

THE NATURE OF MAN

1 What does the Bible teach about the creation of humanity?

GENESIS 2:7 “And the LORD God formed _____ of the _____ of the ground, and _____ into his _____ the breath of _____; and man _____ a living _____.”

The Word of God in the King James Version reports how man “became” a living “soul,” not that man “has” a “living soul.” The combination of the dust of the ground and the breath of God brought man to life.

2 What warning did God give concerning the risk of death?

GENESIS 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of _____ tree of the garden you may _____ eat; (17) but of the tree of the _____ of _____ and _____ you shall _____ eat, for in the _____ that you _____ of it you shall _____.’”

On penalty of death, God instructed Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The fact that Adam was susceptible to death proved that nothing about him was immortal.

3 How does the apostle Paul describe the fate of humanity?

ROMANS 6:23 “For the _____ of sin is _____, but the _____ of _____ is _____ life in Christ Jesus our _____.”

It is still true that sin demands death but obedience is rewarded with life. Had Adam endured the test of obedience, God would have bestowed upon him the “gift of eternal life.”

4 What did God remind Adam of after he accepted the forbidden fruit from Eve?

GENESIS 3:19 “In the _____ of your face you shall _____ bread till you _____ to the ground, for out of it you were _____; for _____ you are, and to _____ you shall _____.”

God did not tell Adam that at death he would go to heaven, but he would “return” to the ground. The death God warned Adam of, became his fate. Adam’s point of origin became his point of destiny.

5 How do we know that Adam’s disobedience resulted in death?

GENESIS 5:5 “So all the days that _____ were nine hundred and thirty years; and he _____.”

God’s Word is true. The result of sin is death, not eternal life. Nothing about Adam survived the grave, he returned to dust. Such is still the case. At funerals you hear the term, “Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”

6 Why do people believe that death is not the end of life?

GENESIS 3:4 “Then the _____ said to the woman, ‘You will _____.’”

We do not “Surely die” is a lie Satan told in the beginning and people still believe it today. The biblical evidence is clear; Adam died. The results of Adam’s disobedience infected humanity.

7 To what extent did the sin of Adam affect humanity?

ROMANS 5:12 “Therefore, just as through _____ man _____ entered the _____, and _____ through sin, and thus death _____ to _____ men, because all _____.”

As the progenitor of the human race, Adam opened the door to sin and its affect. Adam’s nature infected the family line of humanity. Regardless of how long a person lives, the end is always death.

8 How does the apostle Paul describe the effects of Adam’s sin?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:22 “For as in _____ all _____, even so in _____ all _____ be made _____.”

Death continues to be the result of Adam’s sin. All die. The good news is, because of Jesus “all shall be made alive.” We look forward to eternal life because Jesus is the only One that defeated death.

9 What does the Bible describe as the destiny of the dead?

JOHN 5:28-29 “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is _____ in which _____ who are _____ the _____ will hear His _____ (29) and come _____—those who have done _____, to the _____ of _____, and those who have done _____, to the _____ of _____.”

The resurrection has almost been completely obliterated from Christian theology. Too often at funerals, people are told that their loved ones are now in heaven. The Bible does not support such teachings. It is not until the resurrection that the dead are appointed their fate. John made it clear that “all who are in the graves” will receive their destiny at the resurrection.

10 How does the Bible describe the condition of man in death?

ECCLESIASTES 9:5-6 “For the _____ know that they will _____; but the _____ know _____, and they have no more _____, for the _____ of them is _____ (6) Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now _____; _____ will they have a _____ in _____ done under the _____.”

Ministers that teach that your loved ones are in heaven do not read or understand Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 because it flatly uncovers the lie that man

continues to live after death. Death is not the entrance into a higher state of consciousness; it is the end of consciousness. That’s why Solomon wrote “the dead know nothing.”

11 What does the Bible teach is the destination of the dead?

ECCLESIASTES 9:10 “Whatever your _____ finds to do, do it with your _____; for there is no _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ in the _____ where you are _____.”

Death does not send you to a place of continued activity: all involvement ceases at death. There is no “Work, device, knowledge, or wisdom” after death. These conscious activities come to an end, just like God told Adam. Solomon also says the grave is “where you are going.”

12 Many are taught that their loved ones are in heaven praising God. Is there biblical support for that teaching?

PSALM 115:17 “The _____ do not _____ the _____, nor _____ who go _____ into _____.”

The Bible teaches that the dead go down into silence, not up into praise. The righteous dead will not praise God until they are resurrected. If death were not the end of life, God would not have warned Adam that he would die. When Adam died, he returned to the dust, not to heaven.

13 Doesn’t the Bible teach that something does return to God when we die?

ECCLESIASTES 12:7 “Then the _____ will return to the _____ as it was, and the _____ will _____ to God who _____ it.”

The spirit that returns to God is not a separate component of man. It is the breath God gave Adam that brought his body from dust to life. The spirit that returns to God is the “Breath of life” that came from God. Man returns to the dust. Without God’s breath of life in our nostrils, we cease to live. That is why in the book of Job we read these words, “All the while my breath is in me, and the Spirit of God is in my nostrils.” Job 27:3 (KJV).

14 In the record of the flood that destroyed the Antediluvian world, how does the Bible describe their fate?

GENESIS 7:22 “All in whose _____ was the _____ of the _____ of _____, all that was on the dry land, _____.”

The fate of the people that died in Noah’s day is the same as the fate of Adam. Both had the “Spirit of the breath of life” in their nostrils. God placed it in Adam’s nostrils at creation. That is why Genesis contains the phrase, “Breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” Genesis 2:7(NKJV). There is nothing spooky about the process of death. Nothing survives death. The dead are in an unconscious state. All activities of life cease at death.

15 In describing the end of life, the psalmist David reveals a process that describes creation in reverse.

PSALM 146:4 "His _____, he _____ to his _____; in that very day his _____."

When death comes the best of intentions and the most exciting plans perish. The "Spirit" that sustained humanity's existence leaves the body. Another way of saying that is, "He breathed his last breath."

16 How does the book of Job illustrate what happens after we breathe our last breath?

JOB 14:10-12 "But man _____ and is _____ away; indeed he _____ his _____ and _____ is he? (11) As water _____ from the sea, and a river becomes parched and _____ up, (12) So man lies _____ and _____ not _____. Till the _____ are no _____, they will not _____ nor be _____ from their _____."

The Bible continues to be abundantly clear about the fate of the dead. The dead person is "Laid away," as in a funeral and burial. Also, just as seawater disappears and a river dries up, he ceases to exist. As long as the heavens exist, the dead will not awake or be aroused from sleep.

17 How long did Job expect to be in his grave?

JOB 14:13 "Oh, that You would _____ me in the _____, that You would _____ me until Your _____ is _____, that You would _____ me a set _____, and _____ me!"

Job knew that he would be in the grave until God's wrath is past; which takes place at the return of Jesus. God uses the grave to "Conceal" or hide the dead. Job asked God to "Remember me!" It is the same request made by the thief on the cross, "Then he said to Jesus, 'Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.'" Luke 23:42. (NKJV) The thief could not go to heaven that day because Jesus did not go until after His resurrection. Jesus promised the thief, "You will be with Me in Paradise."

18 But what about the teaching "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord"?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-8 "So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at _____ in the _____ we are _____ from the Lord. (7) For we walk by _____, not by _____. (8) We are confident, yes, well pleased _____ to be _____ from the _____ and to be _____ with the _____."

The apostle Paul is describing the burdens and difficulties of this life and how he looks forward to the day when this mortal life will be replaced. He wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:4, "Mortality may be swallowed up by life." Nowhere in these verses does the apostle Paul even allude to death. The subject matter he was addressing is the change from mortal to immortal.

19 How does the book of Job refer to the change that is coming?

JOB 14:14 "If a man dies, shall he _____ again? All the days of my hard service I will _____, till my _____ comes."

Job knew that the grave is the place where we "Wait" until the day we are changed. He wrote, "If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness." Job 17:13 (KJV).

20 Job talked about death as being a sleep, is that true?

JOHN 11:11 "These things He said, and after that He said to them, 'Our friend Lazarus _____, but I go that I may _____ him up.'"

JOHN 11:14 "Then Jesus said to them plainly, 'Lazarus is _____.'"

PSALM 13:3 "Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I _____ the sleep of _____."

The unconscious nature of man in death is throughout Scripture. Thirty-six times in the Old Testament, the Bible teaches that when a king such as David died, he "Slept with his fathers," 1 Kings 2:10. Of David the New Testament records in Acts 2:34, "For David is not ascended into the heavens." It further writes in Acts 2:29, "The patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us and to this day." (KJV)

21 How does the Bible describe the change that will come?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-55 "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all _____, but we shall all be _____ (52) in a _____, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last _____. For the trumpet will sound, and the _____ will be _____ incorruptible, and we shall be _____. (53) For this corruptible must put on _____, and this mortal must put on _____. (54) So when this _____ has put on incorruption, and this _____ has put on immortality, _____ shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is _____ up in victory.'"

22 What is the hope of those that sleep in Jesus?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-17 "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and _____ until the coming of the Lord will by no means _____ those who are _____. (16) For the Lord Himself will _____ from heaven with a _____, with the voice of an archangel, and with the _____ of God. And the _____ in Christ will rise _____. (17) Then we who are alive and _____ shall be caught up _____ with them in the _____ to meet the Lord in the _____. And thus we shall _____ be with the Lord."

The glorious return of Jesus will bring death to an end. The resurrection will be the greatest reunion ever. Death will not have the final say, Jesus will! Because of Jesus' victory over death, there is hope beyond the grave.



God warned our first parents that disobedience would result in death. He cautioned them that any departure from His instruction would result in the curse of death. Now, thousands of years removed from the perfection of Eden, we recognize the truth of God's Word. Since the fall of humanity, the mortality rate has been 100%. We inherited the best that Adam could offer—the DNA of death.

The answers to the question that have eluded the minds of so many are: what happens when you die? What is our condition after death? Where do we go? Are we immortal by nature? Are the dead able to communicate with the living?

At funerals many walk away confused about the answers to these important questions. One person teaches that our loved ones are looking down on us. Others teach that our deceased are now our guardian angels and have been exalted to a place where they are intricately still involved in the affairs of our lives. Some even teach that we can communicate with the "dead" and they can communicate with us.

If television and society were our only source for answers, then we could compile a list of conflicting views and choose our preference. But the Bible does not leave us to wonder on this very important topic. You will discover that a clear understanding of the condition of man and death will reveal the truth about the character of Jesus.