

Death

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What does the Bible tell us about death ? It is clearly defined in scripture and not up to man to speculate or fabricate what he might think or wish would occur.

1. Sleep

First we start with what Yeshua (Jesus) tells us.

Joh 11:11 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.**

Joh 11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

Joh 11:13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Joh 11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus is dead.**

Understand all scripture is truth, also Yeshua can not lie. The above scriptures clearly tell us that when one dies, that person sleeps until the time at which they are resurrected. Martha understood that, as given in the following scriptures.

Joh 11:23 Jesus saith unto her, **Thy brother shall rise again.**

Joh 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Joh 11:25 Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

We are told in many scriptures, that many key people throughout the Bible die and sleep with their fathers.

Act 13:36 For **David**, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, **fell on sleep**, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

Again we are told that King David will sleep with his fathers when his time comes.

2Sa 7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt **sleep with thy fathers**, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

Bathsheba came to King David and asked him to appoint her and his son, Solomon as king before King David dies and sleeps with his fathers.

1Ki 1:16 And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldst thou?

1Ki 1:17 And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, *saying*, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.

1Ki 1:18 And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest *it* not:

1Ki 1:19 And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.

1Ki 1:20 And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel *are* upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

1Ki 1:21 Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king **shall sleep with his fathers**, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.

We are given reinforcement of all people from early time of creation through to current time, sleep with their fathers.

2Pe 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the **fathers fell asleep**, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

Other scripture focuses on sleeping until being called to awaken for a resurrection.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall **not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed,

1Co 15:52 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**.

1Th 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.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which **sleep** in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are **asleep**.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Th 5:10 Who died for us, that, **whether we wake or sleep**, we should live together with him.

1Co 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins.

1Co 15:18 Then they also which are fallen **asleep** in Christ are perished.

1Co 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that **slept**.

2. Spirit

The spirit was recognized early in the Old Testament and is further elaborated upon in the New Testament. The New Testament scriptures will be covered first.

Act 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, **receive my spirit**.

Act 7:60 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**.

Jas 2:26 For as the body without the **spirit** is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Rev 11:11 And after three days and an half the **Spirit of life** from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the **dead** which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the **Spirit**, that **they may rest from their labours**; and their works do follow them.

Yeshua, on the stake, just before he died, asked the Father to accept His Spirit.

Luk 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit**: and having said thus, he gave up the **ghost**.

The spirit in man, is what makes him different from the animals. When we pray our spirit makes intercession for us directly to the LORD.

Rom 8:26 Likewise the **Spirit** also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the **Spirit itself** maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the **mind of the Spirit**, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God.

Ecc 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

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 above scriptures refer to the Spirit in man. We are only alive when the spirit resides in us, it returns back to the LORD when we die. When we are born as flesh we are given the Spirit of life, the LORD breathes it into us. At the end of our life, the LORD takes back our spirit.

In the Old Testament, it starts with the LORD telling Moses that the time is coming where he must die. The LORD tells Moses that he will sleep with his fathers.

Deu 31:14 And the LORD said unto **Moses**, Behold, thy days approach that **thou must die**: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Deu 31:15 And the LORD appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud: and the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle.

Deu 31:16 And the LORD said unto **Moses**, Behold, **thou shalt sleep with thy fathers**; 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.

King David makes reference to the sleep of death.

Psa 13:3 Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I **sleep the sleep of death**;

Asa Baasha a king of Israel did not rely upon the LORD, rather he tried to make a pact with the king of Syria. In addition Asa was wroth with the seer and oppressed many of the people. He then became diseased in his feet which became worse over time, he did not ask the LORD for help to heal him. He died and slept with his fathers.

2Ch 16:9 For the eyes of **the LORD run to and fro** throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* **whose heart is perfect toward him**. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

2Ch 16:10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for *he was* in a rage with him because of this *thing*. And Asa oppressed *some* of the people the same time.

2Ch 16:11 And, behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

2Ch 16:12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease *was* exceeding *great*: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

2Ch 16:13 And Asa **slept with his fathers**, and **died** in the one and fortieth year of his reign.

So a second time Asa did not seek the LORD, thus he died.

Verse 2Ch 16:9 is interesting in that it tells us the LORD looks at the heart of people throughout the world in order to see who has a perfect heart towards him.

Daniel is told of the time of the end, those that sleep in the dust of the earth shall be resurrected.

Dan 12:2 And many of them that **sleep** in the **dust of the earth** shall **awake**, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

3. Ghost

Death is also referred to as giving up the ghost or spirit, as given to us regarding Abraham, Ishmael and also Isaac.

Gen 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the **ghost**, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full *of years*; and was gathered to his people.

Gen 25:17 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.

Gen 35:29 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.

Act 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words **fell down**, and gave up the **ghost**: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

4. Soul and Breath

Our soul is a total of our being, it includes a living body or flesh, it includes the mind or heart and it includes the spirit. The body lives from the breath of life that was breathed into us at conception. At the time of death the breath of life and the spirit goes back to the LORD as He collects and retains our Spirit. Our body goes back to the elements of the earth from which it was formed and our heart sleeps in the earth until we are called to come forth in a resurrected spiritual body.

1Th 5:23 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.

Jas 5:19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

Jas 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a **soul** from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Mat 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.

Mar 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own **soul**?

Rachel in child birthing cried out as her soul was departing.

Gen 35:18 And 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.

Gen 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**.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the **breath** of the Almighty hath given me **life**.

Psa 104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their **breath**, they **die**, and return to their **dust**

Note also that the host of heaven were made by the breath of God. This would indicate that the stars in the heavens are alive since the breath of the Lord was placed in them.

Psa 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the **heavens** made; and all the **host** of them by the **breath** of his mouth.

Deu 4:19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, *even* all the **host of heaven**, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Deu 17:3 And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the **host** of heaven, which I have not commanded;

2Ki 17:16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the **host of heaven**, and served Baal.

2Ki 23:5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the **host of heaven**.

We are told to be very careful and worship only the creator and not anything that was created.

In the future we are told that the heavens will be changed, but also that God has named all of the Stars in the heavens.

Isa 34:4 And all the **host of heaven shall be dissolved**, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling *fig* from the fig tree.

Isa 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these *things*, that bringeth out their **host** by number: **he calleth them all by names** by the greatness of his might, for that *he is* strong in power; not one faileth.

Isa 45:12 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, *even* my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their **host** have I commanded.

Luk 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel **a multitude of the heavenly host** praising God, and saying,

This last verse, above, indicates that the stars sang at the Birth of Yeshua. This combined with the other scriptures above would strongly suggest that the stars are specific angels that god created.

Continuing we are told of the spirit and breath of life given to man.

Isa 42:5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth **breath** unto the people upon it, and **spirit** to them that walk therein:

Eze 37:5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause **breath** to enter into you, and ye shall **live**:

Eze 37:6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put **breath** in you, and ye shall **live**; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Act 17:25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all **life**, and **breath**, and all things;

The following scripture is important as it defines “soul” as every living creature. Man, animals, fish, birds, reptiles, insects, all have life and breath and are referred to as souls.

Rev 16:3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead *man*: and every living **soul** died in the sea.

There is a major distinction between man as being different from the animals and other creatures. Man has a spirit within him which ties him directly to the LORD and to the spirit world. Animals and other creatures do not have this spirit within them. They have a body, the breath of life and a mind only.

5. Down into the Pit

Death is also thought of or referred to as going down into the pit.

Psa 28:1 *A Psalm of David.* Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, *if* thou be silent to me, I become like them that go **down into the pit**.

Psa 30:3 O LORD, thou hast brought up my **soul** from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go **down to the pit**.

Psa 30:9 What profit *is there* in my blood, when I go **down to the pit**? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth?

The following refers to the Pharaoh of Egypt

Eze 31:14 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto **death, to the nether parts of the earth**, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go **down to the pit**.

The above scripture makes reference to the “nether parts of the earth”. Also consider the following scripture on the same topic.

Gen 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper?

Gen 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

These two scriptures tell us there is something special about the earth, there is a place that contains those that sleep. Add to this the bottomless pit and the earth has secrets that man does not know.

Psa 22:28 For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.

Psa 22:29 All *they that be* fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go **down to the dust** shall bow before him: and none can **keep alive** his own **soul**.

Psa 30:2 O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

Psa 30:3 O LORD, thou hast brought up **my soul from the grave**: thou hast **kept me alive**, that I should not go **down to the pit**.

Psa 30:4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye **saints** of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

The following tells us that those that fear the LORD and hope in his mercy will have the eye of the LORD upon them and is aware of death and famine, if it is His will they will be delivered.

Psa 33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

Psa 33:19 To deliver their **soul from death**, and to **keep them alive in famine**.

The following is directed to eternal life or the second death, it establishes what happens to a person according to how they are walking when they die physically.

Eze 18:26 When a righteous *man* turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and **dieth in them**; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he **die**.

Eze 18:27 Again, when the wicked *man* turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he **shall save his soul alive**.

Eze 18:28 Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, **he shall surely live, he shall not die**.

These scriptures clearly tell us that the promise of salvation is conditional on how one is walking at the time that they die. It is not once saved always saved.

6. Control by the LORD

The following scriptures are unusual events that are given to us for a purpose of understanding. The main one is where Saul disguised himself and goes to a medium to have her call Samuel up from the grave.

1Sa 28:14 And he said unto her, What form *is* he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he *is* covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it *was* Samuel, and he stooped with *his* face to the ground, and bowed himself.

1Sa 28:15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou **disquieted me, to bring me up**? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

Note that Samuel says to Saul why did you disquieted me, or why did you disturb me and take away the peace or tranquility of my sleep? Why did you bring me up? Samuel was deprived of peace or of rest. He was brought up from his sleep in the earth. There are two lessons given to us by these specific scriptures. The first is that the spirit world is real and one is not to deal with or call spirits as the Torah tells us to keep ourselves removed from the spirit world. The medium that called forth Samuel was not the familiar spirit that she was used to conversing with, rather suddenly she was startled as the spirit that came forth was one she had never seen. Rather she saw many people ascending out of the earth. The second lesson that is given to us is that when people die, they rest or sleep in the earth until resurrected by the LORD. This example is a major action that the LORD allowed to happen in order to reinforce the teaching of the two lessons just described. From logic, it is extremely unlikely that the LORD allows evil spirits or fallen angels to wake any man who has died and that sleeps in the earth. If that occurred, the LORD's people would not be allowed to sleep peacefully until called at the first or second resurrection.

Consider the people that hire mediums to call a relative or loved one, that has died, using the atmosphere of a séance, they are not ever talking with their relative or love one. They are

talking with another evil spirit if it is a genuine medium. Their relative has been sleeping in the earth and if awakened would not know anything that had happened or was destined to happen. The Holy word of the LORD tells us not to suffer a witch to live, but our society today has laws that do not allow us to carry out that command.

Lev 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

Those that try and talk with their dead relatives walk in sin, breaking the LORD's commands. We are to stay separated from the spirit world. the familiar spirits that converse with mediums are fallen angels.

1Ch 10:13 So 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 enquire *of it*;

Note Saul made a number of transgressions against the LORD as given to y=us in the scripture above.

Another special case is when Jehoram reigned in Judah, he did not walk in the way of the LORD and eventually the LORD was angered to where He smote him with a terrible disease.

2Ch 21:18 And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an **incurable disease**.

2Ch 21:19 And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he **died** of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.

An additional case is that of Hezekiah who pleaded with the LORD to allow him to live and not to die.

Ki 20:1 In those days was Hezekiah **sick unto death**. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for **thou shalt die, and not live**.

2Ki 20:2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying,

2Ki 20:3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done *that which is* good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

2Ki 20:4 And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

2Ki 20:5 Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, **I will heal thee**: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

2Ki 20:6 And **I will add unto thy days fifteen years**; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

The LORD heard Hezekiah's prayers and healed him giving him 15 years more of life.

We are told of Moses, when he arrived at the edge of the promised land, he was still healthy and full of life. Note first that Moses was treated like a friend by the LORD.

Exo 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his **friend**. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Deu 34:4 And the LORD said unto him, This *is* the land which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see *it* with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

Deu 34:5 So Moses the servant of the LORD **died** there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

Deu 34:6 And he **buried** him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

Deu 34:7 And Moses *was* an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

So we are told of Moses death, after showing Moses the land the LORD took Moses life and buried Moses. So Moses then slept in the earth. Moses had finished the work in his life, he had come to the end of the path that he was walking in service to the LORD. Moses mistake of in the second instance of being angered, he smote the rock instead of speaking to it as instructed to him from the LORD.

Understand that the way of the LORD is higher than man's way and the LORD can do what He will and does not need to give man a reason for what he does.

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isa 55:9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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