

UNDERSTANDING

HUMAN

NATURE

Lesson 3 for  
October 15, 2022





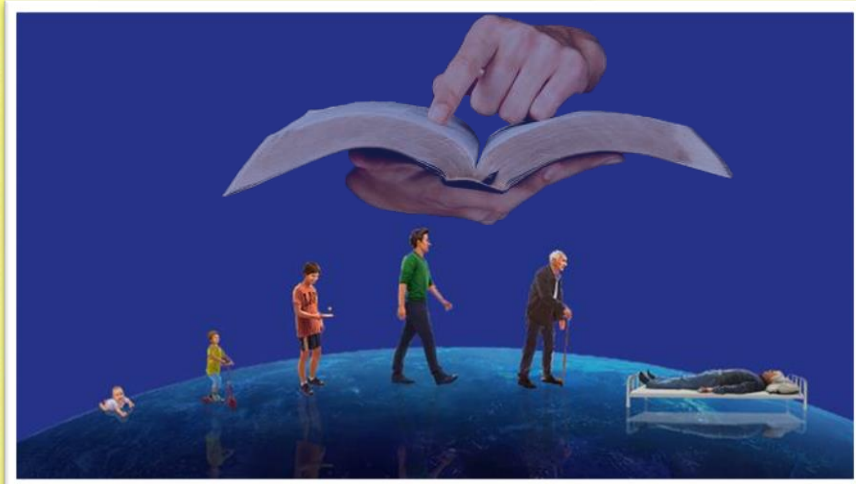


“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” *Genesis 2:7*



Satan has always tried to make us believe that we won't die. He's suggested that a specific part of our being—the soul—remains conscious after our body dies.

Does this statement match what the Bible says about human nature and death?



**The life process:**



**A living soul**



**The death process:**



**Death and soul**



**Death and spirit**



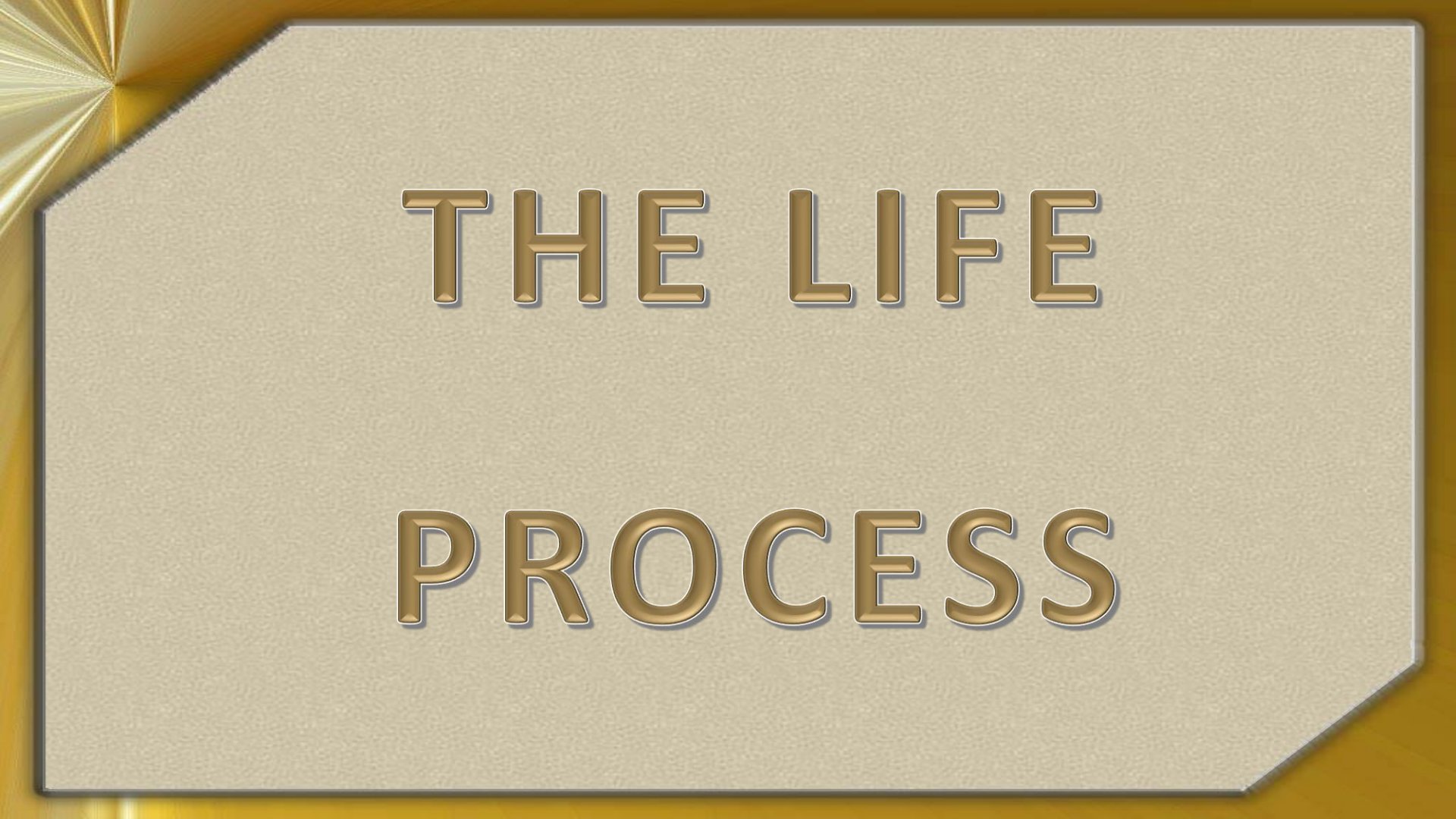
**Beyond death:**



**What do the dead do?**



**Resting with the ancestors**



THE LIFE

PROCESS



# A LIVING SOUL

“God formed man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The man came alive—a living soul!” (Genesis 2:7 MSG)

God created the first human like He created the rest of land animals: from the ground (Gn. 2:7, 19). However, there were significant differences:



God created the body of Adam first, then gave him life (Gn. 2:7)



Eve was not created at the same time as Adam (Gn. 2:22)



Together they were the image of God (Gn. 1:27)



There are three elements in the creation of humans: body, spirit, and soul (Gn. 2:7).

Human nature is made of two of them: body and spirit. We *DON'T HAVE* a soul; we *ARE* a soul.

DIRT  
(Body)



BREATH  
(Spirit)



LIVING  
BEING  
(Soul)



THE DEATH  
PROCESS

# DEATH AND SOUL

**"The soul who sins shall die." (Ezekiel 18:20)**



**Paul made it clear: everyone is subject to death because of sin (Rom. 5:12). Every living being is affected by death, both animals and humans (Eccl. 3:19).**

**When we lose the breath of life, we become a lifeless body. We are no longer living beings, living souls (Ps. 146:4).**



**Therefore, every soul will die (the just and the wicked). However, the just will become immortal souls (people) at the Second Coming when they'll be resurrected (1Co. 15:51-55). The wicked will become "dead souls (people)" when they'll die the second (eternal) death in the lake of fire (Mt. 10:28; Rev. 20:14-15).**



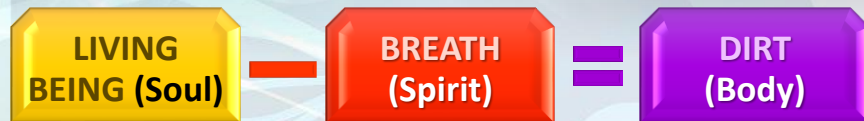
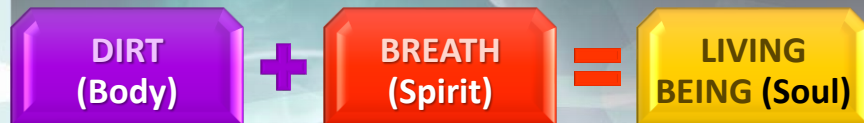
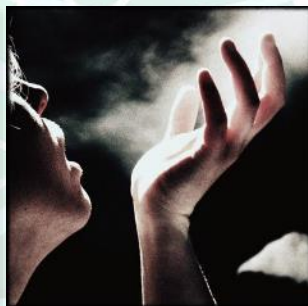


# DEATH AND SPIRIT

“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.” (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

It seems that there's something that keeps on existing after death: the spirit. We must thoroughly investigate this idea before jumping to conclusions. Let's study Genesis 7:22.

Both humans and animals have the spirit that Solomon wrote about. It is “the breath of the spirit of life” that was “in his nostrils.” It's a clear reference to the creation of Adam.



The spirit is not a conscious entity of human beings that keeps living after death. It's God's breath of life. He gives it and He takes it away (Ps. 104:29).





BEYOND

DEATH

# WHAT DO THE DEAD DO?

**"For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten." (Ecclesiastes 9:5)**

**What does the Bible teach about the acts of the dead?**

**Job 3:13** They rest and they are asleep

**Ps. 115:17** They don't praise God, they are silent

**Ps. 146:4** They don't think

**Eccl. 9:5** They know nothing

**Eccl. 9:10** They don't work, study, or do anything at all

**It's so boring to be dead! There's no conscious existence. Everything ends when we die. Death is just silence and darkness. It's like being asleep, and we're not even aware that we're dead!**

**The Bible teaches that being dead is like sleeping. Only Jesus' voice will awake us from this slumber (Jn. 11:11-14; 5:28-29).**

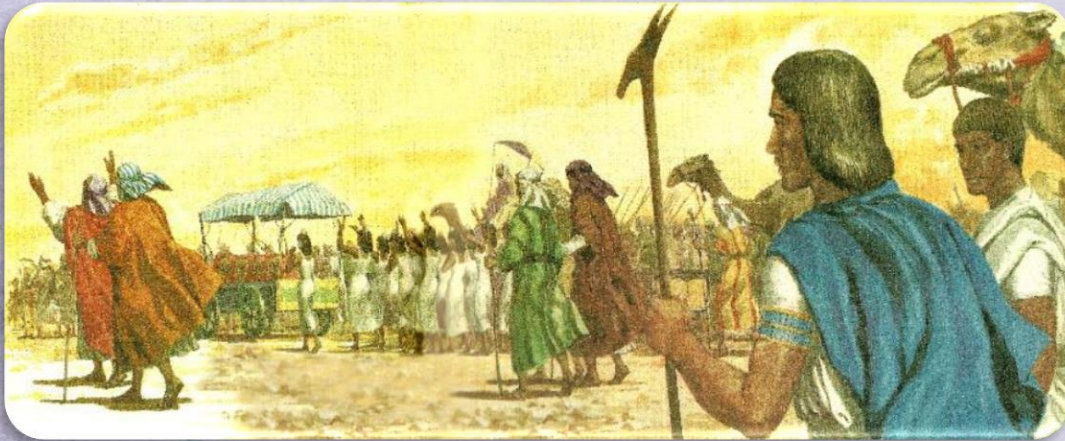




# RESTING WITH THE ANCESTORS

“So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.” (1 Kings 2:10)

There are different expressions to allude to death in the Bible: “was gathered to his people” (Gn. 25:8), “rested with his fathers” (1K. 2:10). Do these expressions mean that there’s a social and conscious life after death?



David “rested with his fathers” but he didn’t ascend to Heaven. He remains in his tomb “to this day” (Acts 2:29-31).

The same expression was used for other kings, both just and wicked (1K. 14:20; 16:6; 2Chr. 32:33).

These expressions mean that we are all going to the same place: to our grave. We’ll follow the steps of our ancestors; that is, we’ll be dead until the Second Coming, the day of resurrection (1Ths. 4:13-18).



**“The Bible clearly teaches that the dead do not go immediately to heaven. They are represented as sleeping until the resurrection. 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Job 14:10-12. In the very day when the silver cord is loosed and the golden bowl broken (Ecclesiastes 12:6), man's thoughts perish. They that go down to the grave are in silence. They know no more of anything that is done under the sun. Job 14:21. Blessed rest for the weary righteous! Time, be it long or short, is but a moment to them. They sleep; they are awakened by the trump of God to a glorious immortality.”**

**E. G. W. (The Great Controversy, cp. 33, p. 549)**