

Bite Size Bible Study

Death to Life #70

By Pastor Lee

Many of us have buried friends, family and loved ones. It is usually a sad time and many tears are shed because of the loss of someone we care deeply about. Even later when we wish that we could have said something to them or even asked a question, the sadness returns.

Death is an integral part of this physical universe. Plants die. Animals die. The earth will eventually die, as will the sun and all of the physical parts of the universe. Upon dying each is recycled into something new.

Here is how it works: it was through one individual (Adam) that sin entered the world, and through sin, death; and in this way death passed through to the whole human race, inasmuch as everyone sinned.

Romans 5:12 (CJB)

We know that until now, the whole creation has been groaning as with the pains of childbirth;

Romans 8:22 (CJB)

But does this sadness have to remain? Are we really not going to see them again? I believe that both the Old Testament and the New Testament say We Will. Let me explain why I believe there will be a reunion of all people. My thesis is that death is only an intermission to a larger more exciting life, one written by God before He even created us.

When someone dies, the first thing we see is that the life has left them. The Bible calls this the soul or *nefesh*. Without the life the body no longer functions. Our being is made up of body, soul, and spirit.

The body, we are told in Genesis, is made up of the elements of the earth. Adam was made of the *adamah* – literally “red dirt”.

Then Adonai, God, formed a person from the dust of the ground [adamah] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living being. Genesis 2:7 (CJB)

Once formed, this person needed life because dirt doesn't have life. So God breathed life into him. The Hebrew word *nefesh* is generally translated as "soul" in English. It can mean life, person, mind, heart, creature, body, desire, man, appetite, lust, self, beast, pleasure, ghost, breath and will; all the things that animate a being.

Interestingly even the animals have *nefesh*.

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, [nefish chayyah – soul living] that was its name. Genesis 2:19 (NIV)

Now we have an inanimate body, animated with a soul. Where is the spirit (*ruach*)? It seems that the spirit and soul, at least in mankind, are part and parcel of each other. Remember God breathed into the man the breath (*ruach*) of life (*nefesh*).

So at our death, the life and breath that God gave us returns to Him. *Then shall the dust [out of which God made man's body] return to the earth as it was, and the spirit (ruach) shall return to God Who gave it.*
Ecclesiastes 12:7 (AMPC)

Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:
Isaiah 42:5 (KJV)

*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole **spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

At death our physical body is going to return to the elements it was made from. Our soul & spirit, which now contain all that we have learned and experienced, returns to God; awaiting a time when He puts a new eternal body, which he has already prepared; together with our soul and spirit that has returned to Him.

We know that when the tent which houses us here on earth is torn down, we have a permanent building from God, a building not made by human hands, to house us in heaven. For in this tent, our earthly body, we groan with desire to have around us the home from heaven that will be ours. With this around us we will not be found naked. Yes, while we are in this body, we groan with the sense of being oppressed: it is not so much that we want to take something off, but rather to put something on over it; so that what must die may be swallowed up by the Life. Moreover, it is God who has prepared us for this very thing, and as a pledge he has given us his Spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 (CJB)

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