

What does the BIBLE say?

As you read the following study, I ask that you do not believe what is presented to you. But, instead, research it for yourself, so that you do not depend on someone else's presentation and come to know biblical truth for yourself. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, they listened to Paul and did not take his word for it. They studied it for themselves, so that 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.

The State of Man

MAN'S NATURE

The Bible nowhere teaches that man has immortality in himself. 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, “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.” Gen 2:17. When man sinned, he began to die.

Does anyone have immortality? If so, who?

1Tim 6:13-16 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That you keep this commandment without spot, without reproach, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 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 honor and power forever. Amen.

This is a bold, unequivocal statement that only God has immortality. This also establishes that mankind does not have immortality.

What is the source of immortality?

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 an acceptance of the gospel (Jesus Christ).

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

1Cor 15:51-54 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

What does the Bible say about man's life?

Man is mortal Job 4:17, Rom 6:12, 8:11; 2Cor 4:11

Man's life is a vapor, James 4:14

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

The devil was the first to teach that man is immortal. Gen 3:4 "The serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die." The serpent is referred to as the devil in Rev 12:9. Speaking of the devil, Christ said, "He is a liar" and the father of lies in Jn 8:44.

WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

The Bible speaks clearly regarding death and the state of those who have passed into its embrace. What is death? If God doesn't tell us, we will never know. Let us analyze God's answer. Thirty-five centuries ago man living in the land of Uz, ancient Arabia, realized that a tree could be cut down, yet the old root could sprout again. But when man dies, then asks Job, "Where is he?" Job 14:7-10

Out of what did God make man?

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?

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. How did it come about? It was not in the dust of the ground or the body, and it was not in the breath of life. Consciousness was produced as a result of the union of the breath of life with the body. Consciousness depends entirely upon a union of the breath of life with the body.

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

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

The spirit that returns to God is the breath of life. Job 27:3 All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;

So man's breath, that is, the principle of life, is withdrawn, and the body is dissolved into dust. The heart no longer beats. The brain does not function. The blood no longer flows. What has become of man's consciousness? It is gone.

David says in Ps 104:29,30.

Do the thoughts of man continue to exist after death?

Ps 146:4 His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

How much does a dead person know?

Ecc 9:5 For the living know that they shall die, but the dead know not anything.

Do the righteous who die praise the Lord in death?

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 shall call them?

Jn 5:28,29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the 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.

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

What is man's condition in the grave?

1Thess 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. Read Jn 11:11-14. Jesus used the terms "death" and "sleep" interchangeably when raising

Lazarus from the dead. While he was dead (four days), he had not gone to heaven, hell, or purgatory. When Jesus resurrected him to life, He did not call him up from hell, out of purgatory, or down from heaven. He simply said, "Lazarus, come forth. Jn 11:41

Where did Job expect to go when he died?

Job 14:11-13 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decays and dries up: So man lieth down, and rises not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. O that you would hide me in the grave, that you would keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Job had hope of living again when the resurrection would happen, and he expected to see God in his flesh. Read Job 19:23-27. The resurrection is man's only hope of escaping the grave. Read 1Cor 15:16-20.

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. Read Acts 2:29,34. 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 be or hope also.