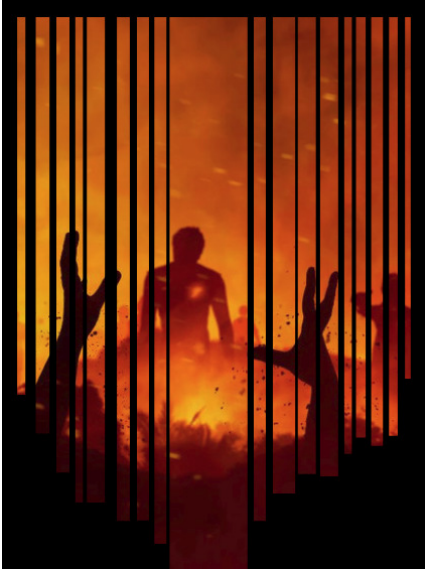


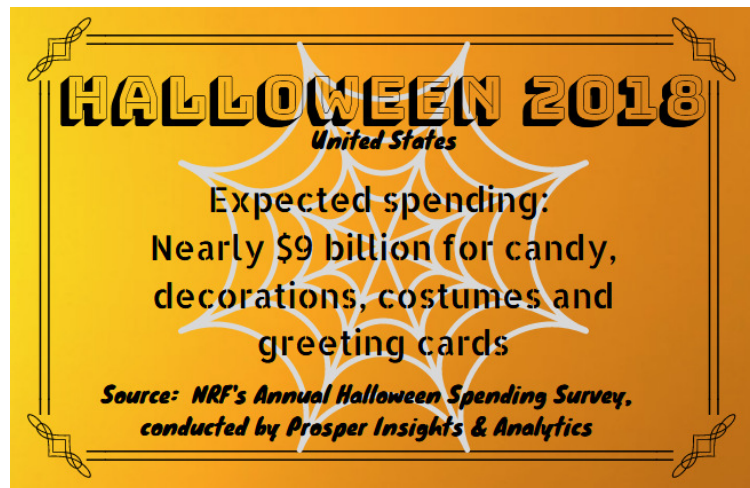


# Can **zombies** Possibly Be Real?

**Genesis 3:4:** (NASB) *The serpent said to the woman,  
You surely will not die!*



October brings autumn and autumn brings a major change of seasons. Leaves brilliantly change color as they die, the harvesting of crops comes to its end and the colder weather sets in. It is at this time of nature "closing up shop," this time of things dying, that Halloween and all that comes with it are celebrated. It is funny; the origins of Halloween were based on serious concerns about the spirit world, and now it is all about fun, candy and parties. Some of the season's most successful phenoms are zombies. Yes, zombies! Zombies are supposed to be the undead. They terrorize the world around them with their hideous appetite and their contagiousness. What is the deal with these guys? Is there any possibility they could be real? Where has our fascination with the whole zombie thing brought us? Does the basic idea of the "undead" even fit in with biblical teaching?



## Introduction, Why Do We Celebrate Halloween? Life Noggin

- Ever wonder about the history of Halloween? Well, it's believed to originate way back in the day of the ancient Gaelic festival of Samhain. People would ward off ghosts by lighting bonfires and wearing spooky costumes. Neato! But where does the name "Halloween" come from? Let's find out. Way back in the 8th century, November 1st was designated as a time to honor all saints by Pope Gregory III. This was known as All Saints Day, and it incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The night before All Saints' Day was referred to as All Hallows' Eve, which later turned into Halloween. So, this is where the name comes from. But let's talk a little bit more about November 1st. Why is it so special? Well, this day marked the end of the nice and toasty summer months and the beginning of the dark and cold winter. This time was often associated with human death, and the Celtics believed on the night of the 31st the boundary between the living and the spirit world would become blurred.



Originally All Saints' Day was in the spring, but it was moved to try to attract pagans into the church. All Hallows' Eve was the day before when strange things would happen.

So much of this has to do with darkness, death and the insecurity these two parts of life naturally bring. This insecurity is massive, and *the further a society is from God and His word, the more challenging darkness and death become.*

**Fortunately, God has ordered these things:**

**Psalms 104:19-24:** (NASB) <sup>19</sup>*He made the moon for the seasons; the sun knows the place of its setting. <sup>20</sup>You appoint darkness and it becomes night, in which all the beasts of the forest prowl about. <sup>21</sup>The young lions roar after their prey and seek their food from God. <sup>22</sup>When the sun rises they withdraw and lie down in their dens. <sup>23</sup>Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until evening. <sup>24</sup>O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your possessions.*

Paganism is seasonally-oriented. Certain celebrations are based on the summer and winter solstice and the spring and fall equinox.

*He made the moon for the seasons* – God put in place a natural cycle. A problem arises when we start to worship the *created* instead of the *Creator*. God deserves the credit and adoration rather than the actual seasons.



(Source: [religioustolerance.org](http://religioustolerance.org)) Samhain was a fire festival. Sacred bonfires were lit on the tops of hills in honor of the gods. The townspeople would take an ember from the bonfire to their home and re-light the fire in their family hearth. The ember would usually be carried in a holder - often a turnip or gourd. They felt nervous about walking home in the dark; they were afraid of evil spirits. So they dressed up in costumes and carved scary faces in their ember holders. They hoped that the spirits would be frightened and not bother them... Wiccans and some other Neo-pagans base their religious faith on the religion of the Celts. They continue to celebrate Samhain today.

Samhain was about the worry of the spirit world infiltrating into the physical world, because on that night it was believed that a separating veil between life and death was thinner. This was a scary time.

The whole idea of gods and spirits interacting with humanity does have a basis in reality. All of the perversion of these things goes back to Satan as the father of lies.

**Exodus 34:12-17:** (NASB) <sup>12</sup>*Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a snare in your midst. <sup>13</sup>But rather, you are to tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and cut down their Asherim <sup>14</sup>for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God...*

God warned Israel before they went into the Promised Land not to bond with the people who lived there. Israel was to remain separate and destroy their religious altars. God was saying, "Do not get involved in this, because it is idolatry!"

<sup>15</sup>*otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods,*

They were God's people. If they were to get involved with false worship, they would be committing spiritual harlotry.



and someone might invite you to eat of his sacrifice, <sup>16</sup>and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters might play the harlot with their gods and cause your sons also to play the harlot with their gods. <sup>17</sup>You shall make for yourself no molten gods.

God was warning them clearly of the traps of false worship ahead of time.

*...the Celts believed on the night of the 31st the boundary between the living and the spirit world would become blurred.*

This ties into the idea of zombies.

**Darkness and death were mysteries to many cultures.  
What is the connection with zombies?**

The connections with all of this are plentiful. Let's establish where the idea of zombies came from, and then we can make some connections. The bottom line is simple: the bigger the parts of life we do not understand, the more vividly our imagination will rise to fill that knowledge gap.

Putting the pieces of zombie history together:

(Source: news.discovery.com - Excerpt from "A History of 'Real' Zombies") Though many people treat the current "zombie apocalypse" as a fun pop culture meme, it's important to realize that some people believe zombies are very real. Haitian culture - like many African cultures - is heavily steeped in belief in magic and witchcraft. Belief in zombies is related to the Voodoo religion, and has been widespread throughout Haiti for decades. The existence of zombies is not questioned, though believers would not recognize the sensational, Hollywood brain-eating version that most Americans are familiar with.

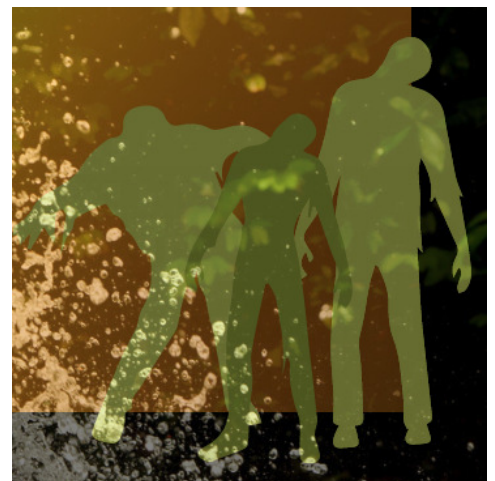
Further history of zombies:

(Source: History Channel documentary) Zombies first appeared in one of the earliest works of literature - The Epic of Gilgamesh - *I will raise up the dead, and they will eat the living - the dead will outnumber the living.*

Because a writing is ancient does not automatically make it true. It could have been written for propaganda, to manipulate or simply for entertainment.

Here we have a fictional story that sows the seeds of a new perception of reality:

(Source: Wikipedia) The story centers on a friendship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu. Enkidu is a wild man created by the gods as Gilgamesh's equal to distract him from oppressing the people of Uruk. Together, they journey to the Cedar Mountain to defeat Humbaba, its monstrous guardian. Later they kill the Bull of Heaven, which the goddess Ishtar sends to punish Gilgamesh for spurning her advances. As a punishment for these actions, the gods sentence Enkidu to death.





The following is most likely the first zombie movie ever made. This helps to explain the zombie phenomenon.

**Trailer, *White Zombie*, the first feature-length zombie film (1932)**

imbd.com: A young man turns to a witch doctor to lure the woman he loves away from her fiancé, but instead turns her into a zombie slave.

- (Narrator) *From Haiti, land of the voodoo, comes the most infamous cult of all. Bela Lugosi as Murder Legendre.*
- (Woman) *I see death.*
- (Narrator) *Master of the Undead, the sinister power behind the White Zombie. This soul killer takes men from their graves to be his slaves. His instruments of terror and now this fiend's plot to possess a woman. Captive of the borderland between life and death. Her brain drained of the life spark. The White Zombie obeys the unholy commands of her demon master.*



This is apparently how zombie culture in America was started. Fiction often builds a story based on some facts.

The common thread we see between the insecurities of the Celtic culture and the belief in zombies in other cultures is the "borderland," the "boundary between physical and spiritual life." This in-between stage is a common place of vulnerability.

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

- *"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 - rites 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.*

For more on the concept of a liminal state, please see October 31, 2016, CQ Episode #942 "Can Souls Cross Over on Halloween?"

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.

Liminality is about being on the threshold. If we stand in a doorway to a house, we are not *in* the house or *out* of the house; we are in between.





We can see how this being in a liminal place or circumstance plays a significant role in vulnerability and what we perceive to be true. But, what does this have to do with the Bible?

**In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were in a liminal period. It began with just Adam:**

Genesis 2:15-17: (NASB) <sup>15</sup>*Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>The LORD God commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; <sup>17</sup>but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.*

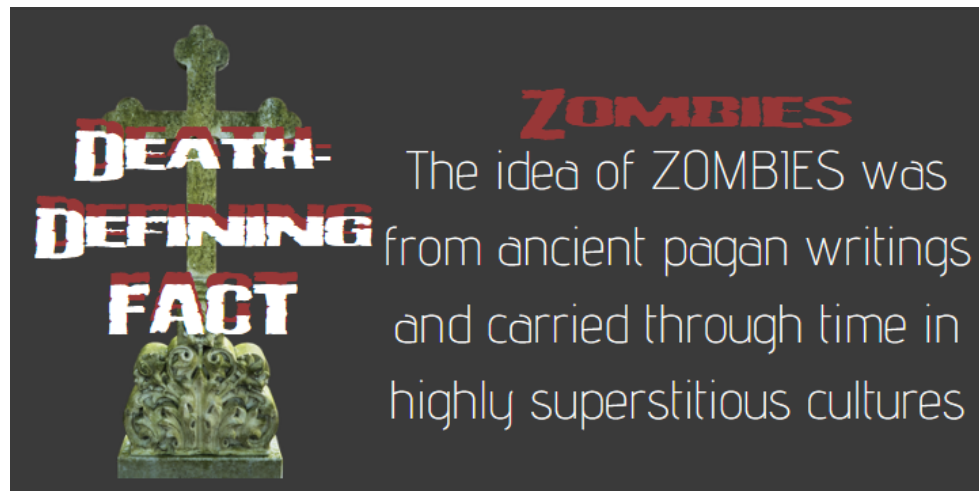
This was a simple and clear command to Adam with a simple and clear consequence. Eve was created after this command was given.

**Their guidelines were in place and their life together was beginning under the blessing of God:**

Genesis 1:28: (NASB) *God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*

They received this wonderful blessing but at this point had not yet become parents or had dominion over the whole earth. They were in an in-between, liminal state. When someone is in that liminal state, they can be vulnerable.

Zombies are supposed to be "undead," in a blurred area somewhere in between living and dead. Their connection to Halloween is about the veil between "this world" and "that world" is "thinnest" with beings existing in between.



Ancient cultures were afraid of death and darkness, and developed ways to explain what they did not understand.



## We know Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden, but when did death come into the picture?

This is actually the crux of the whole Halloween night "thin boundary between worlds," as well as the whole undead zombie "borderland" thing. Being specific about what life and death really are solves all of the questions and will solve all of the fears as well. We just need the right answer.

Let's examine how death was described when God pronounced it as a consequence. Was it presented as something questionable and mysterious, or was it made plain? It was plain, but Adam and Eve needed to, by God's grace, go through the learning curve and tests of their life responsibilities. God will ALWAYS test those to whom He gives authority.

Genesis 3:1-5: (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Indeed, has God said, You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?*

- Satan addresses Eve, not Adam who was the one who had been given the commandment to eat from any tree except that one.
- Satan opens the door to "possibilities" by leaving out a key detail. ("Didn't God put you here so you could enjoy the WHOLE garden?")

*<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; <sup>3</sup>but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.*

Eve appropriately answers. She reveals her knowledge of the tree and its location, and adds that even touching it was not allowable. Touching it was not part of the original commandment, but maybe when Adam repeated it to Eve, he emphatically said, "We won't even touch the tree." She absolutely knew not to go there.



The concept of zombies evolved through the entertainment industry. Sometimes we build our reality on what we are told and not what is true.

**Trailer, *Night of the Living Dead*, (1968)**

- *Welcome to a night of total terror. Night of the living dead. The dead who live on living flesh. The dead whose haunted souls hunt the living. The living whose bodies are the only food for these ungodly creatures.*

In this take on zombies, they feed off of the living. Previously they were portrayed as mindless slaves. A lot of our zombie culture today is based on what sells tickets.

**Satan sought to get the human race to follow him in his rebellion. He lied while speaking truth:**

Genesis 3:4-7: (NASB) *<sup>4</sup>The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*



*You surely will not die - he started with a lie. In the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened...knowing good and evil - the second part was true. When a lie is mixed with truth, it sounds more reasonable, more palatable.*

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!

### What was Eve's reaction?

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the tree was *good for food*, and that it was *a delight to the eyes*, and that the tree was *desirable to make one wise*, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Good for food

Pleasant  
to the eyes

Desirable to  
make one wise

### Rationalization:

- The fruit of the tree will be good nourishment for my physical body.
- It looks attractive.
- Who wouldn't want to be smarter?

Eve is still in that liminal state, still learning and without much experience.

**1 John 2:16:** (NASB) *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

Good for food

THE LUST  
OF THE  
FLESH

Pleasant  
to the eyes

THE LUST  
OF  
THE EYES

Desirable to  
make one wise

THE  
PRIDE OF  
LIFE



Satan was so good at his deception that he used all three traps of 1 John 2:16.

Adam and Eve, in their new and yet-to-be-fulfilled life, go down a path of learning but have chosen the wrong teacher. When we follow anything but godly righteousness, it will always end in death.

**What was the consequence, the full consequence, of disobedience for Adam, the father of us all?**

Genesis 3:17-19: (NASB) <sup>17</sup>*Then to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat from it; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup>Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field;*

God is telling Adam, "Part of your penalty is you will have to work hard for your sustenance. It would not be planted for you anymore. You will have a difficult time from now on."

<sup>19</sup>*by the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

## Death-Defining FACT

We (the body and what makes you,"you") return to the elements.

Death is simply returning to the pre-life state, which was clearly the absence of life.

Can zombies possibly exist? The theory of a zombie is they are somewhere between living and dead. This is what Halloween is all about - the veil between the spirit world and our world is thin and ghosts can come through because they are in between the two worlds.

But does God leave any "in between" in this description in Genesis? No. God is not separating out some ethereal soul. *Till you return to the ground - YOU - not just the body.*

Satan lied by saying, *You will not surely die.* God defined death clearly, *to the dust you shall return.*

**Are we really saying that death is not some altered state of being, but simply the absence of life?**

We are unequivocally stating that death is the absence of life at every level. We need to test that thought with other Scriptures. It is great to find a text that seems to be plain and simple, but it is always necessary to make sure the rest of the Bible agrees.

Let's start with the Old Testament.





### Man became a soul/being:

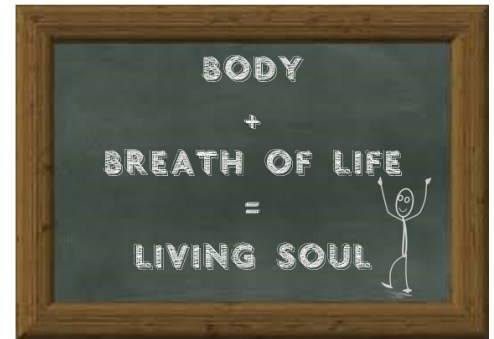
Genesis 2:7: (NASB) *Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living **being** <5315>. (King James Version: **soul** <5315>)*

**Soul/being**: Strong's #5315 *nephesh*; properly, a breathing creature

Man *became* a soul; he was not *given* a soul.  
Man does not *have* a soul; he *is* a soul.

### A good test would be to see what other life forms were called **beings** as well:

Genesis 1:20-21: (KJV) <sup>20</sup>And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving **creature** <8317> **that hath life** <5315>, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. <sup>21</sup>And God created great whales, and every living **creature** <5315> that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.



Man and the creatures of the earth are all *nephesh* <5315>, breathing creatures. Please see the Bonus Material for more.

### Trailer, *World War Z*, (2013)

- *We're getting out of here.*
- *Terry? Terry what is this?*
- *Is this thing worldwide? I've seen one doing better than we are.*
- *We don't know.*
- *I'm scared.*
- *How do we know they're coming?*
- *They're coming. Ready?*

In this film, zombies are not those who were once dead; they are regular people who are infected and become zombie-like creatures. The concept gets more gross and dramatic as time progresses.

### If all life forms fit into one definition, then death should be the absence of life for all of those life forms:

Ecclesiastes 10:1: (NASB) **Dead** <4194> *flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.*

**Dead**: Strong's #4191, *maveth*, death (natural or violent); concretely, the dead, their place or state (hades); figuratively, pestilence, ruin: (be) dead(-ly), death, die(-d)

The exact same Hebrew word that describes the death of a fly is the same used to describe humans (including children and Abraham) in Genesis 21:16, Genesis 25:11, Genesis 26:18, Judges 1:1, Ruth 2:11 and many more. Death is the absence of life.

Ecclesiastes 9:5: (KJV) *For the living know that they shall die: but the **dead** <4194> know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.*



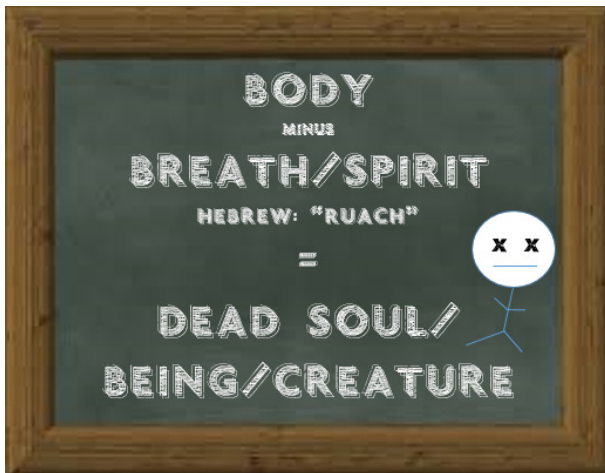
Ecclesiastes 9:10: (KJV) *Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

This directly relates back to what God said to Adam, *for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* We need to do what we can while we have life and vitality.

### What about the spirit?

Ecclesiastes 12:7: (KJV) *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the **spirit** <7307> shall return unto God who gave it.*

**Spirit:** Strong's #7307, *ruach*; wind, breath, mind, spirit



The spirit or breath of life, the spark needed for life, goes back to God. God has our DNA in His mind. In the resurrection, that DNA can be easily recreated.

Psalms 6:5: (KJV) *For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*

Death is the cessation of life.

Genesis 7:21-22: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>*All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind;* <sup>22</sup>*of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.*

During the flood, all of the beings died, both man and animal. This is an important text to help us understand what death is. Just as God explained it to Adam and Eve, mankind returns to the elements, awaiting resurrection.

### A text that equates the death of a body with the death of the person:

2 Kings 8:5: (KJV) *And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land.*

Life was absent from the son and life was returned to the son. The son IS the body. The body IS the son. Elisha was given credit for bringing life back into this boy.

### This account of a yet-to-be-fulfilled prophecy confirms souls can be destroyed:

Ezekiel 18:2-4: (KJV) <sup>2</sup>*What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? <sup>3</sup>As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

*The soul that sinneth, it shall die* - with the sole exception of Jesus (a perfect man), all souls sin therefore all souls die. The text confirms man does not have an immortal soul that separates from the body and lives on after death.



Those who believe zombies are real are fearful of something imaginary.



Now we focus on the New Testament.  
Does it agree that death is the absence of life?

Thus far the evidence is pretty convincing. God described death as simply a returning to the elements, and the Old Testament bears out that all beings - both human and animal (and even flies!) - meet the same end in death. One especially important key to understanding the New Testament is knowing it is built upon the Old Testament.



Trish adds: Christianity has really bought into this idea of being in between.

Some Christian denominations fail to study the beauty of resurrection. Why do souls need to be raised if they never really left? It all comes down to accepting Satan's lie and creating a blurred middle area where there is none.

New Testament: *Soul* fits exactly with the definition of a *being*, as defined in the Old Testament.

**Soul:** Strong's #5590 *psuche*; breath, i.e. concretely  
(the animal sentient principle only)

**Man's soul/being is the man, not just his mind, heart or strength:**

Luke 10:27: (KJV) *And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy **soul <5590>**, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.*

**Jesus' soul/being was sorrowed to the point of death:**

Matthew 26:38: (KJV) *Then saith he unto them, My **soul <5590>** is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

**Jesus freely offered his life (soul/being) to die as a ransom:**

John 15:13: (KJV) *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his **life <5590>** for his friends.*

Death began with Adam and will eventually end with Jesus.



### The loss of life in death is the same as the loss of a soul in death:

Acts 27:22: (KJV) *And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's **life** <5590> among you, but of the ship.*

Now we come to the next step in the zombie evolution. They began as the dead brought to life by a god, then they were brought to life by men, then they were men who were infected and now:

#### Trailer, *Zombies* (Disney movie)

- (Narrator) *There's a picture perfect town called Seabrook where one small accident led to a cosmic event. A mysterious green haze changed the fate of the world. Touched by it, you turned into a zombie.*
- (Main character) *But we've come a long way since the outbreak, thanks to the Z Band. This puppy delivers a dose of soothing electromagnetic pulses that keeps us from eating brains. I'm Zen, and yeah, I'm a zombie. Today is the first day we can attend human high school. No more classes in a dingy basement!*
- (High school student) *Change is upon us now that zombies have entered our school.*
- (Main character) *Some people still think we'll eat them.*
- (High school student) *Eww. Nasty! Zombie germs.*

Now the zombies are the heroes! The point? Human imagination continues to alter stories further and further from reality. Reality began when Satan lied, and that lie has come to all of this.

We do not have to be afraid of zombies because they are not real. **For more on the fallen angels/spirit who can trick people into believing the dead are still living, see October 22, 2018, Episode #1044, "How Do Demons Influence Our World?"**

### A plain text viewed in its larger context:

Romans 6:22-23: (NASB) <sup>22</sup>*But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.* <sup>23</sup>*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Having been freed from sin* - through the ransom price of Jesus

*Enslaved to God* - in a way we cannot get out of, nor would we want to

*Resulting in sanctification* - being set apart; being different from everybody else

The outcome is *eternal life* - sin brings death, but the gift of God brings life...how? It is NOT through the altering of an immortal life after death. It is through the simple thought of resurrection, the miraculous re-energizing of a life once destroyed.





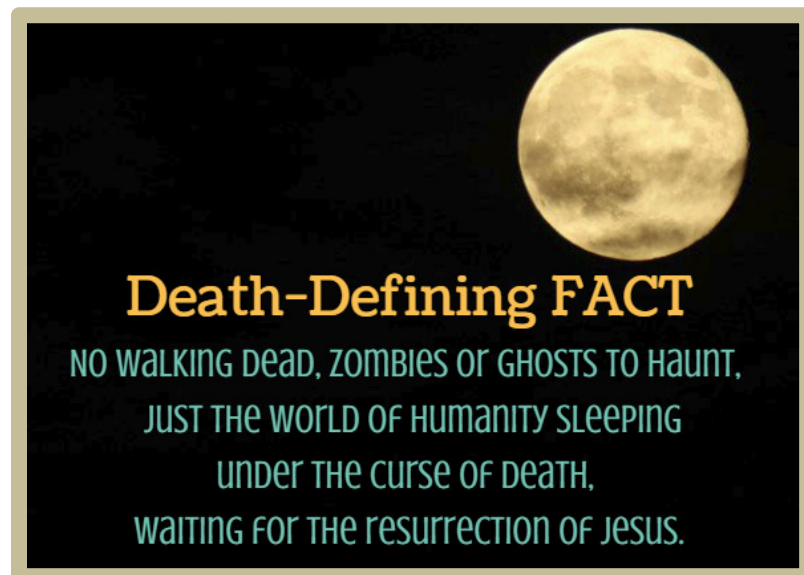
John 5:28-29: (NASB) <sup>28</sup>*Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, <sup>29</sup>and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

No zombies, no disembodied spirits, no ghosts and nothing to fear, because ALL receive resurrection.

### **The Apostle Paul before Felix:**

Acts 24:14-15: (NASB) <sup>14</sup>*But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; <sup>15</sup>having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.*

Why would Paul be so focused on a resurrection if the dead are just as alive as before they died? The resurrection is all about the reclaiming of souls from actual death.



Zombies are not real, as the Scriptures do not give us any grounds for disembodied souls. God provided death as a consequence. Jesus bought the human race and resurrection is coming!

*So, can zombies possibly be real?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on November 5, 2018:

Ep. #1046: "What Can I Do Now  
So I Don't Procrastinate Later?"

### Bonus Material!

***Truth will always be truth, regardless of lack of understanding, disbelief or ignorance.***

— W. Clement Stone

#### Difficult texts:

Genesis 35:16-18: (KJV) <sup>16</sup>And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. <sup>17</sup>And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. <sup>18</sup>And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

#### This is sensible - life can leave us and miraculously come back:

1 Kings 17:21-22: (KJV) <sup>21</sup>And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. <sup>22</sup>And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

#### What about this?

Revelation 6:9-10: (KJV) <sup>9</sup>And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: <sup>10</sup>And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

#### Answer to this Scripture: (Jesus triumphantly entering Jerusalem and his disciples are shouting.)

Luke 19:37-41: (KJV) <sup>39</sup>And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. <sup>40</sup>And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. <sup>41</sup>And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it.

Genesis 4:10: (KJV) And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.



### How do we explain this?

Genesis 25:17: (KJV) *And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.*

Genesis 35:29: (KJV) *And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. (Gathered unto his people has several other uses.)*

### Answer to these Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 31:16: (KJV) *And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.*

Job 14:10-12: (KJV) <sup>10</sup>*But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?* <sup>11</sup>*As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:* <sup>12</sup>*so man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.*

Job 7:21: (KJV) *And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.*

### Further scriptural support for the soul's mortality - we return to our origin:

Genesis 3:19: (KJV) *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

Ecclesiastes 12:7: (KJV) *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

Ecclesiastes 3:19-20: (KJV) <sup>19</sup>*For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.* <sup>20</sup>*All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

### We "sleep" - we do not have consciousness - we cease living:

1 Thessalonians 4:16: (KJV) *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

2 Peter 3:4: (KJV) *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

1 Thessalonians 4:14: (KJV) *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

John 11:11-14: (KJV) <sup>11</sup>*These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.* <sup>12</sup>*Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.* <sup>13</sup>*Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.* <sup>14</sup>*Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.*

John 11:23-25: (KJV) <sup>23</sup>*Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.* <sup>24</sup>*Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.* <sup>25</sup>*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

Job 14:14-15: (KJV) <sup>14</sup>*If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.* <sup>15</sup>*Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.*



1 Corinthians 15:20-22: (NIV) <sup>20</sup>*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* <sup>21</sup>*For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.* <sup>22</sup>*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

