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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

For more information on Bible study materials contact:
It Is Written
P.O. Box 0
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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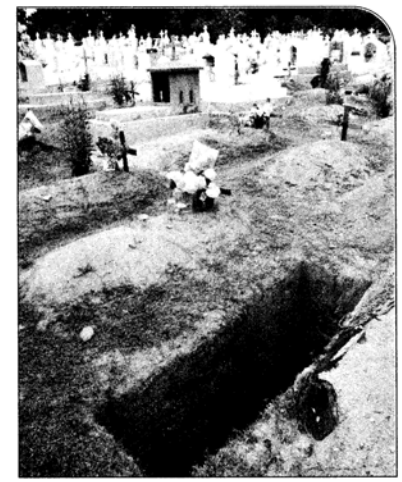
IT IS WRITTEN TELEVISION PRESENTS:

SEARCH FOR Certainty

GQ

The Real Truth About Death

Hope Beyond the Grave in the 21st Century



What happens five minutes after death? Heaven, hell, nothingness? The subject of death has intrigued men and women down through the centuries. Books on "near-death" experiences have catapulted into best-seller status. There has been an amazing upsurge of interest in spiritualism and communication with the dead. Can the dead communicate with the living? Does an immortal soul survive the body at physical death?

How can the mystery of death be solved? There are rock-solid answers to the question "What happens when you die?" The Bible provides sane, sensible information. It reveals not only what happens when you die but also how to face death with new hope and confidence. To answer the question What happens when we die? it is necessary first to answer, What happened when we were created?

Can the dead communicate with the living?

1. How were we created? Genesis 2:7

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The Bible does not teach that God placed a soul in human beings at Creation. It specifically states that God formed our bodies out of the dust of the ground and breathed into them the breath of life. We then became a living being. Some Bible translations call us "living souls." To state it in equation form, body + breath = living soul.

2. Can the soul die? Ezekiel 18:4

The Bible answer: _____

_____

3. Who only has immortality? 1 Timothy 6:15, 16

The Bible answer: _____

_____

"Mortal" means subject to death. "Immortal" means not subject to death, imperishable. The Bible never uses the term immortal to describe who we are. It only uses it to describe who God is. Immortality is a gift that God will give to us.

4. What does the apostle Paul say we are seeking for? Romans 2:7

The Bible answer: _____

_____

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5. How does Job describe our current condition? Job 4:17

The Bible answer: _____

_____

6. When will God's people receive immortality? 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

The Bible answer: _____

_____

7. How does Solomon describe what happens at death? Ecclesiastes 12:7

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The Bible does not teach that the soul returns to God. The Bible mentions the word "soul" approximately 1,800 times. It never once uses the expression "immortal soul." For Bible-believing Christians the great hope is the resurrection at the second coming of Christ.

8. Are human beings conscious at death? How much do they know? Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6

The Bible answer: _____

_____

9. What about the thought processes? Do they continue after death? Psalm 146:4

The Bible answer: _____

10. What is the spirit that returns to God? James 2:26

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The spirit and the breath are the same throughout Scripture. When a person dies, it is God's life-giving power, His breath, that returns. The psalmist David states it this way: "His breath (spirit) goeth forth" (Psalm 146:4). It is not some conscious entity. It is not some immortal soul. The Hebrew word for breath throughout Old Testament Scripture is *ruach.* This Hebrew word means air, wind, or spirit. Job 27:3 talks about God's spirit, or breath, in our nostrils. At death this spirit, or breath, returns to God.

11. Can the dead worship God? Psalm 115:17; 6:5

The Bible answer: _____

_____

God mercifully shuts our eyes at death to all of the sorrow, heartache, and disappointment on earth. Since the "dead know not anything" (Ecclesiastes 9:5) and "in the grave there is not remembrance of you" (Psalm 6:5) it is only logical that "the dead praise not the Lord" (Psalm 115:17).

12. What does the Bible compare death to? John 11:11-14

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The Bible compares death to a sleep more than 50 times. To the Bible-believing Christian, death is no more to be feared than a sound sleep. When we are sleeping soundly, we are not aware of time passing at all. We are at rest—complete rest.

13. How does Revelation's last message to the world describe death? Revelation 14:13

The Bible answer: _____

_____

14. Who has the keys to the grave? Revelation 1:18

The Bible answer: _____

_____

15. What events will take place when Jesus comes? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

The Bible answer: _____

_____

16. Since Jesus has immortality and will grant it to us when He returns at the Second Advent, how can we be sure to receive it? 1 John 5:11, 12

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Death is a peaceful sleep until the return of Jesus. There is no consciousness of the passage of time in the grave. For the righteous the next event after death is the resurrection. Death for the believer is no more to be feared than a rest in the arms of a loving Saviour. When we accept Jesus we receive the gift of eternal life and the promise of immortality.

MY DECISION

❒ *Placing my full confidence in Jesus, I trust Him to raise me in the first resurrection if I die before He returns.*