

Revelation Reveals Deadly Delusions

Revelation Reveals Deadly Delusions



1

My topic tonight is **Revelation Reveals Deadly Delusions**.



2

Can we find a hope that goes beyond the grave?



3

What really happens at death?

The question of what really happens at death has a solid Biblical answer.



4

Now I recognize that even Christians and non-Christians look at this subject of death differently. Some religions believe in reincarnation. Some secular people believe that death is the end with nothing beyond the grave.

If you would ask most Christians, "What happens when you die?"

They would say, "The person has a soul that goes to Heaven or Hell at death."

Others might believe in purgatory, an in-between step.



5

Are the dead asleep waiting for the resurrection when Jesus comes or are they in Heaven already?

And if he is in Heaven does the soul have eyes, can it speak, does it have a mouth, does it have ears?



6

If a soul has eyes and a mouth, ears and you can see it up in Heaven, why does it have to come back for the body?

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So there are all kinds of confusing questions.
People are really perplexed about this subject of death.
What happens when you die?

Is the soul immortal, or is there a resurrection?

You see if the soul is immortal then it could go to either Heaven or Hell immediately after death.



7

If the soul is immortal then the dead could actually talk to the living.

The whole issue of death has to do with the question of immortality. Do we have it now?

Will it be given to us at the second coming of Christ?

Where can we find the answers?



8

Would you agree with me tonight that the only reliable place to find information about death or any subject is the Bible?



9

That why our theme is:

**If it's in the Bible, I believe it.
If it disagrees with the Bible,
It's not for me.**

The Bible gives us dependable answers to the question—
“What happens when you die?”

It reveals not only what happens when you die, but also how to face death with new hope and confidence.

The very first chapter of the book of Revelation introduces us to a glorious person, the person of Jesus Christ.
He is dressed in a glowing white robe.



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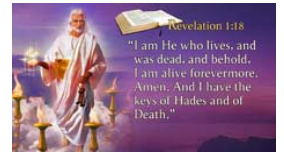
His eyes are flames of fire.

10

And Jesus identifies Himself in this way—

Revelation 1:18

“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”



Jesus went into the grave and came out. He has the keys to the grave. Any believer who dies and rests in Jesus can look forward to that resurrection.

The Bible reveals the truth of the resurrection throughout its pages.

It points forward to the second coming of Christ when Jesus comes and the dead are resurrected.



But somebody says,

“What does the Bible teach about the idea of the immortal soul?”



Let's go back to **Genesis**, to the creation week to find a clue as to what happens when a person dies.

Maybe if we understand what happened at our creation, we can understand something about what happens when we die.

The Bible says in **Genesis 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.”



Notice these three key phrases here: God formed man of the dust of the ground, breathed into him the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

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Does the Bible say that God put an immortal soul in Adam?
No, it doesn't say that.
Instead it reveals the formula for the human being:

Dust

+ Spirit
= A living soul

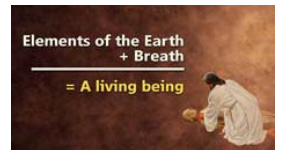


16

Or, another way to describe it,

Element of Earth

+ Breath
= A living being



17

A "living soul" means a "living person."

Adam became a living being or a living person.
You see, a living soul is a living person.



18

I don't have a soul. I am a soul, a living creature, a person
and so are you.

What is this soul?

Is it immortal, or can it ever die?



19

Ezekiel 18:4

***"Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well
as the soul of the son is Mine;***



20

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The soul who sins shall die.

Can the soul die according to the Bible? Yes, because it says, “the soul that sins, it shall,”—What? Die.



21

There is **another name for “soul” in the Bible** that surprises some people. And that is **“person” or “life”**. So this verse says that the person who sins shall die.



22

Notice in this verse how the words “life” and “soul” are used interchangeably:

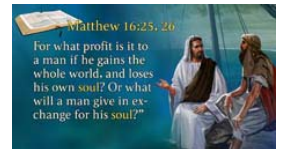
Matthew 16:25, 26

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.



23

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”



24

Only God is Immortal
"Mortal" means subject to death
"Immortal" means imperishable



25

The Bible never uses the terms "immortal soul" or "immortality of the soul."

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1 Timothy 1:17

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”



26

So the King is immortal. God is immortal.

We receive immortality when Christ comes.

The Bible says, “This mortal shall put on immortality”.

When I come to Christ He gives me the gift of eternal life.

That dwells in my heart right now.

But the gift of immortality comes at the second coming of Christ.

1 Timothy 6:15, 16

“... He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,



27

who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light ...”



28

Who **alone** has immortality?

God alone has immortality.

The one that dwells in the unapproachable light—

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is clear on this matter of immortality.



29

Pagan Greek philosophy taught that the soul is immortal.

You see the Greeks taught that the soul could live separately from the body.

They taught that the soul was a distinct entity which had life on its own.

The Bible teaches that human beings are an integrated unit—physical, mental and spiritual.

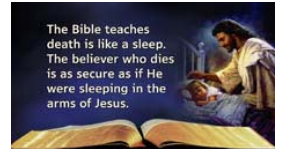
These components are inseparable.



30

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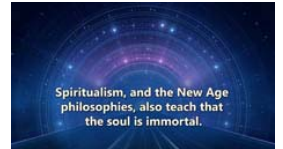
The Bible teaches death is like a sleep. The believer who dies is as secure as if He were sleeping in the arms of Jesus.



31

Resting from the heartache and disappointment of earth until that glorious resurrection morning. But—

Spiritualism, and the New Age philosophies, also teach that the soul is immortal.



32

Spiritualism teaches that when you die there is this essence of you that lives on. And you can come back and communicate with the living.

Do you see why this is such a deadly idea?

The devil can use these false ideas about death to deceive us.

His evil angels can masquerade as our dead loved ones. They can bring us so called messages from beyond the grave.

They can mislead us into accepting Satan's lies. Here is what the Bible says.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—



33

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound,



34

And the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”



35

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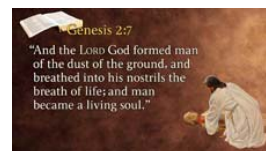
When God created Adam He placed His breath within him, not an immortal soul.



36

Genesis 2:7 KJV

“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.”



37

Death is creation in reverse.

What happens when a person dies?
What is it that goes back to God?



38

Does the Bible say the “soul” goes back to God?
It says what goes back to God?
The spirit.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”

So the body goes to the dust but this spirit that goes back to God is not something that is conscious.
It is the breath or power of God that returns to God. God has preserved the identity of that person in His mind.



39

The Old Testament Hebrew word for “spirit” is “ruauch” which means “breath.”

So spirit and breath are the same thing; not spirit and soul.
A lot of people get confused.
They think the spirit and the soul are the same thing.
That’s not so.



40

The spirit and soul are different.



41

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God forms man out of the dust of the ground, that's his body.



42

God breaths into man his “ruauch” – the Hebrew word for spirit or breath.



43

Man becomes a living soul.

When a person dies the body goes to the dust.



44

The spirit or breath of life—the power of life goes back to God.



45

Now, notice how **the Bible teaches that the breath and spirit are the same thing.**



46

Job 27:3 KJV

“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;”



47

What is in your nostrils?

Is it something that thinks and reasons?

No, it is the breath that God gives you.

Maybe I can illustrate it with this light bulb.

Now to get illumination I need this bulb.

But I need more than a bulb.



48

The bulb represents the body.

But if I am going to have illumination or light I need power to the light bulb.

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The light bulb alone doesn't give me light.
I need power. Correct?

So the power represents God's spirit or God's breath.

The power comes through the cord into the bulb and that produces what? Illumination.



49

What happens when you unplug the light?

The power goes where? Back to the power house.

So when we stop breathing and our heart stops beating we die.



50

Since the power to create life is with God, His spirit which gave life, returns to Him.



51

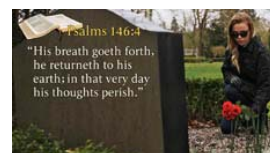
Is there any consciousness in death?



52

Psalms 146:4

“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”



53

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6

***“For the living know that they will die;
But the dead know nothing . . .***



54

How much do the dead know? Nothing. Why not?
Because at death, their thoughts perish and there is no longer any consciousness. They are resting. Secure in Jesus.

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Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished.”

If the soul went to Heaven when you died, at least there would be love to God.

But the Bible says, “Their love, their hatred and their envy have now perished”.



55

Death Is A Sleep

The Bible teaches that death is like a sleep that lasts **until Christ's Second coming. Bible writers declare death a sleep more than 50 times.**



56

Psalms 13:3

“Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.”

In the Bible death is a rest.

In the Bible there is no immortal soul.



57

One day as Jesus and His disciples were traveling to visit the home of his friends Lazarus, Mary and Martha, He got the news that Lazarus had become very sick and then he died.

Jesus waited three days before arriving at the home.

While they were on their way Jesus made this statement.



58

John 11:11-14

“Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.’



59

Then His disciples said, ‘Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.’

They thought Jesus was speaking about Lazarus getting sick, then falling asleep in the evening.



60

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However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

The disciples thought he would wake up in the morning and feel better.



61

Then Jesus said to them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead.'

For Jesus, as for all Bible writers, death is but a sleep. Jesus then visited Lazarus' home.



62

He decided to raise him from the dead as a demonstration of His power.

This would become a powerful testimony of His resurrection power for all humanity at end time.

Listen to what Jesus said to Martha—

John 11:23

"Your brother will rise again."

Now, notice the words very carefully. Jesus didn't say to Martha, Martha good news, praise God,

Martha don't cry because Lazarus' soul is up in Heaven. Is that what Jesus said to Martha? Not at all.



63

What did Martha believe about death?



64

John 11:24, 25

"Martha said to Him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'



65

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Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'"



66

Martha who received her religion directly from Jesus believed her brother would be resurrected in the last day when Jesus comes again.

Jesus worked a miracle in raising Lazarus from the dead, to demonstrate that He can wipe away every tear from our eyes at funerals too.



67

So Jesus came to that tomb and He said, "Lazarus, come forth".

Lazarus was sleeping, resting in God's love and care. .

And Lazarus came out of the grave alive.
Let's suppose Jesus came to that grave,
and if what many people believe is true — "Lazarus is up in heaven"—



68

Jesus would have said, "Lazarus, come down!"
Now I'll tell you something. If I were Lazarus and I had been up in Heaven for 3 or 4 days and Jesus said,
"Come down!" I would have looked down and said, "Nothing doing, Lord. I am not coming back there!" Right.
I mean, wouldn't you have said that too?

If what people believe is true, Lazarus should have written a whole book in the Bible about the glories of Heaven.
But Lazarus was silent about Heaven. Why?

Because he was sleeping until the resurrection.
Exactly like Jesus said.
And exactly like Martha believed

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It's wonderful to know that God has marked the grave of that husband or wife, that child, that father, that mother.

It's encouraging to know the heartaches of earth that they were so troubled with are over for them.

What can be more reassuring than to know they are just as if they were cradled in Christ's arms in a perfect state of bliss in sleep until the resurrection?

Job 14:21

"If his sons are honored, he does not know it; if they are brought low, he does not see it."

I've had people say to me, "Oh, I love to think of my mother up in Heaven looking down at me".

But what if you have a husband that abuses you and your mother is up in Heaven watching that abuse.

What if a mother is up in Heaven and her child goes astray. He is shooting drugs in his veins and he's ruining his life.

Do mothers in heaven bear all this grief for their children's problems on earth?

God is too merciful for that.

Death is a state of perfect rest or sleep until the resurrection when Christ wakes you up and says "now all the sorrow is over."

When we die it's a perfect rest.
You don't know any passage of time.

Now all the heartache is over.
Now all the disappointments of life are over.
That's why the Bible says—



69



70



71



72

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Psalm 115:17

“The dead do not praise the LORD, nor any who go down into silence.”



73

If they were up in Heaven what would they be doing?

Praising the Lord.



74

It's amazing isn't it?

That in 1600 places where the Bible mentions the “soul” the Bible never uses the term, “immortal soul.”

But throughout the Bible it describes “death as a sleep.”



75

The Bible talks about the resurrection. It talks about the coming of Christ.

It talks about the graves being opened. The Bible is very plain on the subject of death.

When that loved one died as a believer, their life was hidden with Christ in God.

He has preserved their true identity. They sleep. There is no perceived passage of time.

They don't know about any of the trials or difficulties there loved ones and friends are experiencing on earth.

As Christ comes

He calls “John come forth!” “Mary come forth!”

The graves are opened and we are caught up to meet Jesus in the air.



77

And we ascend to meet this Christ who died on the cross.

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What about the thief on the cross?

What did Jesus mean when He spoke to the thief on the cross and promised, “Assuredly I say to you, today, you will be with Me in paradise”. The wording seems to imply that Jesus would meet the thief that same day in Paradise.



78

Rightly understood, there is no confusion. Christ was saying, “I promise you today, that you will be with Me in paradise.”

When there is a question of interpretation, we examine what is questionable by what is clear.

Did Christ Himself go to paradise that day?
Let’s let Jesus answer—

You remember Jesus was crucified on **Friday**, rested in the tomb on **Sabbath**, but on **Sunday**, the first day of the week He was resurrected from the dead.



79

Although Mary did not recognize Him at first, look what happened when she finally did and rushed to fall at His feet in worship. It’s quite a story.



80

John 20:15-17

“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’



81

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, ‘Sir, if You have carried Him away,



82

tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’



83

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Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him, 'Rabboni!' (which is to say, Teacher).



84

Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father;



85

but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'''''



86

How could Christ have said to the thief on Friday that He would meet Him in Paradise that day when Jesus Himself didn't even go until Sunday — the first day of the week?



87

He said to Mary, "don't touch me for I have not yet ascended to my Father." If we believe Jesus met the thief in heaven on Friday, it contradicts the entire Bible teaching on death.

Second, if Jesus had not yet ascended to His Father on Sunday morning, how could He have told the thief on Friday that they'd be in paradise that day?

When we encounter an apparent contradiction in the Bible, we immediately realize that something is wrong – not with the Word of God, but with our limited understanding.

How do we know how to interpret this verse?

When God says 53 times that death is a sleep.

When God says 1600 times — there is no immortal soul.

When the Bible says, "The living know that they shall die but the dead don't know anything," (Ecclesiastes 9:5)

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We know that Christ did not teach that the thief had an immortal soul that would go immediately to heaven at death.

So what did Jesus mean when He said to the thief, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise."?"



88

Jesus said, "I say unto you today.
This day that I am dying on the cross.
This day that I have apparently been stripped of My power.
This day when men and women are ridiculing me.
This day with the blood running from my face.
This day with a crown of thorns on my head.

This day that doesn't look like I can save anybody.
I say to you today, THIS day,
"You will be with me one day in Paradise."

Because I am going to be resurrected from the dead and as I ascend to Heaven your name is written on My hand.
As I ascend to heaven I will ascend there with your name on My lips.



89

1 Corinthians 15:55

"O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?"



90

1 Corinthians 15:57

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



91

Have you lost a husband or a wife or a loved one by death?
Do you sometimes go to that grave of your loved one and kneel and put flowers there?
The good news is that death has lost its sting.

The good news is death has lost its hold.

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The good news is the grave cannot hold us because Jesus Christ went into the grave,
He came out of the grave and our life is hid with Christ in God. Our identity is solid in Christ.

Our name is on His lips. He's written pardon on the palms of His hands.

And when He comes again He will say, "John come forth."

"Mary, come forth."

When Christ comes,

He knows your name,

He calls your name.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel,



92

and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:



93

All the Bible points to one glorious climactic event.

Why have Christians down through the ages longed for the second coming of Christ?

Why? Because they believed that at the coming of Christ, the dead would be resurrected and they would meet their dead loved ones again.

We would receive glorious immortal bodies and we would be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.

Notice **verse 17**—

"Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.



94

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And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

When Jesus comes, streaming down the sky, the dead are resurrected.



95

They are given glorious immortal bodies.

You will see that baby you have laid in the grave again.



96

That father that died of cancer you can see again. That mother that you've lost you can embrace again. That husband, that wife. . .



97

Together we are caught up to meet Christ in the sky.

Think of the excitement.

Think of the thrill that flows through our bodies!



98

A husband and wife, alive when Christ comes, are caught up to meet Him in the air. Their son ascends with them. Their daughter who died at 9 is resurrected and joins them in the air.

Oh it's going to be so exciting!

Even in facing death we can hold the hand of Christ. We can completely trust this Christ who lays our loved ones in the grave.

This Christ who holds them close to His breast and lets them rest; this Christ that has their identity in His mind; this Christ who has marked their tomb; this Christ who will resurrect them from the dead.



99

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If you've lost a loved one in death you can say tonight,
precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord give me that peace, give me that comfort, give
me that security.

Precious Lord help me to know that this loved one as a
believer is safe and secure in your arms. Precious Lord
comfort my heart.

Precious Lord keep me looking for that day when Jesus will
come and the dead will be resurrected.

Why not bow your head right now and imagine this scene:

Christ comes, the earth gives up its dead.

The sky is illuminated with the glory of God.

The graves are opened.

Why not reach up right now and say, "Precious Lord take
my hand"

Perhaps the most wonderful thing we can learn on the
subject of death, is the God Himself, in Revelation 21:4
states in true and faithful words that a day is coming when
"there will be no more death."

Wouldn't it be a tragedy to miss out on the resurrection, to
miss out on eternity in a land where there will be no death,
neither sorrow, nor crying, nor any more pain.

The Bible offers us a glimpse of just such a place and
tonight, you and I can accept that gift of eternal life and hope
of sharing in God's immortality.

Let us stand together if that is your desire. Some of you have
already decided to be baptized. I would like to have a special
prayer for you. Would you just come forward..yes...just
come forward and we will pray together if you have decided
to be baptized or you are thinking about being baptized or
you have learned now truths about Jesus and you are
thinking about being re-baptized. Just come forward and we

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will pray together. Come now as the choir sings. Come...let us pray.

(Those who came forward should have a seat on the front row so the ushers can get their names).
