



Revelation Hope for Uncertainty

PROGRAM 10 - Revelation Reveals Deadly Delusions

Message Summary

The Confusion Surrounding Death and the Bible's Clear Answers

There are many varied beliefs about what happens after death. These diverse beliefs are found in Hindus (reincarnation), Catholicism (heaven, purgatory, hell for an immortal soul), Protestantism (similar to Catholics but without purgatory), and Secular Humanism (death is the end).

This wide array of views can lead to confusion. The Bible, however, provides clear and sensible information regarding death, offering hope and confidence.

- **Revelation 1:18** states Jesus' triumph over death: "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen... I have the keys of Hades and of Death."
- **Revelation 20:6** speaks of the "first resurrection" of the righteous, over whom "the second death has no power," leading to eternal life.
- **Revelation 21:4** promises a final solution to death: "There shall be no more death."

Understanding "Soul" and "Spirit" in the Bible

- The Bible defines "soul" not as a separate entity *within* a person, but as the entire living being or person. A soul is what you are!
- **Key Text: Genesis 2:7** states, "God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." This emphasizes that man *became* a soul, rather than receiving one.
- Contrary to popular belief, the Bible explicitly states that the **soul can die**. The concept of an "immortal soul" is not found in Scripture.
 - **Ezekiel 18:4** and **20** plainly state: "The soul who sins shall die."
 - **Matthew 16:25-26** (and Mark 8:35-37) uses the Greek word *psuche* (often translated as "soul" or "life") interchangeably, showing that "life" can be lost, indicating mortality.
- **Only God possesses inherent immortality.** Immortality is a gift bestowed upon believers at Christ's return, not something humans naturally possess now.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:51-53** states, "We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound...and this mortal shall put on immortality."
 - **1 Timothy 1:17** applies the term "immortal" solely to "the only wise God."
 - **1 Timothy 6:15-16** explicitly declares that "The King of kings and Lord of lords...only has immortality."
- The "spirit" in the Bible refers to the **breath or spark of life** given by God, not a conscious entity that survives death. At death, this spirit returns to God.
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:7** states: "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."
 - **Job 27:3** describes the spirit as "the breath...in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils."

- **James 2:26** confirms: "The body without the spirit is dead."

The State of the Dead: An Unconscious Lifeless Sleep

- The Bible consistently describes death as a **sleep**, a state of unconsciousness, awaiting resurrection.
 - **Psalm 146:4** states that when a man dies, "His breath [his spirit] goes forth, he [his body] returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." The dead cannot think.
 - **Ecclesiastes 9:5-6** clearly says: "The living know that they shall die; but the dead know not anything...Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished."
 - **Psalm 13:3** (David praying not to "sleep the sleep of death") and **1 Kings 2:1, 10** ("So David slept with his fathers") illustrate death as sleep.
 - **John 11:11-14** (RSV) records Jesus referring to Lazarus's death as "sleeping," later clarifying, "Lazarus is dead."
 - **Psalm 115:17** states, "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence."
 - **Psalm 6:5** says: "In death there is no remembrance of [God]."
 - **Job 7:9-10** and **14:10, 12, 21** indicate that the dead cannot return to their homes or communicate with loved ones.
- The dead remain in this state of sleep until Christ's **Second Coming** and the resurrection.
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:15-16** states that "Those asleep in Jesus rise at His Second Coming."
 - **John 5:28-29** (and Daniel 12:2) mentions two resurrections: one to life and one to damnation.
 - **Acts 2:29, 34** confirms that David is "both dead and buried" and did not ascend to heaven, but awaits Jesus' coming.
 - **Job 19:25-27** speaks of the righteous being resurrected to see God at the Last Day.
- **Death is the consequence of sin**, and eternal life is a gift from God at His return.
 - **Romans 6:23** declares: "The wages of sin is death," and "The gift of God is eternal life."
 - **2 Timothy 4:7-8** and **Revelation 22:12** indicate that believers, like Paul, await Christ's coming for their final reward of eternal life.

Will you choose life today through the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ! "He who has the Son has Life!" **1 John 5:12.**

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