

Do we have an Eternal Soul?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

What the Bible says

MAN’S NATURE

The Bible nowhere teaches that man has immortality within himself or that he is reincarnated upon death. It teaches that man is mortal. God made man to live, but it was never His purpose that man should live if he chose to sin. God told man in Gen 2:17, “Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shalt not eat of it; for in the day that you eat thereof you shalt surely die.” When man sinned, he began to die.

Does anyone have immortality? If so, who?

Read 1Tim 6:16. In this scripture, it states that Jesus is the only one who has immortality: “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto.”

This is a bold, unequivocal statement that only God has immortality. It also establishes that mankind is not immortal, so man does not have an eternal soul, nor is he reincarnated.

What is the source of immortality?

Turn to 2Tim 1:10. But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Man would have perished had it not been for God’s love.

Christ was willing to give His life, and God was willing to give His Son. **Read John 3:16.** Therefore, man can receive immortality through acceptance of the gospel (Jesus Christ).

If a person accepts Christ, when can they expect to receive immortal life?

Read 1 Cor 15:51-54. Upon reading these scriptures, we can see that death will be swallowed up, and those who are His will be resurrected when Jesus comes to take us home. Our corrupted bodies will become incorruptible.

What does the Bible say about man's life?

If we read any of the following texts, we can see that man is described as mortal in **Job 4:17, Rom 6:12, 8:11; 2Cor 4:11**

In James 4:14, man's life is a vapor.

In Lk 13:2,3; Jn 3:16; Rom 2:12; 1Cor 15:17,18; Phil 3:19; 2Thes 1:9, man's life is transitory and perishable.

The devil was the first to suggest that man is immortal **in Gen 3:4:** "The serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die." **Turn to Rev 12:9.** Here, the serpent is identified as the devil. **In Jn 8:44,** Christ called him "a liar and the father of lies".

Where are the dead?

The Bible speaks clearly about death and the state of those who have passed into its embrace. What is death? **Read Acts 2:29,34.** In his sermon on the day of Pentecost, Peter declared that David had not gone to heaven at his death but was resting in his grave. While we live, let us prepare to meet Christ at His second coming. This was Paul's hope. **Read 2Tim 4:6-8.** It can also be our hope.

Out of what did God make man?

Turn to Gen 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground." When God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life," what did man become? **See Gen 2:7** "And man became a living soul." Last part

Immediately, the brain leaped into action. The heart began to beat, and blood flowed through man's veins. Consciousness was produced by the union of the breath of life with the body. Consciousness depends entirely on the union of the breath of life with the body.

When the process is reversed, what becomes of man's consciousness?

Read Ecc 12:7. We read that the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath of life returns to God who gave it.

The spirit that returns to God is the breath of life. This is found **in Job 27:3**. “All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;” When man’s breath, that is, the principle of life, is withdrawn, the body dissolves into dust. The heart no longer beats. The brain does not function. The blood no longer flows. What has become of man’s consciousness? **In Ps 104:29,30**, David says it is gone.

Do human thoughts continue to exist after death?

Ps 146:4 His breath departs, and he returns to his earth; on that very day his thoughts perish.

How much does a dead person know?

In Ecc 9:5, we can see that the dead know nothing.

Do the righteous who die praise the Lord in death?

In Ps 115:17, the dead praise not the LORD, nor any that go down into silence. **Read also Ps 6:5; 88:10-12.**

Where did Jesus say the dead would be when His voice calls them?

In Jn 5:28,29 Jesus says, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in 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.” Clearly, here the dead await the resurrection, some to everlasting life, others to eternal death.

Job 17:13 shows that Job understood he would await the life-giver's call in the grave.

What is man’s condition in the grave?

Turn to 1 Thess. 4:13 Here we can see that death is described as a sleep, and **in John 11:11-14**. Jesus used the terms “death” and “sleep” interchangeably when raising Lazarus from the dead. While he was dead (for four days), he had not gone to heaven, hell, or purgatory. **Read Jn 11:41**. Jesus raised him from the dead. He came forth from the grave when Jesus said, “Lazarus, come forth.”

Read Mark 5:39, it speaks of Jesus saying, “Why make ye this ado, and weep? The damsel is not dead, but sleeps.” **Mt. 9:24, I Thess. 4:15**

Where did Job expect to go after he died?

Turn to Job 14:11-13. Job hoped to live again at the resurrection and expected to

see God in his flesh. **Read Job 19:23-27.** The resurrection is man's only hope of escaping the grave. **Read 1 Cor. 15:16-20.**

We do not have a soul that floats around after we die and goes directly to heaven, purgatory, hell, or is reincarnated. If we did, there would be no need for a resurrection, since everyone would either be in one of three places after death or back on earth with a new form of life. The book of Revelation describes two resurrections, one for the just and another for the unjust. **See Revelation 20:5,6.**

If you have Bible software and can perform a search, look for "sleep" and "slept." You will find sixty-six scriptures that refer to death as a sleep in the Old and New Testaments. You can also consult a concordance to see the scriptures about sleep and slept. Instead of becoming part of a new reality or dimension, those who die become unconscious as the Breath of Life, which makes our bodies human, returns to God.

As it is now evident that no eternal soul or reincarnation awaits us after death, according to the Bible, we await the resurrection in the grave.