



Ghosts, Reincarnation and Humanity - What's Real? (Part I)

2 Corinthians 11:14-15: (NASB) *¹⁴No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*



Are ghosts real? Is reincarnation a legitimate process in the patterns of life? For billions of people in our world today the answers to one or both of these questions is a resounding yes. It all has to do with the mystery of what happens after we die. Life is precious and because we cannot physically see what happens after death, humanity longs for an answer to our mortality. For all the ages that humanity has existed, we have found explanations to bridge the gap between what we know and what science cannot confirm. Many feel there is substantial evidence in defense of these beliefs. Is there a way to know the truth about these things? As Christians, the best we can do is use the Bible as our basis and address what is brought forth as evidence with our clearest thinking.

Our clearest thinking begins at the beginning, long before there were any preconceived ideas about life, death and the hereafter.

We start with just Adam, Eve and the named animals in the Garden of Eden:
Genesis 1:27-28: (NASB) *²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God 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.*

Adam and Eve had not yet become parents which would add to their blessing and complete God's purpose for them to begin the process of filling the earth.

As Christians, we believe God created humanity. Therefore, humanity did NOT evolve from something else. We do not believe in reincarnation, which will be discussed in Part II of this series.



Tricia: You cannot believe in evolution and reincarnation at the same time. Evolution is growth (developing and diversifying from earlier forms) the survival of the fittest, and reincarnation is a recycling of life. The two do not mix; the two beliefs are inconsistent.

We will discuss reincarnation in Part II of this series.



God allowed Adam and Eve to be tested, as their responsibilities and blessings would grow with time.



Satan had revolted on his own and then sought to get humanity to follow him in his rebellion:

Genesis 3:1-5: (NASB) ¹Now 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 said to Eve - Has God said, you shall not eat from any tree of the garden? He was quoting only PART of what God said. It does not matter what side of an issue we are on today; the media does the same thing - repeats part of a statement without finishing it.



²The woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³but 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 finished what Satan did not say, so Satan had to come up with another way to deceive her. This was the first recorded lie involving humanity. Here is where Satan earned his name as the “father of lies”!

⁴The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! ⁵For 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.



Looking to explain, Why People Think They See Ghosts, Vox

- (Interviewer) *If you believe the dead can return to haunt the living you're not alone. According to one poll, 45 percent of Americans believe in ghosts, and 28 percent claimed they actually have seen a ghost. They show up in our movies, books and Bone Thugs-n-Harmony music videos. As far back as we can trace human life, there's evidence that almost every culture has expressed curiosity about what comes after. Many people believe in them, but is there actually any proof that ghosts exist? I went to Buffalo, NY, to talk to Joe Nickell, a paranormal investigator who's been trying to answer that question for almost 50 years.*
- (Joe Nickell) *I'm the world's only full-time, salaried, professional, science-based paranormal investigator. I'm looking to explain a case - not debunk it, not promote it, explain it.*

Satan lied by telling Eve she would NOT die. He couched that lie in a bed of truth by saying her and Adam's eyes would be opened, and they would be like God in that they would know good and evil.

Eve and then Adam reacted:

Genesis 3:6-7: (NASB) ⁶When 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. ⁷Then 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.

Have we taken this lie of Satan and mainstreamed it? Yes! This thought process goes as far back in history to Egypt. They buried the pharaohs with items they could use in their so-called afterlife. This has become common in many cultures. What happens after we die is a mystery to many.

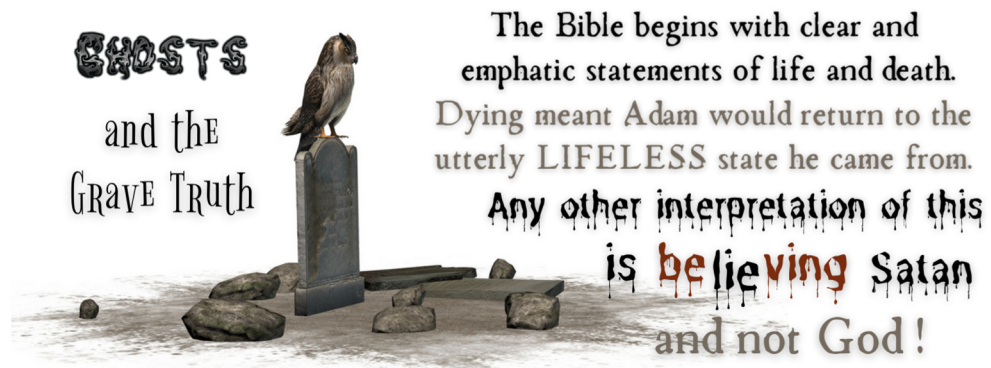
There is no mystery in the creation account. God said - *you will die.*



The full consequence of disobedience for Adam, the father of us all:

Genesis 3:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; (Now they would have to till the ground and make it produce what they needed to survive. This was the first part of the curse.) ¹⁹By 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.

You are dust and to dust you shall return - God is saying that because Adam represents every human, mankind will return to the elements. Death is clearly defined here - death is simply going back to the pre-life state, the absence of life.



This is incredibly straightforward. God made man from the earth and death brings him back to his origin.

**The conclusion from the account of Adam's sin seems so easy.
How can we be sure it is the truth?**

The only way to be sure of the Adam account is to test it. If God's simple proclamation of life and death found in Genesis is true, it should be borne out in the rest of the Bible. That confirming death is the absence of life should be obvious, verifiable and easily proven throughout all of the holy Scriptures.

The Bible often states that death is the absence of life. A few examples:

Ecclesiastes 9:4-5: (NASB) ⁴For whoever is joined with all the living, there is hope; surely a live dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.

This implies a lack of consciousness.

Ecclesiastes 9:10: (NASB) *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.*

Sheol is translated as the *grave*, *hell* and the *pit* in the Old Testament. Many Christians believe hell is a nasty place and the grave is a much better place, but they actually come from the same word. A careful examination of the King James Version reveals the same Hebrew word was translated into English as *grave* when referring to a "good" person who died and *hell* when referring to a "bad" person. This reveals bias on the part of the translator.



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

Psalm 115:17: (NASB) *The dead do not praise the LORD, Nor do any who go down into silence;*

This just scratches the surface for scriptural proofs. There are many other Scriptures listed in the Bonus Material.



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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

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What science says, *Why People Think They See Ghosts, Vox*

- (Interviewer) *Nickell is a true Renaissance man, drawing from a wide variety of disciplines for his cases.*
- (Joe Nickell) *At one time or another, I've used linguistic analysis. I have used blood pattern analysis, psychological insights, nearly anything could be used if it would illuminate a particular case.*
- (Interviewer) *So, in the hundreds of cases over his half-century of investigation, has he ever found anything that would make him believe in ghosts?*
- (Joe Nickell) *Not only have I never found a single case that I thought was proof of a ghost, neither has science. Not a single ghost or haunting has been authenticated by science.*

The Bible tells us death is an absence of life in every way. There is no disembodiment of the soul. *For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*



Romans and Corinthians both refer back to the original sentence for sin given in the Garden of Eden:

Romans 6:21-23: (NASB) ²¹*Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.* ²²*But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.* ²³*For the wages (payment) of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

This was another straightforward scriptural statement - *the wages of sin is death* - not disembodiment - not torment - not torture! It is death. *But the free gift of God is eternal life, so the comparison is between eternal death and eternal life. Thank God for Jesus because the death sentence was ransomed away.*





Sin brings death - even in his enlightened state the Apostle Paul does not add to or change the simple Genesis equation.

Paul does add that there is miraculous hope beyond the grave because of Jesus:

1 Corinthians 15:21-22: (NASB) ²¹For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

What is the purpose of resurrecting the dead if they are not really dead? Satan's lie has corrupted the truth of Christ resurrecting the dead.

The raising of Lazarus was a picture of the resurrection.

 **Ghosts are hard to define, Why People Think They See Ghosts, Vox**

- *Part of what makes it difficult to investigate is all the different ways people have defined "ghosts." Books flying off of a shelf - ghost. Orbs in photos - ghost. Mysterious footsteps in the attic - ghost. Patrick Swayze seductively helping you throw a vase - definitely ghost. All of the would-be evidence that ghosts exist consists of ambiguous photographs, videos. "The next day, his HDTV literally begins rocking violently from side to side all by itself." And firsthand accounts: "Even if it's during the day, there's this eerie feeling that you get that there's someone there." Which while fun and spooky are not exactly scientific proof. Ghost hunters often use gadgets such as EMF meters, a tool that measures electromagnetic fields which ghosts can supposedly manipulate, but nobody's been able to explain exactly what the link is, and most scientists are pretty skeptical of this stuff. So, there might not be any empirical scientific evidence that shows that ghosts exist, but that doesn't actually mean that you're crazy if you think you see one.*

Today this lie from Satan is being proclaimed by churchianity, that when we die, we do not *really* die. Our soul goes either to a reward or a punishment. This is contrary to what God said in Genesis and confirmed in Ezekiel 18:20: *The soul that sinneth, it shall die.* The result of judgment is *death*.

As thorough as the Bible is regarding the lifelessness of death, pagan nations absorbed the lie of Satan.



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WHAT IS THE SOUL?

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As a result, all kinds of pagan rituals developed:

Deuteronomy 18:9-12: (NASB) ⁹When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. ¹⁰There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹²For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you.

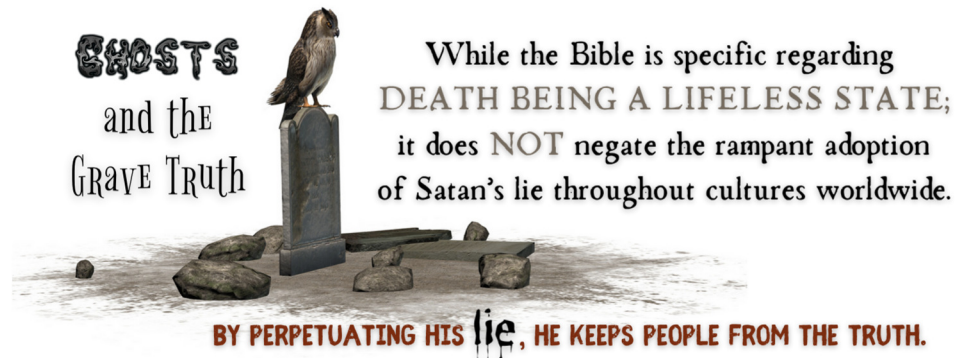
God listed all these *detestable things* and said **DO NOT** let them be part of our lives.

Do these Scriptures say they were really calling up the dead? No, as the dead are actually dead. We will address this question in the next segment.

New Testament warnings focus us on having an awareness of Satan and his objectives:

Ephesians 6:10-12: (NASB) *¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

The Old Testament says to stay away from such things. The New Testament instructs us to arm ourselves with *the full armor of God*. The weaponry needs to be bigger and stronger because the battle is against *rulers, powers, world forces and spiritual forces of wickedness*.



God's initial statement about the lifelessness of death is supported by the rest of the Bible. Are we surprised?

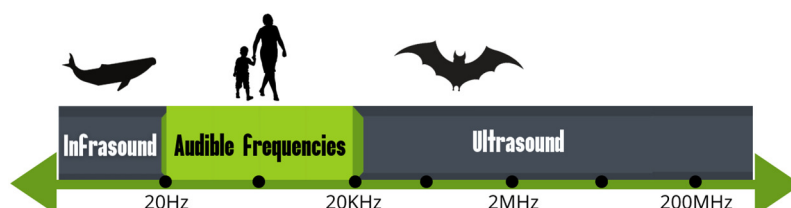
Wait a minute! Didn't King Saul talk to Samuel AFTER Samuel had died? What's up with that?

As tragic as the King Saul story is, it is also incredibly educational. It shows us the positive life-preserving power of obedience to God and the destructive power of disobedience. We pick up in the story of King Saul after God has cast him off and Saul has descended into his own personal madness. War is brewing! The archenemy of Israel, the Philistines, are pounding at the door.

But first, let's go to the audio clip which addresses scientific reasons why ghosts seem to appear.

Infrasound, Why People Think They See Ghosts, Vox

- (Interviewer) There are plenty of logical explanations for paranormal experiences. One is infrasound sound, a sound that falls below the audible 20 hertz frequency. Infrasound can be produced by many things including severe weather, humpback whales or certain machinery like engines or fans. Researchers have hypothesized that exposure to infrasound can induce feelings of depression, chills and the sense that somebody's presence is near you. The sound can even cause visual hallucinations.*



- (Joe Nickell) *At the frequency of 18 hertz, it resonates with the structure of the human eyeball. If you have sound that resonates with something material, it will make the material vibrate at that frequency, and when that happens to you, your eye begins to see things that are in fact not there.*

This is saying that infrasound can create hallucinations! These are scientific realities that are proven in the biological structure of humanity.

Keep this in mind as we examine if Saul actually saw Samuel coming up from the dead:

1 Samuel 28:5-6,8-10: (NASB) ⁵When Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly. ⁶When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets.

King Saul was terrified of the might and number of the Philistines.

Interestingly, King Saul had the proper methods of communication with God before him. Saul was still seeking God's direction because he was afraid, but God was no longer with him. God removed Himself because Saul chose not to obey God.



God was not being cruel to Saul by not answering; this was a consequence of his disobedience.

Saul wanted an answer at any cost, so he arranged to see the witch of Endor. This was completely wrong:

⁸Then Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, Conjure up for me, please, and bring up for me whom I shall name to you. ⁹But the woman said to him, Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who are mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you then laying a snare for my life to bring about my death? ¹⁰Saul vowed to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.

Saul not only seeks out a witch, he vows to break the law that he himself was responsible for and had proclaimed he would uphold:

Exodus 22:18: (KJV) *Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.*

Earlier Saul himself had banished all the witches, mediums and spiritists:

1 Samuel 28:3: (NASB) *Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had removed from the land those who were mediums and spiritists.*



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WHO WAS KING SAUL? (PARTS I AND II)**
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Let's return to the scientific reasons that may explain why someone would think they saw a ghost.

 **Sleep paralysis, Why People Think They See Ghosts, Vox**

- (Interviewer) *This experiment does highlight how manipulating certain parts of your brain can produce what researcher Olaf Blank calls "misperceived self-representation," which can easily be misconstrued as a ghostly presence. Sometimes even just a person's state of consciousness can make them feel or see presences.*



- (Joe Nickell) *We can actually have people see ghosts, and those tend to be waking dreams that occur in the twilight between being fully asleep and fully awake.*
- (Interviewer) *These kinds of waking dreams can also be called sleep paralysis which about 8 percent of people experience at some point in their lifetime. You feel like you're awake, but you're unable to move your body and it's often accompanied by terrifying visuals like shadows, people or even monsters which if you didn't know what was happening would be easy to confuse for having seen a ghost.*

This is a frightening experience. We can jump to conclusions, but science is a wonderful tool to help us put it all in order and can explain away our fears.

Now let's revisit what is happening with Saul consulting this witch:

1 Samuel 28:11-14: (NASB) ¹¹*Then the woman said, Whom shall I bring up for you? And he said, Bring up Samuel for me. ¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul. ¹³The king said to her, Do not be afraid; but what do you see? And the woman said to Saul, I see a divine being (mighty one) coming up out of the earth. ¹⁴He said to her, What is his form? And she said, An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe. And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did homage.*

How did the witch of Endor know that this was King Saul? This translation is misleading. The word for *divine being* here is *elohim* which means “a mighty one.” This word can be used to describe angels and other spirit beings, but also mighty human beings. The witch saw this mighty one coming up out of the earth - it was a manifestation by an evil spirit.



The evil spirit lets her know that the person she is talking to is actually King Saul.

The witch fears for her life, her dark connections to evil spirits revealing Saul's identity. She is afraid now because she knew she is talking to the king who had banished witches, mediums and other necromancers from Israel.

- The witch sees a *mighty one (elohim)* - Saul does NOT see it.
- She vaguely describes it and Saul “knows” that it is Samuel. All she says is that she sees *an old man wrapped with a robe*, and Saul jumps to this conclusion.
- We do this now, don't we? We take information and jump rapidly to conclusions that may not be based on facts.
- The Old Testament Scriptures DID NOT allow for the possibility that any human can become a ghost or spirit from the dead.

Jesus confirms this:

John 3:13-15: (NASB) ¹³*No one has ascended into heaven, but he who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. ¹⁴As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵so that whoever believes will in him have eternal life.*

We know that no one was raised from the grave to heaven. This witch was dealing with dark and evil spirit beings and made a connection with this dark world. We must avoid contact with this kind of practice.



1 Samuel 28:15: (NASB) *Then Samuel said to Saul, Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up...*

This sounds like “Samuel” was miffed about being awakened from sleep. Again, we have no evidence that Saul saw anything (notice he asked the medium what SHE sees), though it seems he did hear a voice. How can we explain this? The witnesses who were reporting this may have said they heard Saul talking to Samuel because Saul called out and referred to Samuel. Saul was utterly convinced he was speaking to the prophet - he was blinded by his own ambition, need and fear. In his exhaustion and worry over the threat of the Philistines, with God far from him due to his disobedience, he sought the comfort and familiarity of his mentor.

Another example we see in the Scriptures that shows a mistaken identity is found in **Numbers 13:33**. In this context, Moses sent out 12 spies to report back to him about the land of Canaan and the people living there. Many spies reported the people were too strong and mighty to attack, referring to some of them as being Nephilim - which means giants on the earth. However, the Nephilim (a hybrid race of angels and humans found in **Genesis 6:4**) were all destroyed in the Flood. Even though they called them Nephilim does not mean they were THE Nephilim. It was Joshua who said nothing is too big for the Lord.

They were not literally Nephilim but were described as such, and the listeners would know what they meant. In the previous account with Saul, the evil spirit was not really Samuel, but the witnesses reported it that way. The Bible does not “undo” the report, just like it does not undo the report of the Nephilim. We can use scriptural context to understand what is real and what is not.

He describes to “Samuel” his dilemma with the Philistines:

1 Samuel 28:16-20: (NASB) *¹⁶Samuel said, Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? ¹⁷The LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David.*

The evil spirit POSING as Samuel does not reveal anything new. He tells Saul exactly what Samuel told him before Samuel died. This shows us that the spirits held in *chains of darkness* observe us carefully.



Saul is literally receiving the consequences of his rejection of God through this witch!

His life is drawing to an end as a result of being on this path of incredible disobedience to the Lord’s instructions, once given him through the real Samuel. The Philistine army was overwhelming; Saul was now further from God than ever before as he sought light and help from the darkness and evil of the spirit world. This was wrong in so many ways.

The conclusion was not shocking:

2 Corinthians 11:14-15: (KJV) *¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*



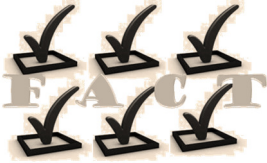
Satan poses as *an angel of light* to get people to trust him. In the Garden of Eden, he had dark intentions of usurping God's power and his intentions are no less evil now.



NEVER SEEK LIGHT FROM THE DARK POWERS!

The next day Saul died:

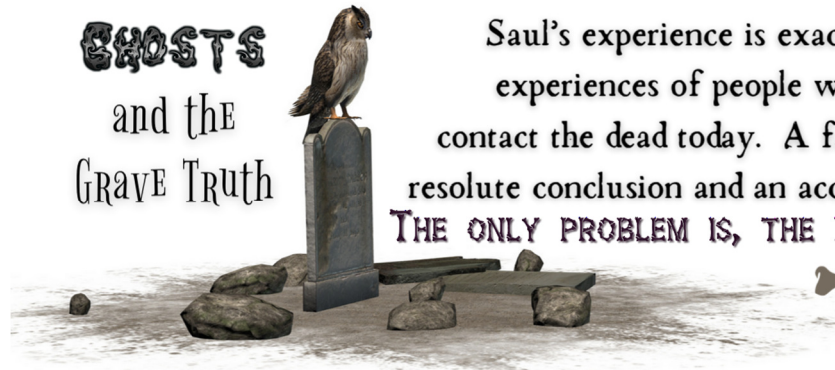
1 Chronicles 10:13: (KJV) *So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it;*



This was the final straw that cost Saul his life because he was so rebellious. We have an unequivocal answer to the Saul/dead Samuel encounter. It was just an evil spirit, a fallen angel, impersonating Samuel.

People are looking for answers to things about which they are unsure. It is understandable to want answers, especially in these troublous times. But we can be so easily deceived by so many different kinds of influences. Even the internet is full of untraceable efforts to deceive. We have to be very careful.

GHOSTS
and the
GRAVE TRUTH



Saul's experience is exactly like the experiences of people who try and contact the dead today. A faint imagery, a resolute conclusion and an acceptance as truth. **THE ONLY PROBLEM IS, THE DEAD ARE DEAD!**

This is the reality according to Scripture, and as Christians we have to abide by the word of God. Examining this account reveals an ancient process of manipulation from dark spiritual sources who are still manipulating today.

**The dead are dead and evil spirits manipulate us to believe otherwise.
How does this work?**

We are fortunate that the Bible exposes enough of fallen spiritual beings' history to arm us with awareness. Unfolding what condition these fallen angels are in helps us understand that they can and will have influence in our world to some degree. To be forewarned is to be forearmed!

People tend to fill in the gap between what they know and what they hope, even when it is not true.



Grief, Why People Think They See Ghosts, Vox

- (Interviewer) Another possible explanation for ghostly sightings is grief. One study found that up to 60 percent of people that lose a spouse claim to see or hear their dead loved ones. In his book about hallucinations, neurologist Oliver Sacks said that seeing the face of a deceased loved one can actually help you cope with your grief.
- (Oliver Sacks) This sort of hallucination is not frightening, is often very comforting, and it seems to be part of the mourning process. Some hole has been left in one's life and this helps it to heal over.
- (Joe Nickell) There is no question that most of the paranormal promote something very positive. There are a few exceptions, but all have to do with their hopes and our fears. We are hopeful that ghosts exist because then we don't really die; our loved ones are not gone from us.

Thinking the dead are dead seems harsh, but it is not. Being raised in the promised resurrection is the very next thing they will know after they die because there is no consciousness when we are dead. It is like being asleep or like coming awake after anesthesia. It feels like we have been asleep only an instant, when it could have been hours or centuries. By God's grace, there is a resurrection in Jesus.

Here are the consequences given to the spirit beings who followed in Satan's rebellious footsteps:

2 Peter 2:4: (Revised Version Improved and Corrected) *For if God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to **Tartarus** <5020>, and committed them to chains of dark gloom (darkness), to be reserved unto judgment;*

These spirit beings who followed Satan and sinned were cast down and out of God's light. This limited their power and influence but did not remove all of their abilities.

Why did God not just destroy them and Satan? God always gives a perpetrator of evil a chance. Even if they do not take it, their experience will be an eternal example for everyone else. There is value in allowing that to work through its entire process before God destroys all evil. The Scriptures tell us God WILL destroy all the evil.

Jude 1:6: (Rotherham) *Messengers also, even them who had not kept their own principality, but had forsaken their proper dwelling, unto the judgment of the great day in perpetual bonds under thick gloom, hath he reserved.*



What is this **Tartarus** anyway? Is it a place? A condition? Is it where demons live? Let's compare both Scriptures about the fallen angels.

Tartarus: Strong's #5020 *tartaroo* (the deepest abyss of Hades)
King James Version: cast down to hell

Tartaroo is often translated *hell*, sometimes translated *Tartarus* and only used once in Scripture. The Scriptures we just read describe what it is:

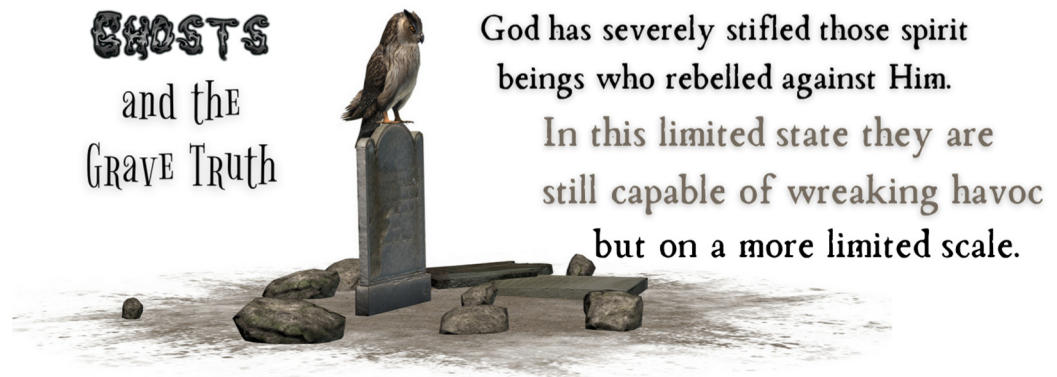
The word is a verb; therefore, it is not a place, but an action.

- 2 Peter 2:4 - Sinful angels sent there, chains of darkness, a condition of restraint - reserved for judgment

- Jude 1:6 - Sinful angels forsook their proper rank - now in perpetual bonds - restrained in darkness

The word *Tartaroo* is describing the action of being held in dark restraints. It is the action of being restrained from doing what one normally would do and being stuck in darkness.

These fallen angels were cast out of God's heavenly light into a condition of darkness and limitation.

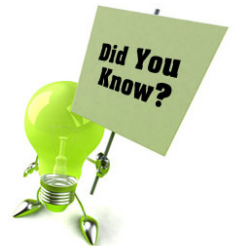


It is important to remember they still have power and are not harmless! But it is not nearly what they once had. They apparently can see some things but not everything. There are definite limitations regarding where they can go, what they can do and the trouble they can cause. But do not be fooled. If we look for them, we will find them - which is not a wise, smart or spiritual thing to do.

The idea of ghosts is powerful, *Why People Think They See Ghosts*, Vox

- *(Joe Nickell) I remember when my grandmother died and how much I did not want that to be the case, but the ghost idea, the idea that we just get up out of our bodies and continue on is powerful because who doesn't have an instance in which he or she would say, I just wish I could have told my mother this one thing, or I wish my father knew I wasn't really mad at him that time.*
- *So, ghosts may not actually exist, but that doesn't mean that you might not see one.*

When we look at this idea with compassion, we can understand someone might want an opportunity missed to be possible. We need to be aware that God's plan gives us that opportunity. It provides for a resurrection for every man, woman and child who ever lived. If we did not get the chance to say what we wanted to say to a loved one before they died, we will. That is the beauty of Jesus becoming our ransom price.



These once bright and shining sons of God are now followers of Satan and relegated to the shadows of earth but are still powerful and influential. What do they want with us? Let's look at these fallen angels and find out what they can do.

The topic of ghosts can be scary for children.



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ARE GHOSTS REAL?

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They can “enter” - what does that mean?

Entered: Strongs #1525 *eiserchomai*, to go out or come (in, into), to enter

Luke 22:3-4: (NRSV) ³Then Satan **entered <1525>** into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them.

Satan and his followers know our weaknesses and try to take advantage of us by tempting us to sin. Judas was not possessed - rather, he allowed himself to be under the influence of Satan.



WHAT IS THE LESSON?

**SATAN'S MERE INFLUENCE CAN LEAD
TO OUR BETRAYING OUR LORD!**

BEWARE!

Never even entertain the thought of contacting these evil spirits and going down this road. This is like entering into a business agreement. Judas at this point is agreeing to operate along with Satan's wishes.

Demons “possess and control” - this is something that they seem to crave and do well.

Matthew 15:22: (KJV) *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil <1139>.*

Vexed with a devil: Strongs #1139 *daimonizomai*; to be exercised by a daemon

Greek English Lexicon: to be under the power of a demon.

Demons manipulate for their own pleasure. This woman was not a Jew but came to Jesus in desperation, obviously hearing of his authority. Jesus granted her request, removing that demonic influence from her daughter.

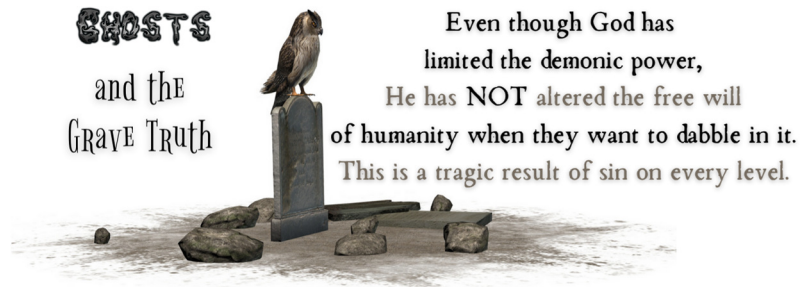
Perhaps because of their dark restraints, demons have an unquenchable longing for any connection with the light of God's creation.

Possession of a human may be a way to fulfill that longing:

Matthew 12:43-45: (NASB) ⁴³Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it (This again indicates their limited power). ⁴⁴Then it says, I will return to my house from which I came; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.



Permission to enter is possible when we do not have righteousness occupying our minds.



To review, CAN we dabble with demonic power? Yes! SHOULD we ever do this? Absolutely not! God will never negate our free will. If we choose to engage with this kind of thing, we might step outside of God's protection.

We often hear witchcraft divided into "dark" and "white" witchcraft. White witches are supposed to work for good or neutral results - casting spells to help people, working to benefit the earth. Satan poses as an *angel of light*. White witchcraft is just another of his wiles to pull in the unsuspecting. Spiritism is darkness that poses as light. Dabbling in it means we are turning our minds over to a dark evil, power.

Ephesians 6:10-13: (NASB) ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

It is all about standing firm. The idea of ghosts and spirituality in its dark forms can be powerful and frightening. Look at the Scriptures that tell us life is the opposite of death, and when we are dead, we know nothing. Let us take God's words as our base and be respectful of the ways God has given us to find hope in our grief, to find ways to cover those gaps in life where we feel something is missing. Spiritism is never a good thing for any of us under any circumstances. Please use the spirit of a sound mind and God's grace to stay away from such things. Our next episode will focus on reincarnation and spiritual signs and their meanings.

**So, ghosts, reincarnation and humanity - what's real?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**



Join us next week for our podcast on October 26, 2020

Ep. 1149: Ghosts, Reincarnation and Humanity –
What's Real? (Part II)

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Bonus Material and Study Questions

All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them. – Galileo Galilei

Man, and animals alike, meet with the same destiny of death:

Psalms 49:16-20: (NASB) ¹⁶*Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house is increased; ¹⁷For when he dies he will carry nothing away; His glory will not descend after him. ¹⁸Though while he lives he congratulates himself - and though men praise you when you do well for yourself ¹⁹He shall go to the generation of his fathers; They will never see the light. ²⁰Man in his pomp, yet without understanding, is like the beasts that perish.*

Ecclesiastes 3:19-20: (KJV) ¹⁹*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. ²⁰All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

Are animals “souls”? Scripturally, yes - all are sentient creatures - they have life, being, existence, they are living souls. In the first, second and ninth chapters of Genesis (KJV), the words *living soul* are applied in the Hebrew language to the lower animals nine times, but the translators used *living creature* or *that hath life* instead - even though the same Hebrew word could have been translated *soul*.

Soul: Strongs #5315, *nephesh*; properly, a breathing creature, i.e. animal of (abstractly) vitality; used very widely in a literal, accommodated or figurative sense (bodily or mental):— any, appetite, beast, body, breath, creature

The King James Version translates this Hebrew word as: *soul* 475 times, *life* 117 times, *person* 29 times, *mind* 15 times, *heart* 15 times, *creature* 9 times, *body* 8 times, *himself* 8 times, *yourselves* 6 times, *dead* five times, *will* 4 times, *desire* 4 times, *man* 3 times, *themselves* 3 times, *any* 3 times, *appetite* 2 times and miscellaneous 47 other times

Live: Strongs #2416, *chay*; alive; hence, raw (flesh); fresh (plant, water, year), strong; also (as noun, especially in the feminine singular and masculine plural) life (or living thing), whether literally or figuratively:— age, alive, appetite, (wild) beast, company, congregation, life(-time), live(-ly), living (creature, thing), maintenance, merry, multitude, (be) old, quick, raw, running, springing, troop

Man and animal referred to in the same way - both are “souls”:

Genesis 1:20-21,24,26-27,30: (KJV) ²⁰*And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that **hath <5315> life <2416>**, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. ²¹And God created great whales, and every **living <2416> 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. ²⁴And God said, Let the earth bring forth the **living <2416> creature <5315>** after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. ²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ³⁰And to every **beast <2416>** of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is **life <2416> <5315>**, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.*

Also see: Genesis 2:18 and Genesis 9:3,4,12,15



Translators had a problem with **Numbers 31:28** - they had no choice to use *soul* respecting both man and creatures because of the sentence structure: *Levy a tribute unto the Lord of the men of war which went out to battle: one soul of five hundred, both of the persons and of the beeves and of the asses and of the sheep.*

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 <2416> being <5315>**.*

Genesis 7:22: (KJV) *All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.*

Genesis 9:16: (KJV) *And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every **living <2416> creature <5315>** of all flesh that is upon the earth.*

All of the above Scriptures indicate that man and animal are of the same make-up. In both cases, their lives are a result of the combination of their body plus God's breath of life. In both cases, they are subject to death.

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Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1148: Ghosts, Reincarnation and Humanity - What's Real? Part I

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1148-reincarnation/>

See:  **CQRewind**
SHOW NOTES

1. What happened to Adam when he died? What happens to us when we die? How do we know? (See Genesis 2:16-17, Genesis 3 16-19, Ecclesiastes 9:4-5,10, Psalm 6:5, Psalm 115:17)
2. What was Satan's lie? (See Genesis 3:3-5) How has this lie continued down through all the ages since Adam?
3. Why did King Saul seek answers from the witch of Endor? Why didn't he ask God for help? (See 1 Samuel 28:5-6)
4. Was it wrong for him to consult a witch? Why? (See 1 Samuel 28:3,8-10, Exodus 22:18, 1 Chronicles 10:13)
5. Did Saul actually talk to Samuel? How can we explain this incident? Could it have been the prophet Samuel coming back from the dead as a spirit being? How do we know? (See 1 Samuel 28:5-6,8-10, 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, John 3:13-15)
6. What is comforting about the dead being dead? (See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, John 11:23-27)
7. Where are the angels that followed Satan to earth before the flood? What are the conditions of their existence? (See 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 1:6) Why didn't God destroy both them and Satan at the time He cast them out of heaven?
8. What are two ways a fallen spirit can influence us? (See Luke 22:3-4, Matthew 14:22) When we turn an evil spirit or influence out of our lives and clean up our mind - what is necessary to keep us from falling back under its influence? (See Matthew 12:43-45)
9. Is there ever a correct way to use the powers of darkness for good? (See Acts 16:16-18)
10. Is there any protection against evil spirits, fallen angels, and satanic influence? (See Ephesians 6:10-13)