

Death

As we have shown that the Bible is the wholly inspired Word of God, so the Bible is the only book which provides a valid and reasonable explanation for the experience of death and as discussed in our previous pamphlet (number 9) “man is mortal because of sin”, in the first book of the Bible clearly speaks about mankind being created and the reason for death. In Genesis chapter 2 verse 7, we have the record of man being created from the dust of the ground. *“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.”*

The book of Genesis tells us that man became a breathing creature and because of disobedience to God’s law, he now returns to the ground at death. In other words the first couple became dying creatures.

The problem of aging, disease and eventual death is one which scientists and particularly biochemists have been investigating with increasing interest in recent years. One scientist said “Aging is due to some internal clock within you, which deliberately runs you down and destroys you.” This scientific fact is so because of what we read in Genesis chapter 3 and verse 19: *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”*

The Bible definition of the “Death State” or a human’s experience at death is simple and clear, and recorded in Ecclesiastes chapter 9: 5 & 6: *“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, 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.”* and in verse 10 *“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”*

We read in Genesis 2: 7 that living creatures breathe and Psalm 146 explains what happens at death. Psalm 146: 4: *“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”*

When we die, our energising breath returns to God our Creator. Death ends everything – life, movement speech hearing etc. But for those who believe the gospel and are baptised, death is not the end of the matter. There is hope beyond the grave in what the Bible terms “the resurrection.” (see pamphlet 12)

Nowhere in the Bible do the words “immortal” and “soul” occur together. The Bible says nothing about an eternal spark within humans. On the contrary, the Bible teaches about a resurrection and judgment, which would be totally irrelevant if we received our reward at death. The word “soul” literally means breath, life or the person.

Where do we go from here? God alone has the power to remove sin and death from the earth. It is in His power to grant a deathless existence to His children. In point of fact, He has provided for this in the fullness of time, but only to those who love and obey Him. Romans 2:6-7: *“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.”* God did however give hope to them and to us by cursing the seed of the serpent, representing sin and condemning it to eventual destruction. See Gen 3:14, 15.

It is up to us to choose whether we want death to be permanent or whether we wish to share in the gift of God and have the prospect of immortal life, by striving to obey Him now. Once we die, it is too late. Our lives have been lived and no more can be done to work to obey God.

Note: all quotes are from the King James Version of the Bible.