

State of the Dead

By: LeRoy Jackson

What does the Bible say about where my loved ones are now? Death may be the most misunderstood subject in the world today. To many, it is enshrouded in mystery and evokes feelings of fear, uncertainty, and even hopelessness. Others believe their loved ones who have died are not dead at all, but instead live in other places, such as purgatory, under varied conditions for cleansing. Most of the world religions today teach that the dead become spirits. My friend, does it really matter ?

The answer is *Yes*, immeasurably so. The main reason is that people who misunderstand the subject of death will almost assuredly be deceived by Satan on other *important* issues. It is my sole purpose to take you on a Biblical journey through God's Holy Writ as to what He has declared on this subject. And it is my prayer that His words will illuminate your mind.

What REALLY happens at death? Do we go to Heaven, Hell, or somewhere else?

To assess the Truth, we must journey back in time to review:

1. The Creation of Man
2. Man's Precondition
3. Results of sin in the Garden of Eden.

1. The Creation of Man

How did God make 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.” Genesis 2:7

2. Man's Precondition

“But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” Genesis 3:3.

What did the first lie pertain to in the Garden of Eden?

“Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.” Gen 3:4 NKJV
“For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Gen 3:5 NKJV

The devil's lie: “You shall not surely die.” Gen 3:4

“there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44

What did the lie pertain to? *Immortality of the Soul*

Because of their disobedience, the first family had to leave their beautiful home. And from the moment of their disobedience, they began to die.

SIN PRODUCES:

ANXIETY
FEAR
SUFFERING
DEATH

3. Results of sin in the Garden of Eden.

Because of man’s disobedience, man lost his conditional immortality.

‘Then the dust will return, to the earth as it was, and the Spirit will return to God who gave it.’ Ecclesiastes 12:7, NKJV

DUST + SPIRIT = A Living Soul.

Lets look at it another way,

The Elements of the Earth + Breath = A Living Creature.

You see, Death is simply Creation in reverse.

Element of the Earth – Breath = A Dead Body.

“All the while my breath is in me, and the Spirit of God is in my nostrils. Job 27:3, KJV.

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26.

“But man dies and is laid away; Indeed he breaths his last. And where is he?” Job 14:10.

**The Greek Word for spirit is “pneuma” which means air or breath.
Examples for this are like Pneumonia, Pneumatic tires.**

**“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His Breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”
Psalms 146: 3, 4.**

His sons come to honour, and he KNOWETH it NOT; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.” Job 14:21

The dead KNOW NOT any thing, neither have they any more a reward; ... for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their LOVE, and their HATRED, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun... For there is no work, nor device, nor KNOWLEDGE, nor wisdom, in the grave.” Ecclesiastes 9: 5, 6, 10

The Dead praise not the Lord. Psalms 115:17

In death there is no remembrance of thee. Psalms 6:5

He shall no more return to his house. Job 7:10

Death can not celebrate thee. Isaiah 38:18

His thoughts perish. Psalms 146:4

According to the book of Revelation, who has the keys of hell and death?

**Friends, there are many out there that teach that hell is
Satan's dominion. (But what does God's word say?)**

**“I am He that LIVETH, and was DEAD; and, behold, and I am alive for
evermore...; and have the keys of hell and of death. Revelations 1:18**

How did Christ refer to death, when He was on earth?

**A man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at
Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one
only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the
people thronged him.**

**This wonderful story is recorded in the gospels by Mathew, Mark, and Luke.
Mat.9: 18-19, 23-26, Mk.5: 22-24, 35-43, Luke 8:41-42, 49-56.**

Mathew 9:24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but *sleepeth*. And they laughed him to scorn.

Luke 8:52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but *sleepeth*.

Mark 5:39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but *sleepeth*.

The next example is the wonderful story of Lazarus, a very dear friend of Christ. which is recorded in the book of John, Chapter 11.

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. **John 11:1, 3**

“...Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of *sleep*.
John 11:11

Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, *Lazarus is dead*.
John 11:12-14

When Lazarus was raised from the dead, can't you wonder, what if Lazarus had been in heaven? Would he not have questioned the Lord, “Why did you bring me back to this world Lord? I was having fun up there.” Or, “I was in hell Master, and boy am I glad that you bought me back.” Friends, he was silent and the Bible records no thought on his whereabouts. But it does record that he had been dead four days, and that he was stinking. You can read the whole story in John Chapter 11.

THIS IS THE REASON SCRIPTURE REFERS TO DEATH AS A SLEEP

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

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.
Daniel 12:2 KJV

The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.
Psalms 115:17

His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them. Job 14:21

Is there anyone in heaven now?

The Bible tells us that Elijah was taken to heaven in a chariot of fire. II Kings 2:11

In the Book of Jude, it tells the story of how the archangel disputed with Satan over the body of Moses, and claimed him. And the New Testament records Elijah and Moses standing beside Christ on the Mt. of Transfiguration.

Moses and Elijah appeared and stood with Christ on the Mt. of Transfiguration. Matthew 17:3.

What about the thief on the cross?

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. Luke 23:42

The original Bible was not written with punctuation, it was added centuries later by the medieval church.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise. Luke 23:43 KJV

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Let me further illustrate this with another verse. Acts 19:12

So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

So that from his body were brought unto the sick, handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Would you not agree that the proper placement of a comma totally changes the meaning in these verses? The first rendition reads a "sick handkerchief." Friends, have you ever seen a sick handkerchief? Something to think about.

What happened at the death of Christ?

"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit [*breath*]: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."

Luke 23:46

Into thine hand I commit my [spirit] [A prophecy fulfilled by Christ.] Ps. 31:5.

Thou takest away their [breath], they die, and return to their dust. Ps. 104:29.

**The word in Hebrew for spirit is Roo'-akh.
Simply translated, it means breath.**

What happened to Christ when He died?

Jesus did not ascend to heaven on the day of His crucifixion.

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and [to] my God, and your God. John 20:17

**The scriptures record that a special resurrection
took place at Christ's resurrection.**

And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Mathew 27:52, 53

What about King David, someone the Bible describes as a man after God's own heart ? Is he in heaven now?

I was listening to a popular Christian TV station (TBN) some time back, and the moderator of that show was soliciting money in support of his network. (Which is fine). The well-known host on that show made a profound statement, that "King David is in heaven." I called the program, and asked his volunteer if he had a Bible, and he said yes.

I asked him to read the next two verses that you are about to see. (The setting was about a thousand years after King David's death.) And it was Peter preaching at Pentecost, recorded in Acts chapter two.

Men [and] brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Acts 2:29

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Acts 2:34

After the gentleman had read those two verses in question, the last verse stated the fact, 'King David had not ascended into the heavens.' So I politely asked him was Peter lying about 'King David having not ascended in heaven'? His reply, was that he would need a concordance to be able to give that answer. My reply was, "Friend

do you need a concordance to answer that simple question.” (To interpret that David had not ascended to heaven.) In addition, he said he would need to get back with me on that and he never did.

And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, 2 Samuel 7:12

I have read that the Old Testament contains some 30 verses dealing with the Kings of Israel stating that, when they died, they slept with their Fathers.

Friends, if we sleep in death, then when do we get our reward?

Revelation 22:12 says;
“And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward [is] with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

The scriptures tells us: 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. John 5:28, 29.

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:
1 Thessalonians 4:16

And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Mathew 24:31

Behold, I show 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.
1 Corinthians 15:51, 52

The KJV Bible uses the word “soul” 1600 times but never once uses the term “immortal soul. Only God is immortal. The Bible declares death as a sleep 53 times.

**Today there is a great trend toward spiritualism.
Communicating with the dead.**



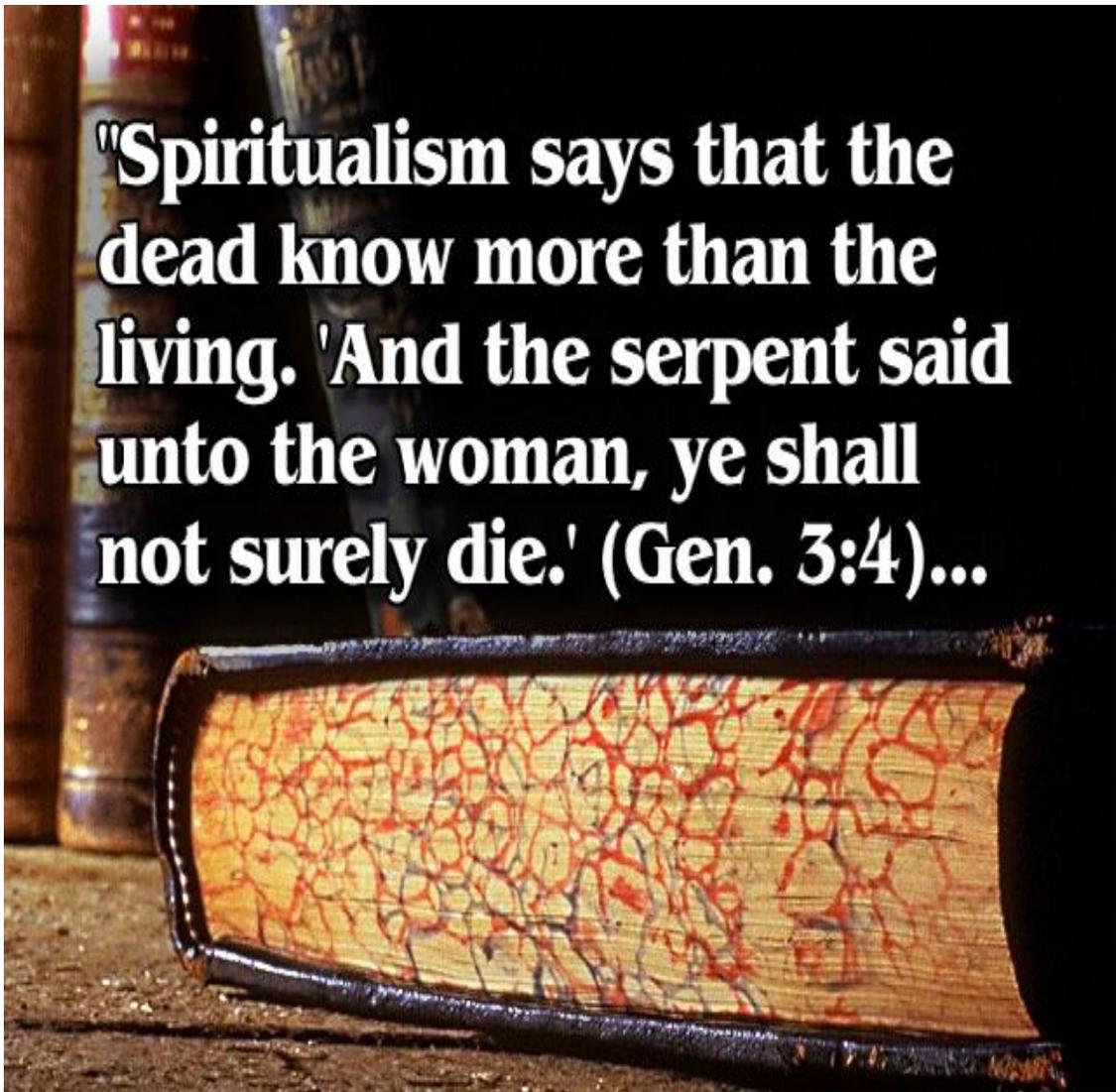
1. Spiritualism Claims The Dead Are Not Dead

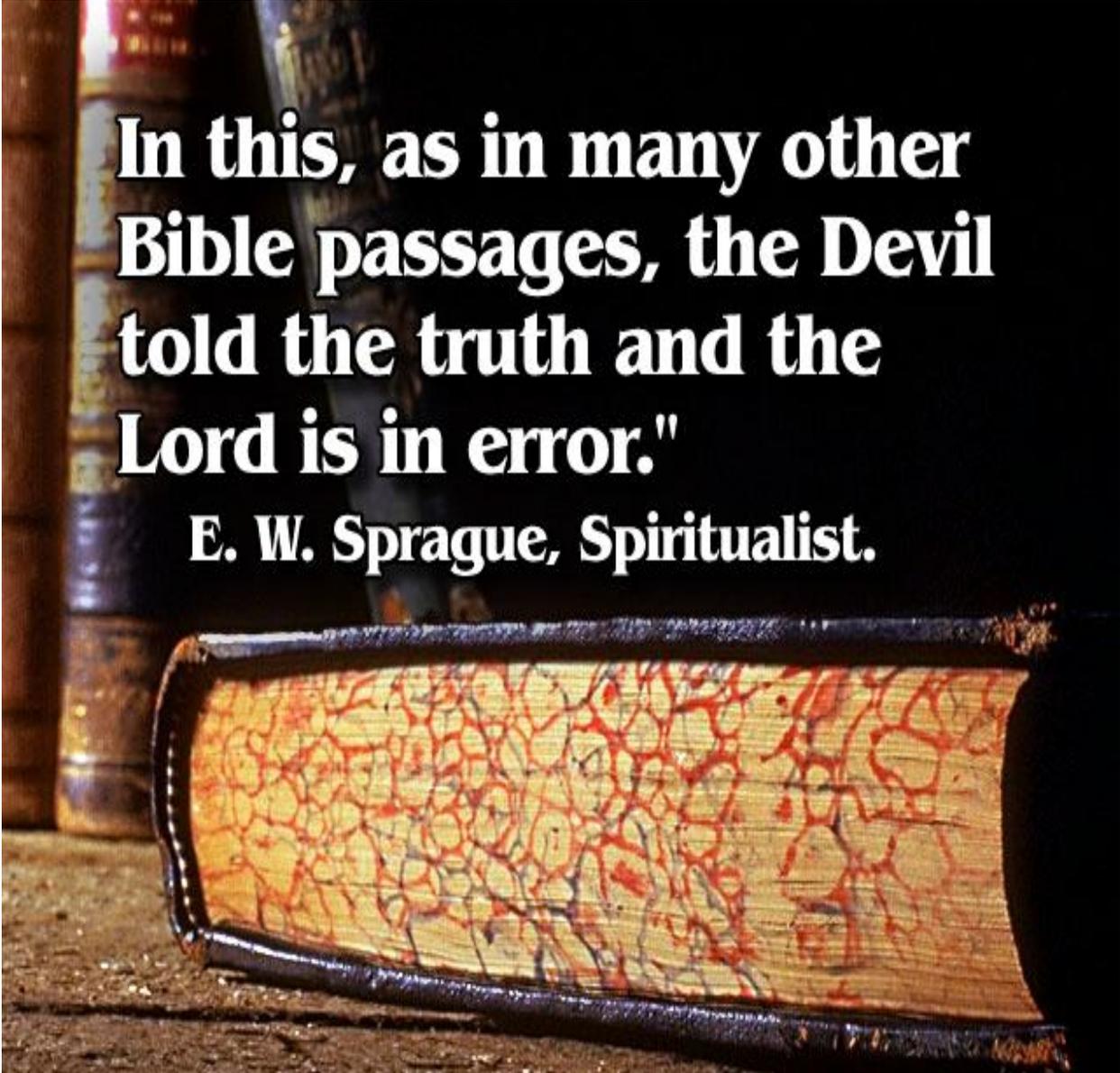
“The fundamental principal of spiritualism is that human beings survive bodily death,

2. Spiritualism Claims The Dead Communicate With The Living

**“There is no death in the graveyard. I have frequent talks with the dead. I cannot doubt that people live after death for I frequently talk with them.”
Sir Oliver Lodge.**

"Spiritualism says that the dead know more than the living. 'And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die.' (Gen. 3:4)..."





**In this, as in many other
Bible passages, the Devil
told the truth and the
Lord is in error."**

E. W. Sprague, Spiritualist.

"For they are spirits of devils, working miracles. Revelations 16:14

Scripture tells us that;

"There shall not be found among you [anyone] ... that useth divination, [or] an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD:" Deuteronomy 10:10 -12.

**"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything."
Ecclesiastes 9:5**

Hosea 4:6 says,

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

II Timothy 4:3, 4.

II Thessalonians 2:11,12 says,

“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

My friend according to God’s word, souls do die! We are all souls, and souls die. Man is mortal (Job 4:17) Only God is immortal (I Timothy 6:15, 16). The concept of an immortal soul goes against the Bible, which teaches that all souls are subject to death. My friends, you see it in the movies, and sadly, hear it from most of the pulpits today.

I hope that Gods Word will enlighten you, and bring you peace of mind. There are many more texts, but my desire is simplicity. The Master said be as the “Bereans” studying and proving all things that be so, and to test every spirit. God Bless, and may Jesus’ face shine upon you.