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## CAN SOULS "CROSS OVER" ON HALLOWEEN?

**Psalm 121:7-8: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever.**



What is Halloween about anyway? Is it all about the costumes, the candy and the parties? Is it all about the social connections of people actually seeing and talking to other people or the excited grade school kid who gets to dress up like a video game hero? Or is Halloween all about the dead? Is it all about communication with the spirit world, fire festivals and the dark arts? Can dead souls really cross over the boundary of our physical world on this unique night? What is real and what is not? Where did this all start and what has it become?

What if we were to tell you that the whole concept of "The Twilight Zone" television show had its roots in factual and sociological principles which have existed even longer than the human race? We will put the "Halloween puzzle" together. The first piece of the puzzle is THE TWILIGHT ZONE.

The second piece of the puzzle is THE DESCRIPTION OF GOD'S CREATIVE PROCESS. Genesis 1:5: Evening (first) and morning (second) was the first day. Even today in the Jewish tradition, a new day starts in the evening.

The third piece of the puzzle is the physical groundwork for the whole Halloween thing: Psalms 104:19-24: What elements do we see as parts of the third piece of the puzzle? THE EARTH, SEASONS and PEOPLE. Halloween's origin is based on the earth, the transition of fall to winter and people preparing for the darkness of winter.

 **Samhain, Why Halloween's Really British, Anglophenia**

- *(Kate Arnell) It's believed that the origins of what we call Halloween can be traced back to the ancient festival of Samhain which was celebrated by the Celts on November 1st. Samhain translates into "summer's end" in Gaelic and marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. The Celts also believed that on the night before Samhain the veil between the worlds of the dead and living was at its thinnest, and that spirits, ghouls and fairies would visit.*

The fourth piece of the puzzle is THE ACTUAL ROOTS OF THE HALLOWEEN TRADITION:

(Source: The Ancient Celtic Fire Festivals [www.neopagan.net](http://www.neopagan.net)) There appear to have been four major holy days celebrated by the Paleopagan Druids, possibly throughout the Celtic territories: ...These four major holy days have been referred to as "fire festivals..." Whether in Ireland or India, among the Germans or the Hittites, sacred fires were apparently kindled by the Indo-European Paleopagans on every important religious occasion...

Samhain or "Samhuinn" is pronounced "sow-" (as in female pig) "-en" (with the neutral vowel sound) – not "Sam Hain"...is often said to have been the most important of the fire festivals, because (according to most Celtic scholars) it may have marked the Celtic New Year. ...Being "between" seasons or years, Samhain was (and is) considered a very magical time, when the dead walk among the living and the veils between past, present and future may be lifted in prophecy and divination.

 **First two steps, Defining Liminal, Richard Schechner**

- *"Liminal" is a term first used by Arnold van Gennep, a Belgian folklorist at the turn of the century. He wrote a book which was published in 1908 called, "Les Rites de Passage (The Rites of Passage)," and that's a term that everybody kind of knows. And in this book he said that rituals, especially rites of passage - rights which change people's status - have three phases. The "separation phase" where a person is taken from their old status but also taken from their old place, taken from their old time, their accustomed place in time - you have to do it in a special enclosed place in time - and the liminal period which means "limen," like on a door frame. That which is not in this room or in that room but between rooms, so this "in between" time and space.*

It all has to do with being "in between." Halloween is built on the idea of being in a liminal state - a time between fall and winter, between the old and the new year and when the dead are neither really dead or alive and can communicate with the living.

 **Third step, Defining Liminal, Richard Schechner**

- *Where, during this in between time and space, the work of the ritual takes place. In other words, whatever it is the ritual is going to do in an African or native Australian society, maybe*



*the person is going to be circumcised or tattooed or marked. In our society, maybe they are going to wear a ring or they're going to, let's say, in the long range liminal space, they're going to go to college and get a degree. But the work of the liminal period is to change them and it is bounded off from ordinary life. College does function that way for us. It is supposed to be on a campus, separate from regular life. You're no longer living with your parents, but you're not yet living alone, I mean the traditional view of it, so you're in between. You're really from one point of view, you're alone and on your own. From another point of view, you're still parentally protected and the job of education is literally to lead you out -that's what it means in Latin; to lead from one place to another, lead you out of one way of thinking to another and to prepare you for participation in so-called mature or developed social life.*

The idea of being in college is a good example of being in a liminal state.

Adam and Eve were in a liminal period in the Garden after they were created. **They were in the Garden with the named animals, their guidelines were in place and their life together was just beginning under the blessing of God: Genesis 1:27-28**: Why were their lives not complete? They entered this new situation in the Garden learning about life, but they had not yet become parents. Their blessings and purpose to multiply the human race was not yet completed.

**They needed to, by God's grace, go through the learning curve and tests of their life responsibilities: Genesis 3:1-5**: When changing from one place to another or one state of being to another, in the midst of that transition we are most vulnerable. Doubt and uncertainty can be prevalent. Eve, in her period of transition, was susceptible to Satan's lies. This is where Satan earned his title as the "Father of Lies." More on this soon.

**LIMINAL LESSON #1:** Periods or places of transition are where vulnerability is highest.

**LIMINAL LESSON #2:** When a new, logical and alluring voice arises in contradiction to the voice of God Himself, it can easily feel like a voice of progress to bring us to further enlightenment. It is not!

Periods of transition (such as going from one job to another or being a new parent) can draw us away to something not scriptural. Test what is happening during the experience: Does it contradict the voice of God? In Eve's case, the suggested path was out of harmony with God's ways, but it sounded better.

Think about "subliminal advertising" - it involves vulnerability on a subconscious level without you realizing it! It makes suggestions you will not necessarily notice while in the "in between" state, not conscious but not unconscious.

(Source: Wikipedia) Samhain is believed to have Celtic pagan origins and there is evidence it has been an important date since ancient times.... It is mentioned in some of the earliest Irish literature and many important events in Irish mythology happen or begin on Samhain. It was the time when cattle were brought back down from the summer pastures and when livestock were slaughtered for the winter. As at Beltane, special bonfires were lit. These were deemed to have protective and cleansing powers and there were rituals involving them. Like Beltane, Samhain was seen as a **liminal time**, when the boundary between this world and the Otherworld could more easily be crossed.

This meant the Aos Sí, the 'spirits' or 'fairies', could more easily come into our world. At Samhain, it was believed that the Aos Sí needed to be propitiated to ensure that the people and their livestock survived the winter. Offerings of food and drink were left outside for them. The souls of the dead were also thought to revisit their homes seeking hospitality. Feasts were had at which the souls of dead kin were beckoned to attend and a place set at the table for them.

Every generation is another transition and we are transitioning further and further away from godliness. We become desensitized over generations.

**Satan lied and couched that lie in a bed of truth: Genesis 3:4-7**: What was the true part? That their eyes would be opened and they would be like God in that they would have knowledge. What was the lie? That they would not die.

Have we taken this lie of Satan, *you will not surely die*, and mainstreamed it, making it the truth of our day? A whole sector of our society is focused on their perception of this liminal existence! These are all very dangerous lies. Do NOT try communicating with spirits.

**What is the consequence, the full consequence of disobedience for Adam, the father of us all? Genesis 3:17-19**: God is saying: You (mankind) will return to the elements. That is where



you came from and that is where you are going. That applies not just to your body but “you” - your essence. Death is defined here as simply going back to the pre-life state, the absence of life, not life in a different way.

Now we can see how this being “in between,” this liminal place or circumstance, plays a significant role in what we perceive to be true. Paganism took the transition of a season and applied it to life and death.

 **Reintegrated, Defining Liminal, Richard Schechner**

- *At any rate, this liminal period is where the work of the ritual takes place. Then at the end of the liminal period, you're reintegrated or re-aggregated into the society but as a different kind of person. You're either an adult when you were a child or you're married when you were single or you're dead when you were alive or you're the king when you were just the crown prince or what have you. All of these things are the work of the ritual which effects that change - the liminal period.*

The result of the liminal period is the person coming out somehow changed on the other end. Another example of liminal is a person in a coma, hanging on between life and death.

Interestingly, Jesus himself had to deal with the “liminal” aspects of life. As a human being he waited until he was 30 years of age and at the appropriate time presented himself to be baptized. The Scriptures say he immediately went off to fast and pray, spending this transitional time to focus on what was now to be required of him.

**Who else shows up at this vulnerable time?** Matthew 4:2-11: Jesus was physically weak at this time from fasting for this long. **Transition times are ripe for testing our physical fortitude.** An example of this might be someone with cancer undergoing treatment. The experience tries your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual strength. Satan is there to push us just a little off to encourage us to start listening to other voices. Satan quoted Scripture to Jesus, and Jesus answered likewise. Just because someone quotes a Scripture does not mean they have the authority of Scripture behind them. Jesus' faith was not in one scriptural phrase taken out of context. **Transition times are ripe for testing how and to whom we apply our own faith and trust.** Jesus came through his time of transition victoriously! **Transition times are ripe for testing our deepest loyalty.**

**LIMINAL LESSON #3:** In the proper context and if we let it, the Bible will repel any voice, any quotation or any power that would derail us from our purpose. To claim this protection, we must know the Bible as well as we can so our vulnerability becomes a springboard to victory!

Back to life and death - death is the simple absence of life, so there is NO crossing over. Ecclesiastes 9:5 Ecclesiastes 9:10 Psalms 6:5 Psalms 115:17: The Bible tells us bluntly what death is like - a cessation of life. What is the purpose of resurrection if we never actually die? Some may think spiritists are dealing with disembodied spirits of human beings, but they are actually dealing with demons, fallen spirits against God.

Each time there was a new king in Israel, there was a new transition - a new doorway to go through. This meant new vulnerability.

**Some of these kings who came into power were deeply evil and dark:** 2 Chronicles 33:1-6: Paganism and its practices held a very obvious attraction, as there were several kings of Israel - Saul, Manasseh and even the (formerly) wise Solomon - who all obliterated the sanctity of worshiping God by allowing Paganism a foothold in their nation. Notice the trend - *wherever there is an allowance for unfettered behavior, things always become darker!* The passage of time + entertaining idolatry = destruction of life!

Paganism is an obvious attraction because it worships things you can physically touch and see - the earth, people, the sun, etc. We are to worship only the Creator, not the created.

**LIMINAL LESSON #4:** Know and rehearse what history has proven again and again: **When change is before us, we need the unwavering truths of life as the foundation for our decisions.**

Manasseh should have known this Liminal Lesson #4! Ask yourself: Is where I am going and what I am thinking in harmony with foundational truths?

**The context of our theme Scripture:** Psalms 121:1-8: We can be protected if we turn our hearts to the Creator.



We need to continually go back to God's word, because Satan is the author of confusion. He excels in periods of transition.

Here are texts that not only verify all we have been saying but is also a prophecy of the grace of Jesus: Psalms 49:5-9: Only Jesus could pay the ransom to bring people from the dead to life. Notice - *the foes of the righteous* are subject to - what? Death and decay!

Romans 5:12: Death was defined in Genesis by God to Adam as part of the penalty - returning to the dust from whence you came. He was not alive before and would not be alive after.

Our world has become one oversized doorway of transition! It has all become mainstream!

The pattern of godlessness ALWAYS produces the same results. We want to accelerate the light faster than the darkness: 2 Timothy 3:1-4: Doesn't this sound like today?!? All of this can be summed up as idolatry. Paganism is deeply rooted in the worship of self and the rituals/beliefs of the Halloween season are all tied in together.

Here is the present condition of Satan's followers: 2 Corinthians 11:14-15: If the spirit guides are NOT from God (and they are not) then that only leaves one other very uncomfortable option!

Here are three simple things to keep us alert as Christians:

1. **KNOW THE SOURCES OF YOUR BELIEF** 1 John 1:5-8: This presents a series of plain, opposing statements: God is light with no darkness. If we say we have fellowship with Him but walk in darkness, we are lying. Do not be afraid to change what we believe if we find we were going in the wrong direction.

2. **KNOW YOU ARE PROTECTED IF YOU ARE TRULY FOLLOWING CHRIST** Exodus 12:21-24: *And apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts* - The Passover lamb's blood was put on the lintel, the top of the doorway, and the two doorposts. They lined the entranceway to and from their houses. God could have said put it outside or inside the house, but instead it was to be put on the lintel - a transition point from outside to inside. (Remember, the word *liminal* is from the Latin word *limen*, meaning "a threshold" or lintel.) The Lord passed over the door. The transitions of our lives are where we are most tested. We can be protected all the times life changes because the blood of Jesus surrounds those transitions. The liminal experience is scripturally protected. Each time your life changes, think about a mental image of going through a doorway. Some transitions are quick and some take years. Each time and each way, think about how the doorposts and lintel of our transition times are protected by Jesus.

**LIMINAL LESSON #5: Claim the protection of the shed blood of Christ posted over all the transitions in your life!**

3. **CONTINUALLY REASSESS THE PURITY OF YOUR INTENTIONS AND HEART - REMAIN HUMBLE** 1 Corinthians 5:6-8: *A little leaven leavens the whole lump* - Leaven is a picture of sin. We are to avoid sin, be pure and holy; follow in Jesus' footsteps. Sin always finds its way back into what we say, do, think and feel. Physical leaven expands and grows. If we allow something to expand and take root, we have a lot more to clean. We need to continually reassess the purity of our intentions.

Focus on God's word, be surrounded by those of like precious faith and have a full prayer life to keep our focus with our Heavenly Father. We can always build more strength from our failures in life and move forward and higher, a stepping stone closer to the Lord.

The key is realizing the depth of the degradation of the demonism that surrounds us. Halloween is a great example of that. We want to understand its origins about death, dying and a veil between two worlds. Remember, during the transitions of our life, we are protected by the blood of Christ if we are faithful to it.

*So, can souls "cross over" on Halloween?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*