

The Witch of Endor

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Lesson 9

King Saul was at his wit's end and trembling with fear. The entire Philistine army had gathered to attack Israel's smaller and weaker troops. Saul moaned, "If only Samuel were here, he would tell me what to do." But the great prophet of Israel had

died a few years earlier.

The aged monarch tried desperately to find some advice or guidance from other prophets or priests, but the Lord would not speak to him. As a young man, Saul had been close to God. But after ascending the throne, he became cruel and rebelled against God's Word. Once he even had a whole village of priests murdered. King Saul had persistently refused to listen to the Lord, and now in his distress, God would not answer him.

"Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her." 1 Samuel 28:7. God had clearly commanded His people never to consult a witch or medium (Leviticus 19:31 20:27), but Saul now had little regard for God's implicit instruction.

Upon finding a woman in Endor who claimed to consult with the dead, the king disguised himself and went to see her. He said to the medium, "Bring me up Samuel." The witch went through her spells and enchantments until an apparition claiming to be Samuel the prophet appeared and gave the king an utterly hopeless message. It predicted that Saul and his three sons would die in battle the next day.

The following day Saul's sons were slain by the Philistines, and afterward the wounded and discouraged king fell on his sword and took his own life (1 Samuel 31:2-4). Who spoke to Saul through the witch -- a resurrected prophet of God, or a devil in disguise?

1. Was the form that Saul saw actually Samuel the prophet?



1 Kings 22:22. And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a _____ in the mouth of all his prophets.

Revelation 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles.

Answer : _____

2. Do the dead come back to converse



with or to haunt the living?

Job 14:21. His sons come to honour, and he

_____ it not; and

they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10 The dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun [in this life]. ... For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *No! The Bible is clear. A dead person does nothing and knows nothing about what is happening on earth.*

Psalms 115:17 The dead praise not the Lord.

Psalms 6:5 In death there is no remembrance of thee.

Job 7:10 He shall return no more to his house.

Isaiah 38:18 Death can not celebrate thee.

Psalms 146:4 His thoughts perish.

3. According to the book of Revelation, who has the keys of death?



Revelation 1:18. I am he that _____, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore ...; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *The Bible is clear. Only Jesus has the keys of death. We should go to His Word for answers to our questions about death.*



4. How did God make man in the beginning?

Genesis 2:7. And the Lord

God formed man of the _____ of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *Two things happened at Creation: (1) God formed man from the dust, or earth, and (2) He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Thus man became a living soul.*

5. What happens at death?



Ecclesiastes 12:7. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the _____ shall return unto God who gave it.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *What takes place at death is the opposite from what happened during Creation. The body returns to dust and the spirit, or breath, returns to God who gave it. The Bible clearly teaches that the "spirit" that returns to God is simply the breath of life, which God breathed into man in the beginning (James 2:26, margin; Job 27:3, margin; Job 33:4). Psalms 104:29, 30 states: "Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit [breath], they are created."*



6. Where do the dead go when they die?

Job 21:32. Yet shall he be brought to the _____, and shall remain in the tomb. John 5:28, 29 All that are in the _____ shall hear his voice, And shall come forth.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *The dead, both righteous and unrighteous, are in their graves and will hear Jesus' voice calling them forth from the grave to reward or punishment.*

7. The Bible makes it plain that King David is saved. Is he in heaven now?



Acts 2:34. For David is _____
into the heavens. (two word answer)

Acts 2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre [tomb] is with us unto this day.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *No! The apostle Peter plainly stated that David is dead and buried--not alive in heaven. Furthermore, Hebrews 11:32-40 makes it clear that all the faithful of the ages have not yet been rewarded, but rather, will all be rewarded together (verses 39, 40).*



8. But isn't it true that the soul is immortal and that only the body dies?

Ezekiel 18:4. The soul that sinneth, it shall _____.

Job 4:17 Shall mortal man be more just than God?

1 Timothy 6:15, 16 The King of kings, and Lord of lords;
Who only hath immortality.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *We are souls, and souls do die. Man is mortal. Only God is immortal. The widely believed teaching of the undying, immortal soul is not found in the Bible. The teaching is man-made.*

9. When will the righteous be given immortality?



1 Corinthians 15:51-53. We

shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last _____: for the _____et shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, ... and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the _____ of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *Yes, the righteous will be given immortality at the resurrection. The wicked never receive it.*

10. How does the Bible repeatedly refer to



death?

John 11:11, 14. Our friend
Lazarus _____;

... Lazarus is dead.

Matthew 27:52 And the

graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints
which slept arose.

2 Samuel 7:12 Thou shalt sleep with thy fathers.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 Them also which sleep in Jesus will
God bring with him.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *The Bible often refers to death as sleep. Death is a state of total unconsciousness, during which 15 minutes or a thousand years seem the same. The dead simply "sleep" in their graves until the resurrection, when all will be raised by Jesus. The teaching that the spirits of the dead are heavenly angels, or some righteous ghostlike entity that can be contacted, is without scriptural foundation.*

11. Since wizards,
witches, and
psychics cannot
contact the dead,
whom are they
contacting?



Revelation 16:14. They are the spirits of devils, working

_____.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *Heaven's angels are called "ministering spirits" (Hebrews 1:14) who help people on earth. The angels who were cast out of heaven with Satan (Revelation 12:7-9) are also spirits--evil spirits who deceive people by working miracles (Revelation 16:13, 14). They use "all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9), and can even make "fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men" (Revelation 13:13). When psychics claim to be contacting spirits of the dead, they are really in touch with Satan's fallen angels (Isaiah 8:19, 20).*



12. Why does Satan want us to believe that the spirits of the dead are really alive?

Matthew 24:24, 25. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall _____ the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *Satan's first lie to mankind was "Ye shall not surely die." Genesis 3:4. He wants people to believe that the spirits of the dead are alive so his angels can pose*

as saints, prophets, and righteous leaders who have died and so that he can pose as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Thus, he can deceive people by the millions. Utilizing these evil spirits is called "spiritism." It is based on a two-part belief: (1) the dead are alive, and (2) they can contact you, or you can contact them. This is one of Satan's most damaging teachings. Yet almost the whole world believes it today. The [witch of Endor](#) did not call up Samuel. Rather, she saw an evil angel who posed as Samuel.

13. How effective will Satan's use of these evil spirits be in the last days?



Revelation 18:23. By thy sorceries were _____ nations deceived.

Revelation 18:2 Babylon the great is f_____en, ... and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit.

Revelation 12:9 That old serpent, c_____ed the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.

Answer : _____

NOTE: *By Satan's miracles (sorceries) through his evil angels, he will deceive virtually the entire world.*

14. How does God regard these miracles



by evil angels?

Leviticus 20:27. A man
also or woman ... that is a
-----, shall
surely be put to death.

1 Timothy 4:1 Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.

Ephesians 5:11 Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

Galatians 5:19-21 The works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envy, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like.

Revelation 21:8 Sorcerers ... shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Answer : -----

NOTE: *In Moses' day, God commanded that all psychics be put to death. Today He insists that sorcery is a work of the flesh, for which people will be destroyed. He warns that when you dabble with psychics you leave the faith, and He tells us that all sorcerers will die the second death in the lake of fire.*

15. What glorious power does God offer His people?

Philippians 3:10. That I
may know him, and the
power of his

Answer

: -----



NOTE: *Jesus offers us the same power to live right that raised Him from the dead. Fantastic! How can we fail with such incredible power given us--and that with no cost to us? Jesus, because He loves us, solemnly warns us away from the power and miracles of evil angels and offers to work the divine miracles needed to prepare us for His kingdom (Philippians 1:6).*



16. Would you like to accept Jesus' offer to give you the power of the resurrection in your life?

Answer : -----

Supplemental Study

The Thief on the Cross

Did Jesus promise the thief on the cross immediate

access to heaven when He said, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise"? The meaning of Christ's statement in Luke 23:43 is determined by a scriptural answer to one very important question: Did Jesus Himself go to heaven on that day?

Not according to Scripture. On the day of the resurrection, when He met Mary at the garden tomb, His words were: "Touch me not for I am not yet ascended to my Father." John 20:17. Jesus could not have gone to paradise on Friday if He hadn't yet ascended to the Father by Sunday!

Why then did Jesus say, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise"? The apparent problem vanishes when you consider that the original Greek manuscripts had no punctuation. The commas and periods were introduced into the text of Scripture by translators, who inserted them where they thought they should be. And believe it or not, a single comma can change the meaning of an entire sentence! The Lord's statement in Luke 23:43 should read: "Verily I say unto thee today, Thou shalt be with me in paradise." This is what Jesus was really saying. Today, when all seems lost today, when I do not look like a Lord or King, and after even My disciples have fled today, although My hands are nailed to a cross, I can still save you!

Someday that thief, along with all others who have accepted Christ, will claim the promise of the resurrection and be with Jesus in paradise.

What Do the Words "Spirit" and "Breath" Mean in the Bible?

Job 27:3 points out that a person's "spirit" and "breath" are the same. Job further states that this spirit, or breath, is in his nostrils. Please remember that God placed the "breath" in Adam's nostrils at Creation (Genesis 2:7). So the spirit that returns to God when a person dies is the breath of life, not a disembodied soul. Never in the Bible is a disembodied soul said to return to God at death.

Where Does the "Soul" Go When a Person Dies?

At Creation, two things combine to make a soul, body and breath. Until these two things combine, a soul does not exist. At death, these two components separate. The body returns to dust, and the breath returns to God. The soul goes nowhere it simply ceases to exist.