

to death as a “sleep”. The disciples did not understand Jesus’ reference, so He then told them “plainly, Lazarus is dead” John 11:11-14. When Jesus later encounters Martha, Lazarus’ sister, notice carefully what she says about her brother’s resurrection. She says it will occur “at the last day” v. 24. We might legitimately ask the question: *What did Martha believe about death?* The answer is simple: She believed that death was a temporary state of unconsciousness that would be ended by the “resurrection at the last day”. This is exactly what the Scriptures teach. In fact, the Bible refers to death as a “sleep” more than _____ times! See 2Samuel 7:12; 1Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1Corinthians 15:51-55; John 5:28, 29; Daniel 12:1, 2 etc.

The Spirit...

Many Christians believe that “the Spirit” that returns to God is some kind of conscious entity. No where does the Bible teach this. The “Spirit” is simply the “breath” of God, as both the OT and NT translations of this word make clear. In the OT _____ means *breath*. In the NT _____ means *breath*. The “breath of God”, that is, the vivifying, life-giving power of God, returns to God following the death of the individual. Remember the light bulb. This is exactly like that. The energy simply “returns” to the power source. See James 2:26.

The First Lie...

The first lie recorded in the Bible was told by the Father of Lies himself, Satan. Genesis 3:4 finds Satan whispering those enticing and dangerous words to Eve: “You will not surely die”. What a lie! God had said “In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die” Genesis 2:17. Who told the truth? God of course! Yet today there are many, even Christians, who would rather believe the Devil’s enticing lie than the plain teaching of the Word of God. The Pagans laid hold on this immortality concept. The Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, the Romans, all believed in the natural immortality of the soul. Yet, it is not Biblical as many of today’s most prominent and respected theologians freely admit. So then, where is Mary according to the Bible? *In the grave, awaiting the resurrection*. This other so-called “Mary” is a liar, a spirit sent from Satan no doubt. Once again he has transformed himself into “an angel of light”. Yes, God has a solution to the problem of death, and that solution is the _____. Don’t you want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in? Won’t you make that decision right now? Please do!

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 16

Discover: How to Face Death Unafraid
and With Absolute Confidence

The question of death, and what happens when one dies, are questions that have intrigued mankind since the very dawn of time. Even today, with significant advances in technology, medicine, and science, the question of the mystery of death remains entirely unanswered. Truth be told, science is ill equipped to deal adequately with the issue of death. Death is more than the ceasing of physiological functions and activities. It has mental, emotional, and certainly spiritual ramifications both for the dying and for those who remain. The Bible, the Holy Scriptures, contains the keys that unlock this mystery. The Bible can provide the kinds of answers that humanity is seeking for concerning the question of death. The Bible alone can illumine the dark door of death.

The Resurrection

According to the Bible, death is not the end. It is not the terminal stop on the journey of life. There is more beyond death’s door. The next chapter, following the death-event, is what the Bible calls the _____. In fact, as we will learn in a future lesson, there are actually _____ resurrections.

The Risen Christ

The book of Revelation is full of post-resurrection pictures of Jesus Christ. See Revelation chapters 1, 4, 5, 7, 14, 19. There is good reason for this. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the _____ and _____ of the Christian faith. Without it we have no _____. See 1Corinthians 15: 12-20. The future resurrection of Christ’s followers is founded upon the historical fact of Jesus Christ’s own resurrection. As GB Hardy says in his book *Countdown*, “There are only two essential questions: one, has anyone ever cheated death, and two, is it available to me? Let us survey the historical record: Buddha’s tomb, *occupied*; Mohammed’s tomb, *occupied*; Confucius’ tomb, *occupied*; Jesus’ tomb, *empty*. Argue if you will, but for me and my purposes there is no point in following a loser.” It is difficult to argue with this kind of logic.

Is the Soul Immortal or is There a Resurrection?

This is a very important question. Most Christians have not reflected adequately on this important question. Consider Mary, the mother of Jesus. According to both Catholic and Protestant teaching, Mary has been making frequent appearances here on planet earth to encourage, inspire, and warn believers of a coming calamity. These appearances, or apparitions, are occurring with increasing frequency. Millions claim to have seen Mary at locations all over the globe. Bleeding statues, weeping statues, visions in the sun and clouds, and physical appearances are all cited as mounting evidences that Mary has returned with an important message. This phenomenon has even been reported in many of the popular newspapers and news magazines of the world. While this is largely a Catholic phenomenon, it is by no means entirely so. Even Protestants, agnostics, atheists, and others have reportedly been visited or in some way "touched" by this Mary. All of this raises serious questions for the committed Christian believer. Is this *really* Mary? Could it even be her? How can we tell if this is true, or a dangerous and clever deception of Satan? These are some of the very questions we will seek to answer. In answering these questions, we will answer our larger question about the resurrection and the immortality of the soul.

The Two Foundations of Spiritualism

All spiritualism, both ancient and modern, can be rooted in two essential, foundational tenets. They are:

- 1.
- 2.

In seeking to understand the Bible position, it will prove very helpful to us to keep these foundations of spiritualism in mind.

The Original Creation of Man

In seeking to unlock the mystery of man's spiritual and physical makeup it will prove exceedingly helpful to note how mankind was first created in Genesis 1 and 2. According to Genesis 2:7, God formed man of two elements: _____ and _____. After these two elements converged, "man _____ a _____". Notice that it says he "became", not that he "had" or "was given" a _____. This is utterly essential. Like a

light bulb, which needs both the physical housing and the electricity to create light, man is the coalescing of the physical body and the _____ of God. Now we understand creation! Here it is in brief:

- Body + Breath = A Living Soul, or
- Dust (elements of the earth) + the vivifying breath of God = A Soul

This is very simple 1+1=2 mathematics. Now listen carefully, death is simply creation in _____. The body minus the breath of God results in death. Like a box that is constructed of nails and boards, when the nails are removed the box *simply ceases to exist*. It does not go to "box heaven".

What About Immortality?

This is very easy to grasp from a Biblical perspective! Man is _____ naturally immortal. Why can we say this with such confidence? Simple:

- *Mortal* means subject to death
- *Immortal* means not subject to death, or *imperishable*.

Is man subject to death? Of course! He is, therefore, by definition, *mortal*. In fact, the Bible teaches that God _____ is immortal. See 1Timothy 6:16; 1:17. Romans 2:7 makes it clear that man does not naturally possess immortality, but " _____ " for it.

Death is the End Until the Resurrection

Consider the following texts, what do they all have in common?

- Psalm 115:17; 146:5
- Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10
- Job 7:9, 10

They all speak of death as the end of conscious _____. Now here comes the real key...

The Sleep of Death

The story of the raising of Lazarus, found in John 11, is one of the clearest stories in the Bible concerning death. Note first of all that Jesus Himself refers