

What does the Bible say about death?

The Bible talks about death as a sleep, refers to resurrections, the soul and spirit in death, and immortality.

#### A SLEEP - **In John 11:11-14**

(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.**

Jesus compares death to sleep. "...Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.' His disciples replied, '**Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.**' Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead,.'

The Bible compares death to sleep over 50 times.

#### We are told **in I Thessalonians 4:15-16**

(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:

(NIV) that those asleep in Jesus rise at His Second Coming.

"According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."

**RESURRECTIONS** - There are two resurrections - one to life and one to eternal condemnation. **John 5:28-29**

(Joh 5:28) **Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,**

(Joh 5:29) **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.**

(NIV). "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

### **Genesis 2:7**

(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.

(KJV) records the creation of man in the beginning. "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."

God did not put a soul into man. It is like an equation: Dust + Breath = a living soul.

**If you were going to make a wooden box you could say: boards + nails = a box. You take a few wooden boards and nail them together to make a box.**

If you take them apart again and pull all the nails out of the wood and put the nails in a pile and the boards in a stack. What happened to the box?

It just ceased to exist until you put it back together again. That is the way it is with death. You take away the breath, that spark of life which comes from God and the body will return to.

### **What happened to the soul?**

It just ceases to be until God comes at the resurrection and puts it back together again. At that time the dust and the breath of life are reunited and then you have a life, a live person or live soul again.

The interval between death and the resurrection is described in the Bible as "sleep." No consciousness of what is happening, or time passing, etc. Dying is like going to sleep and your next conscious thought-it will seem like the next moment-is when God resurrects you giving you back your life.

## **SOUL AND SPIRIT IN DEATH -**

**Ecclesiastes 12:7** says the body returns to the dust and the spirit [or breath of life] returns to God.

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

**Job 27:3** tells us that the spirit is the same as God's breath of life or His power.

(Job 27:3) All the while my breath *is* in me, and the spirit of God *is* in my nostrils;

**Psalms 146:4** (KJV)

(Psa 146:4) His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

says, "When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing."

The dead do not praise God, **Psalms 115:17**. The dead do not know anything,

**Ecclesiastes 9:5**, "For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing."

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

## **IMMORTALITY -**

Human beings do not have immortality, only God does.

**I Corinthians 15 read all of it**

**(I Timothy 6:16).**

(1Ti 6:16) 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* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

**We receive immortality when Jesus comes again.**

**(I Corinthians 15:51-54).**

(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.

(1Co 15:53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

(1Co 15:54) 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.

When Jesus comes His reward of eternal life will be with Him.

**(Revelation 22:12).**

(Rev 22:12) **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

The Bible says heaven is a real place in **John 14:1-3**

(Joh 14:1) **Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**

(Joh 14:2) **In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

(Joh 14:3) **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.**

(NIV), "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."  
God will give us glorious immortal bodies.

**Philippians 3:21**

(Php 3:21) Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

and **I Corinthians 15:51-54**. All physical deformities will be cured.

(The eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped and the crippled healed.)

**Isaiah 35:3-6.**

(Isa 35:3) Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

(Isa 35:4) Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you.

(Isa 35:5) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

(Isa 35:6) Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

They will build houses and inhabit them.

They will plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.

**Isaiah 65:21-23.**

The wolf and lamb will feed together.

God's New Kingdom will be one of tranquil peace.

(Isa 65:21) And they shall build houses, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

(Isa 65:22) They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree *are* the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

(Isa 65:23) They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they *are* the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

**Isaiah 65:25.** (Isa 65:25) The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust *shall be* the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

We will fellowship with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the greatest minds of the ages forever.

**Matthew 8:11** (Mat 8:11) And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

God Himself shall be with us and be our God. **Revelation 21:3.** (Rev 21:3) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

**We shall lovingly serve our God forever and enjoy the closest fellowship with Him.**

**Revelation 22:3-4.** (Rev 22:3) And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

(Rev 22:4) And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

Let us read ----- **Luke 16:19-31**

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