

WHAT COMES AFTER DEATH?

TEXT:

Ecclesiastes 12:7: Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return to God Who gave it.

INTRODUCTION

Death is such a sad, sickening, and sour word that even hospitals no longer use it. Instead, they use words like expired, demise, deceased, passed away.

Look at the total evidence. The body sleeps. There is no question about that. Jesus made this clear in the case of Lazarus.

John 11:11-14:

¹¹ These things said He [Jesus]: and after that He [Jesus] saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

¹² Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

¹³ Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

¹⁴ Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

What about the soul? Does it sleep, also, like the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Seven Day Adventists say? That is not what our text in **Ecclesiastes** says.

The Bible clearly tells us that there is a distinction between the soul-spirit and the body.

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

Note the rest of the context, however, which these groups fail to quote. It means our plans, projects, and schemes perish under the sun on this side of the grave. Death is a dividing line, a deadline.

Do sight, hearing, smelling, or feeling exist after death? What does the Bible say about Samuel?

1 Samuel 28:5-8, 11-16:

5 And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.

6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

7 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

8 And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night:

and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.



11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.

14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

15 And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. 16 Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?

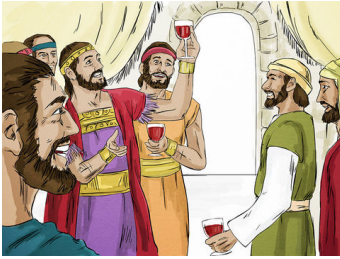
We see that Samuel still had reason, memory, feeling, and emotions which are every test of consciousness. This is God's witness speaking about a true believer in the Lord.

Then, what about the unbeliever, the wicked? We are told in:

Luke 16:19-31:

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine

linen, and fared sumptuously every day:



**20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.**

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.



26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

The rich man could see, hear, and remember. He was as conscious in Hell as Samuel was in Paradise.

Revelation 6:9: And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the

testimony which they held.

The martyrs here are in a scene of suspension, say the Jehovah Witnesses. They were conscious, they could speak and they did. They can hear, remember, and even know what is going on down here on earth. They can speak and did so to the Lord; and, they got an answer to their troubled and perplexed minds.

Are you ready for the return trip?

***Ecclesiastes 12:7: Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was:
and the spirit shall return to God Who gave it.***

Are you ready for Jesus' Return?

***Matthew 25:13: Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the
hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.***

OLD AGE

***The darkness wisps in upon my mind and seeks out unknown corners
where the light has never shone.***

***And way below within me cries a voice that's lost,
alone, and small, complaining of little aches and
pains, and the emptiness that was once filled with
children's voices and cries, with sounds of a family,
and a life gone by. My eyes glaze blankly at those
hands I have, that once were skilled in many things,
and now are only tired.***



***I sit here now and feel the fibers of my bones, and look back upon my
memories. That is all I have is memories, for youth is gone and old
age is set in: for I had to retire.***

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