>**; but rather fear him which is able to **destroy <622>** both **soul <5590>** and body in hell. (Gehenna was a garbage pit outside of Jerusalem to burn refuse and dead bodies of criminals [never live bodies]. This was never a place of torment.)*

Destroy: Strongs #622 ap-ol'-loo-mee; to destroy fully (note: not torture or torment)

Mankind cannot destroy our “lives” from the standpoint of our future lives, because we have Jesus. Jesus used the metaphor of Gehenna - God is able to destroy our lives in the garbage pit, if we are deserving of such an end.

Spirit and soul used together in our theme text:

1 Thessalonians 5:23: (KJV) *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit <4151>** and **soul <5590>** and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Scripture is talking about your whole influence, whole being and your whole person being preserved.



What about Scriptures that seem to say people gather together after death?

 I wasn't expecting this, *NDE, Not Now My Daughter, iands.org*

- *I didn't want to acknowledge it and I certainly didn't want to get back in it, because it was extremely painful. So, at that point I began to float upwards and I began floating over what I call negative treetops. When you take a photograph and you have a negative, it has got that kind of different look about it like a negative. I started floating over these treetops and there were other entities or beings and people, and a couple that I recognized. One is my grandmother waving to me like, "Hi! Come on in!" and it was just like I was floating above and looking down and it was so beautiful. And now I have to digress real quickly, being from a real staunch Catholic background this is not what I expected and this whole thing was completely different, although I accepted it once I had transitioned over. I really felt like, yeah, this is it this is the real thing, this is the real deal, and the reason I bring that up is that I wasn't expecting all of this.*

This is a strange experience. In the midst of her great pain and torture of her medical emergency, she is feeling peace and happiness. It is not unusual for people to have these experiences.

How do we explain these?

Genesis 25:17: (KJV) *And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.*

Genesis 35:29: (KJV) *And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.*

What does it mean, gathered unto his people?

Deuteronomy 31:16: (KJV) *And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers (this defines what gathered unto your people actually means); and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.*

Job 14:10-12: (KJV) ¹⁰*But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? ¹¹As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: ¹²So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.*

They are gathered together in the sleep of death.

Job 7:21: (KJV) *And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? For now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.*

Job is very helpful describing what happens to a man when he dies.

 Pit of fire for eternity, *What Happens When I Die, Bill Wiese, CBN*

- *(Bill Wiese) I saw a pit of fire.*
- *(Pat Robertson) A pit of fire?*
- *(Bill Wiese) I didn't see the lake. I wasn't in the lake of fire.*
- *(Pat Robertson) The pit - what was that like?*
- *(Bill Wiese) Just raging flames in this high open cavern.*





- (Pat Robertson) People were in it?
- (Bill Weise) Thousands of people.
- (Pat Robertson) Thousands?
- (Bill Weise) Yes.
- (Pat Robertson) Burning?
- (Bill Weise) Burning and they were just in skeleton form. Flesh hanging off their bones.
- (Pat Robertson) Screaming?
- (Bill Weise) Screaming. The screams are so loud you want to get away from that but you can't. You have to endure that for all eternity. There's Scripture for all of this and that's what's important for people to believe.
- (Pat Robertson) The thing that strikes you is when you begin to read this is that they talk about everlasting fire. Forever and ever and ever and ever and ever.
- (Bill Weise) Right.
- (Pat Robinson) There's no end.
- (Bill Weise) There is no end. Isaiah 38:18 says, "Those who go down to the pit can not hope for thy truth," and we know that Jesus said, "I am thy light and thy truth," it's too late for them. This goes on for all eternity.

There is a lot that we have to say here but first let us go to our caller!



A caller from Connecticut suggests: I have been studying this subject all of my life, and I concur with you that the dead are dead. Our Lord Jesus refers to the greatest lie that has ever been told in Genesis 3:4: *But the serpent said to the woman, you will not surely die.* Jesus in John 8:44 refers to that lie and the devil being a murderer. Remember in John 11 the resuscitation of Lazarus? He would have said something (about being alive in death) but he had nothing to say. Death is a sleep. The dead are dead awaiting the awakening in the resurrection.

The text quoted in the last audio clip was King Hezekiah's song of praise for God extending his life:

Isaiah 38:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸For Sheol (the pit) cannot thank You, death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness. ¹⁹It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today; a father tells his sons about Your faithfulness.

Hezekiah is saying, "If I had gone down to the pit, I would not have been able to be praising and thanking You." We know that Hezekiah was a good king and not a bad king, so why would he say he would be going down to what some people say is a burning hell? Hezekiah said he was headed to the pit.

Could the *spirit* be what goes to a burning hell? No! The next two verses confirm the transition from Old Testament Hebrew to New Testament Greek for *soul* (O.T. nephesh/N.T. psuche) and *hell* - the grave (O.T. sheol/N.T. hades.)

Psalms 16:10: (KJV) For thou wilt not leave my soul in *hell* <sheol>; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:27: (KJV) Because thou wilt not leave my soul in *hell* <hades>; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.



The soul - our life, our being - goes to the grave.

But what about this one?

Genesis 35:16-18: (KJV) ¹⁶And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. ¹⁷And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. ¹⁸And it came to pass, **as her soul was in departing**, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.



In other words, her being was being extinguished - she was dying.

1 Kings 17:21-22: (KJV) ²¹And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, **let this child's soul come into him again.** ²²And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

Life can leave us and miraculously come back.

Did King Saul really talk to the dead prophet Samuel?



The tunnel and the light, NDE, Not Now My Daughter, iands.org

- *...and I saw this big tunnel, a very typical experience. Big tunnel with a light at the end of the tunnel, and so I just floated through the tunnel. I entered the tunnel, and I floated towards this light, this amazing, beautiful, peaceful, loving, all encompassing and unconditional light. You really can't express it in human words because it completely limits the experience, and there are no human words to express it. I'd say it's more of an emotion than it is a word.*

So many people seem to have this experience but if you are still alive (your brain is still functioning), you have not yet died. Let us keep that thought in mind as we continue.

This takes place near the end of King Saul's life:

1 Samuel 28:5-6: (NASB) ⁵When Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly. ⁶When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets.

King Saul, the first king of Israel, had the PROPER methods of communication with God before him but none worked because he was rejected of God.



WHAT IS A URIM?

THE URIM (AND OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "URIM AND THUMMIM") IS A METHOD DESCRIBED IN VARIOUS PLACES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD USED TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIS SERVANTS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE OBJECTS LOOKED LIKE BUT WE KNOW THEY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HIGH PRIEST'S BREASTPLATE AND WOULD COMMUNICATE GOD'S ANSWER TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS. THE URIM AND THUMMIM WERE USED AT CRITICAL MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHEN SPECIAL DIVINE GUIDANCE WAS NEEDED.



Saul does not care that God is no longer communicating with him - he just wants an answer:

1 Samuel 28:7-10: (NASB) ⁷Then Saul said to his servants, Seek for me a woman who is a medium that I may go to her and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at Endor. ⁸Then Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, conjure up for me, please, and bring up for me whom I shall name to you. ⁹But the woman said to him, behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who are mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you then laying a snare for my life to bring about my death? ¹⁰Saul vowed to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.

So, there is not supposed to be any witches or mediums in the land, but Saul swears upon the name of God (!) that she won't suffer any ill will.

Saul not only seeks out a witch, he vows to break the Law that he himself was responsible to uphold:

Exodus 22:18: (KJV) *Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.*

1 Samuel 28:11-14: (NASB) ¹¹Then the woman said, whom shall I bring up for you? And he said, Bring up Samuel for me. ¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, why have you deceived me? For you are Saul. ¹³The king said to her, Do not be afraid; but what do you see? And the woman said to Saul, I see a divine being (In Hebrew: "Elohim") coming up out of the earth. ¹⁴He said to her, what is his form? And she said, an old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe. And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did homage.



Observations:

- The witch fears for her life, for her dark connections reveal Saul's identity. She realizes she is face to face with the King.
- Saul reassures her, again blatantly defying God.
- The witch sees a "mighty one" ("Elohim") - Saul does NOT see it.
- She vaguely describes it and Saul "knows" it is Samuel.
- The Old Testament had no method for, or reference of, any human to become a spirit being after death..

...on the contrary:

John 3:13-15: (NASB) ¹³No one has ascended into heaven, but he who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. ¹⁴As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵so that whoever believes will in him have eternal life.

Acts 2:29: (NASB) *Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.*

David died, was buried and is waiting for resurrection.

In the Old Testament there was no way for someone to have life after death on some other plane of being.



Then how was this possible...?

2 Kings 2:11: ...and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

The word here for *heaven* can mean “the air” or “above the air.” We have to look at context to help determine which is correct. We know that about seven years after that experience, Elijah wrote a letter to King Jehoram in 2 Chronicles 21:12. So Elijah was not physically taken into heaven; he was taken up in a miraculous vision and vanished.



What people saw in heaven, *Bill Wiese, What Happens When I Die, CBN*

- *(Bill Wiese) I shared 34 true stories of near death experiences or clinical death experiences that people had in hospitals that they’ve seen heaven or hell and what they write about it.*
- *(Pat Robertson) Most people who’ve been to hell, they don’t remember it. Their mind can’t comprehend it.*
- *(Bill Wiese) Right. Right, that’s why there’s not as many about hell as there is about heaven but there are quite a few, so I document some of those.*
- *(Pat Robertson) What do they say about heaven? What do these people see?*
- *(Bill Wiese) Most of them similar things. You know, they saw the gates, they saw golden streets, they saw angels, they saw people, and they saw fruit trees and rivers and so forth, and some of them saw the throne of God and so forth but they all felt this overwhelming love and peace that they felt at home. Many of them saw their relatives.*
- *(Pat Robertson) They did see?*
- *(Bill Wiese) Right.*
- *(Pat Robertson) They recognized people?*
- *(Bill Wiese) That’s what a lot of them said, and none of them wanted to come back to earth. They all wanted to stay.*

Here is the problem with all of that. They are talking about either heaven or the fires of hell. You can find documentation of many, many, many out of body experiences, of people who are *not believers* and who have all the peace, love and safety of the experience. According to those who believe in hellfire, such people should be going to a place of torture, not a place of safety and love.



1 Samuel 28:15: (NASB) *Then Samuel said to Saul, Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?*

It sounds like this “Samuel” is miffed about being awakened from sleep...? Again, we have no evidence that Saul even saw anything, but he did hear a voice.



If not Samuel, then who is King Saul talking to?

In the next audio clip, we do not doubt this woman had the experience, but the point is *she was still alive* during the experience.

 **The voice, NDE, Not Now My Daughter, iands.org**

- *Now there was this yearning, this something that I knew I wasn't done with Pete yet, my husband. We weren't finished and I had to go back, and at that point I heard a voice say to me "Not now, my daughter." Which I remember thinking at the time going, "Who was that?" I was thinking, "Is that God? Is that an angel? Who is that?" And also the relationship I had with my own personal god at the time wasn't like that. It wasn't formal like a Hollywood movie, like "Not now my daughter!" but that was kind of the way it felt. It was like a sensation of formality, but I knew I had to go back.*

Saul is utterly convinced he is speaking to the prophet - utterly blinded by his own ambition, need and pride:

1 Samuel 28:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵...And Saul answered, I am greatly distressed; for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has departed from me and no longer answers me, either through prophets or by dreams; therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I should do. ¹⁶Samuel said, why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? ¹⁷The LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David.

God *did* dramatically depart from Saul:

1 Samuel 15:20-23: (NASB) ²⁰Then Saul said to Samuel, I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal.

Saul tried to justify himself to Samuel, but Saul did not do what he was supposed to do. The roots of Saul's rebellion are here revealed - he is weak in character and strong in ego.

²²Samuel said, has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king.

Ironically, long before the current experience of Saul going to the witch and having conjured up what is supposed to be the vision of Samuel, Samuel in relaying God's rejection to Saul says *rebellion is as the sin of divination*. Sin is as heinous as resorting to ungodly ways and means to chart your course.

Insubordination is like idolatry - in both cases you put that which is created over the Creator! That is what King Saul did by trying to divine an answer from God in a way he was not supposed to. That is rebellion.

The rejection of Saul was a prophecy of how far away he would go from God mentally and physically.



Saul is literally receiving the consequences of being cast off by God through this witch:

1 Samuel 15:18-20: (NASB) ¹⁸As you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day. (This goes back to the first rejection we just read about) ¹⁹Moreover the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the LORD will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines! ²⁰Then Saul immediately fell full length upon the ground and was very afraid because of the words of Samuel; also there was no strength in him, or he had eaten no food all day and all night.

This “Samuel” basically told Saul he would die the next day. Saul was not faithful to God, and so according to typical Christian tradition, he would not have gone to the same place Samuel would have gone to. Samuel was faithful and Saul was not. Yet the spirit says, *you will be with me*. So, there is a contradiction of terms right in the middle of giving this very true prophecy.

Samuel was a faithful servant of God and first of all was dead, and second would not work with the spirits of darkness. Fortune telling was not something the real Samuel would have ever been a part of.

How did this fallen spirit posing as Samuel know what was coming?

2 Corinthians 11:14-15: (KJV) ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Satan took this opportunity to prove he can prophesy as well, through an ungodly source, the witch of Endor. Evil can speak truth...but at what cost to you?

(Editor's Note: The previous audio clip was inadvertently played twice during the program.)

What happened the next day?

1 Chronicles 10:13-14: (KJV) ¹³So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; ¹⁴And inquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

We have an unequivocal answer to the Saul/dead Samuel encounter. Saul died because he committed transgression against the Lord and he sought counsel of the witch. He rebelled and the last expression of rebellion was so far from God, it was intolerable.

Scientific explanation, *Out of Body Experiences, Mystery Explained, YouTube*

- *Andrew M. Smith and Claude Messier from the University of Ottawa have for the first time made real time scans of the brain of someone as they undergo an out of body experience. The pair analyzed a woman who claimed to be able to have experiences at will and here fMRI scan showed something remarkable. The visual cortex almost entirely shut down, but the part of the brain associated with kinesthetic imagery, which includes mental images of bodily movements, became super active. It was as though the women's mental interpretation of space relative to her body was replacing her eyesight, which could explain the third person nature experiences. Of course seeing what parts of the brain are active during an experience doesn't explain exactly what's really happening there, but it's hope that the research will*



give a much needed starting block to further investigation into and eventually solving one of the great medical mysteries.

During these experiences it looks like the visual cortex actually shuts down. The part of the brain that imagines movement really gets active. It is as though they are trying to fit God’s plan into their experience just as Saul did. It is very similar to a dream where you can see yourself as a third person. But remember, they have not completely died when they had these experiences. It is a fascinating phenomenon but does not give any evidence to a soul leaving the body.

So, who is the person in the Bible who may have had an “out of body” experience?

But what about this...?

Revelation 6:9-10: (KJV) ⁹And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, how long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

It sounds like the people were slain but the souls of them were crying out with a loud voice like a disembodied type of experience. Does that mean that the soul came out of the body? Is that literal language or is that imagery so we can understand something a little bit deeper? We think it is the latter.

The answer to this question is found in the account of Jesus triumphantly entering Jerusalem:

Luke 19:39-41: (KJV) ³⁹And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. ⁴⁰And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, **the stones would immediately cry out.** ⁴¹And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it...

Would the stones grow little mouths and actually cry out? No, this was a figure of speech explaining that the words had to be said as they were prophesied.

Genesis 4:10: (KJV) And he said, what hast thou done? **The voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground.**

This is another figure of speech.

We believe the Revelation Scripture also is a figure of speech. The lives of those faithful were shown to be so solid in their faith that the testimony of their lives spoke even though the individual was physically dead.

There are many New Testament Scriptures that verify that death is the clear penalty for sin:

Matthew 26:38: (KJV) Then saith he unto them, my soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Life (vitality) and death (the absence of life) are opposites.

Acts 3:23: (KJV) And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.



Did the Apostle Paul have an out of body experience?

2 Corinthians 12:1-5: (NASB) ¹Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven ³And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—⁴was caught up into paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. ⁵On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses.

The Apostle himself did not know, meaning that whatever happened was so real that he really felt like he was where the “vision” took him. He knew that to be transported to another place was not a natural occurrence and would not discount it being a vision or a miracle.

Our opinion is Paul saw a vision he called *the third heaven*. The time period before the Flood was the first world or as 2 Peter 3:6 calls it, *the world that was*. This was destroyed by water. The second world or time period we are in now under the (temporary) rule of Satan is called by Galatians 1:4 *the present evil world*. It will be destroyed by the fire of trouble. Here Paul is calling this third time frame *the third heaven* after being transported by a vision into the future to see the glorious end result of the ransom.

Romans 6:23: (NRSV) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Today we discussed some very difficult subjects on where does your soul go when you die. The Bible teaches that God has not given us the spirit of fear but of a sound mind and He invites us to reason together and search His Scriptures to find the truth.

*So, where does your soul go when you die?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



Resurrection makes so much more sense when it is a re-standing from a state of death:

Romans 6:20-23: (NASB) ²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²²But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sin brings death - the gift of God brings life - how? Through resurrection!

John 5:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.



The Apostle Paul before Felix:

Acts 24:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; ¹⁵having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.*

Because of sin, all souls die.

God was very clear about the generational effect of sin.

Exodus 20:5: (KJV) *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

Numbers 14:18: (KJV) *The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*

Deuteronomy 5:9: (KJV) *Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,*

God is also very clear about a future change in that process:

Jeremiah 31:27-34: (NRSV) ²⁷*The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. ²⁸And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say: The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. ³⁰But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. ³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, Know the LORD, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.*

A bit more on what it means to die:

What about dying in the Old Testament - does that really mean to die - like die dead?

Genesis 2:17: (NRSV) *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall **die <4191>**.*

Genesis 3:3-4: (NRSV) ³*but God said, you shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall **die <4191>**. ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, you will not **die**;*

Die: Strongs #4191 muwth (mooth); to die (literally or figuratively); causatively, to kill:

AV-die 424, dead 130, slay 100, death 83, surely 50, kill 31, dead man 3,
dead body 2, in no wise 2, misc 10;

to die, kill; have one executed, to die (as penalty), be put to death; to die, perish (of a nation); to die prematurely (by neglect of wise moral conduct); to kill, put to death, dispatch

Some other uses of #4191: (Old Testament)



These two scriptures raise the question: Does the “man” and the “body” suffer the same fate?

2 Kings 8:5: (KJV) *And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a **dead** body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.*

Job 14:14: (KJV) *If a man **die** <4191>, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.*

It seems pretty quiet in death!

Psalms 115:17: (KJV) *The **dead** <4194> praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.*

Ecclesiastes 9:5: (KJV) *For the living know that they shall **die** <4194>: but the **dead** <4194> know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.*

Death: Strongs #4194 maveth (maw'-veth); death (natural or violent); concretely, the dead, their place or state (hades); figuratively, pestilence, ruin

More uses of #4194:

Death applies equally to flies and man:

Numbers 16:29: (KJV) *If these men **die** <4194> the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.*

Ecclesiastes 10:1: (KJV) ***Dead** <4194> flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.*

Psalms 6:5: (KJV) *For in **death** <4194> there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*

Deuteronomy 21:22: (KJV) *And if a man have committed a sin worthy of **death** <4194>, and he be to be put to **death** <4194>, and thou hang him on a tree:*