



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

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.*



Life and death can be confusing, and we generally fear the death part of the equation. We all want life to mean something. For Christians, that meaning comes through what we do with the one life we are now living. By focusing ourselves on being like Jesus in the here and now we make the world around us better. By God's grace and if we are faithful, we later have an eternity with Jesus. For those who believe in reincarnation, it is very different. They see this life as one stop in a massive cycle of lives that eventually is to produce a purification and unification in a god-like state. So, if Christianity is all about attaining perfection and reincarnation is essentially about the same thing, are they compatible?

	Believe spiritual energy can be located in physical things	Believe in psychics	Believe in reincarnation	Believe in astrology
All U.S. adults	42%	41%	33%	29%
Christian	37	40	29	26
Protestant	32	38	26	24
Evangelical	24	33	19	18
Mainline	43	44	33	30
Historically black	41	43	38	34
Catholic	47	46	36	33
Unaffiliated	47	40	38	32
Atheist	13	10	7	3
Agnostic	40	31	28	18
Nothing in particular	61	52	51	47

We had a listener from South Africa write us an email at inspiration@christianquestion.com to ask about how karma and the Bible work together. Good karma is generally said to lead to happier "rebirths," so it got us talking about reincarnation. According to the Pew Research Center, as of 2017, 29% of American Christians believe in reincarnation, so this is an important topic to get right.

Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

recap
recap

First, a brief recap of Part I:

The Bible is clear that death is the absence of life:

Genesis 2:17: (NASB) *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.*

Genesis 3:19: (NASB) *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.*

Romans 6:23: (NASB) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



Ghosts are NOT disembodied human souls:

Job 14:13-14: (NASB) ¹³*Oh that You would hide me in Sheol, That You would conceal me until Your wrath returns to You, That You would set a limit for me and remember me! ¹⁴If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait until my change comes.*

John 5:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸*Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and 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.*

Evil spirits are real, and even though they are restrained, they can still wreak havoc in our world:

2 Peter 2:4: (RVIC) *For if God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to Tartarus, and committed them to chains of dark gloom, to be reserved unto judgment;*

Matthew 15:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.*

What about reincarnation? What is it and how does it supposedly work?

(Source: Wikipedia) Reincarnation is the philosophical or religious belief that the non-physical essence of a living being starts a new life in a different physical form or body after biological death. It is also called rebirth or transmigration. Resurrection is a similar process hypothesized by some religions that involves coming back to life in the same body.

(We disagree with Wikipedia on that last point. Resurrection is not coming back in the same body. Some will receive a spiritual body and the majority will receive a new earthly body.)



Reincarnation convention, *Reincarnation Alive and Well in Today's Culture*, CBS News

- (Reporter) *More than 1,000 people gathered at this New York City conference center on a recent Sunday, coming from around the world in hopes of an out-of-this-world experience.*
- (Convention speaker) *The next step is we're going to bring the lights down.*
- (Reporter) *At up to \$139 a ticket, they seemed confident that through hypnosis they could uncover lost memories, not just of this life but of past lives as well.*
- (Convention speaker) *Be there, back there, before your birth.*
- (Reporter) *Call them "come as you were" events. Reincarnation conventions no longer considered completely off the wall. They are growing in popularity.*



RESURRECTION

over

REINCARNATION

With biblical principles firm, a reincarnation examination can stem from reason. **God's stated plan** must always be the backdrop to examine any belief system.

It is fascinating to realize how many ways humanity views our journey through this life. We are so glad for God's plan.



Reincarnation is a widely-held belief. Is it possible the Bible could support it in any way?

It may sound like an odd thing to try and combine reincarnation with the Bible, but some claim they are connected. Not only do they say they are connected, but they say Jesus is the one who ties the two together. Let's look at the Scriptures in question and take the next step in establishing biblical truth.

 **Ryan Hammonds, *Reincarnation - 10 Real Life Stories*, Trend Max**

- *Ryan Hammonds, United States: Every father dreams of having a healthy, strong and beautiful child. This is exactly what the Hammonds family got with the arrival of little Ryan. However, all that happiness was overshadowed when the child turned four years old. It was then when things began to change drastically for this peaceful Oklahoma family. This kid started having disturbing nightmares frequently. His tiresome sobs awakened his mother Cindy, who went to Ryan's bed every night with the intention of calming him and getting him to sleep. This was all in vain, as little Ryan's nightmares did not have an end. On many occasions, they could hear the child saying that he wanted to go back to Hollywood. Was this possibly a real reincarnation? Cindy took Ryan to a local library to find some clues about his supposed past life. He pointed and recognized a photograph from a 1932 film called, "Night After Night." George Raft starred in it, a well-known celebrity from the 30s, and by his side was an actor who Ryan looked at with surprise. His mother took him to Jim Tucker, a famous psychiatry professor at the University of Virginia. Marty Martin was the name of the actor in the photograph. During his sessions, Ryan identified a total of 55 aspects of the deceased actor's life. Doctor Tucker is skeptical about reincarnations in children, but he most certainly believes in possible paranormal origins to this phenomenon.*

What feeds such thoughts? How have we potentially sparked a thought without realizing it? We will say more about this as we move forward.

Matthew 11:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

John himself is Elijah - was Elijah reincarnated into John the Baptist?

Matthew 16:13-16: (NASB) ¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he was asking his disciples, Who do people say that the Son of Man is? ¹⁴And they said, Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵He said to them, But who do you say that I am? ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

What's in a name? There is value in studying names in the Bible.

- Elijah means "Yahweh is my God."
- John means "Yahweh is gracious."
- Jeremiah means "Yahweh will raise."
- Jesus means "Savior."

Does the way the people responded show us they expected reincarnation, that it was a belief among them at that time? They might have thought, as Herod did in **Matthew 14:2**, that this was John the Baptist resurrected from the dead. Some Bible commentators think the Pharisees believed in transmigration.



There was obvious confusion among the people, throwing out guesses as to who Jesus might be. Jesus corrected them. These texts are not stating a clear-cut fact of doctrine, so therefore cannot be used to prove reincarnation.

While we know Greek influence deeply corrupted Jewish thinking during the 400 years between Malachi and the birth of Jesus, we cannot say that these texts prove this:

Malachi 4:5-6: (NASB) ⁵Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.

It was prophesied that Elijah would come, and that at its furthest stretch implies a resurrection. Incidentally, it is never said that people are reincarnated into their same name/personage, so Elijah would not have been reincarnated as himself.

Notice how “Elijah” is identified by his work:



Matthew 17:11-13: (NASB) ¹¹And he answered and said, Elijah is coming and will restore all things; ¹²but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands. ¹³Then the disciples understood that he had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

Elijah already came - meaning John the Baptist, as verse 13 explains. Clearly, John was not the physical person of Elijah. John was performing the *work* of Elijah, as prophesied. What did John the Baptist do? *He brought the people back to righteousness to prepare them to accept Jesus.*



***Elijah is coming and will restore all things* - this is shown in the reconciliation work of true Christianity:**

2 Corinthians 5:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.



**The *WORK* of Elijah
(restoring the hearts of the people)
is shown in John the Baptist**



**The *WORK* of Elijah
will be shown in the true church
in their work of reconciling
resurrected humanity back to God.**



Jesus' true followers are being prepared for this future work:

1 Peter 2:9: (NASB) *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*



It is not about the person; it is about the *work* of Elijah. Names in the Bible often reflected something about that person. When Jesus said “Elijah” came in the form of John the Baptist, he is not talking about the *literal person*. When referencing the future “Elijah,” he meant in the form of his church doing the reconciliation work in the Day of Judgment, not the literal person. He was talking about the *work*, the *mission* of Elijah.

Christians use the phrase, “Dare to be a Daniel!” It does not mean we will become Daniel. It means to dare to stand up for what is right and true in the face of incredible odds. Be courageous for the sake of God’s plan.



Did Jesus reveal past lives? Here he is talking to the great multitude after he had miraculously fed them:

John 6:30-32: (NASB) ³⁰So they said to him, What then do you do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? ³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT. ³²Jesus then said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.

The argument for reincarnation is that Jesus does not say, *Moses who has given your fathers the bread out of heaven...*, but instead, *Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven*, thereby indicating that those very persons who were challenging him had been with Moses in the desert. There, too, they had constantly challenged Moses and been unbelieving, and the pattern continues now with Jesus.

The reincarnation argument says those exact people lived back in Moses’ day when Moses said:

Deuteronomy 18:15: (NASB) *The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.*

Those in favor of reincarnation might say: See how Moses does not say *God will raise up for your children a prophet like me*, but instead says *God will raise up for you a prophet like me*, seemingly indicating that it would be those very ones to whom he was speaking that should see and hear the Messiah later.

Respectfully, this does not indicate reincarnation. We read John 6:31 that acknowledged it was *our fathers (who) ate the manna in the wilderness*. A few verses later in John 6:49, Jesus plainly said those who ate that wilderness manna are dead, and that he is the living bread from heaven.

Also see: John 6:58, Acts 7:51,52, Hebrews 3:9 and 1 Peter 1:18.

All of these talk about *your fathers* referring to previous generations. Jesus saying *you* refers to the stiff-necked nation of Israel: You were stiff-necked then and are stiff-necked now.

Does this teach reincarnation?

Job 1:21: (NASB) *He said, Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there...*

Those who believe reincarnation in the Bible would argue, here it says you are born, get recycled and are born again.



But in the world of reincarnation, they never say that when someone dies their same mother births them again or as one of their siblings 20 years later. We cannot take sacred Scripture and make it say something it does not.

Further, Nicodemus directly asked Jesus if a man can enter his mother's womb a second time, in order to be "born again" and Jesus strongly refutes such a thing.



Some Christians who believe the Bible teaches reincarnation would say that resurrection is the end point of the continual cycle of rebirth. If it was not for resurrection being a state of freedom and an ascension to Paradise, that constant karma of sowing and reaping and living new lives would continue indefinitely.

No Scripture actually says any of that, however. We cannot base our doctrinal beliefs on inference or a wish that something be true. The Scriptures all need to harmonize.

Sacredness becomes polluted and reformed. The contaminated version becomes sacred itself. We do not want to go there in any of our beliefs.

Duminda monk, *Reincarnation - 10 Real Life Stories*, Trend Max

- *Duminda Bandaranayake, Sri Lanka: Duminda started to narrate his past life when he was only three years old and claimed that he was a monk. Therefore, he decided to follow the doctrines, behaviors and restrictions of the monks. Surprisingly, he said that he was a veteran monk from the Asgiriya temple, who at the time of death suffered a severe pain in the chest area. He also claimed to own a red car and spoke with great emphasis about an elephant and a small radio. Incredibly, the story told by little Duminda match that of monk Mohanayka Gyunpona's life to a "T." So, we could be in front of irrefutable proof of his reincarnation.*



I have a granddaughter who is almost five years old with an incredibly vivid imagination. She can tell you a story about things that she did that sound real because she has the details down. If you ask her, "Autumn, was that in your imagination?" She smiles, looks down and says, "Yeah." If you feed it, you will get something to blossom.

Those who believe in reincarnation say some of the indications one has led a past life are:

- Vivid dreams, especially reoccurring ones.
- Being uncomfortable in your body, since past lives could have been as a different race or gender.
- A sense of déjà vu when visiting new, unfamiliar places.
- Having an instant rapport with certain strangers because it is thought we often surround ourselves with the same people as our lives progress.



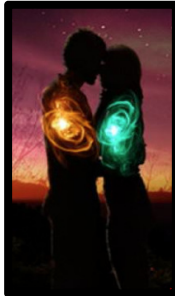


Rick: When you and I met, how long did it take us to become fast friends?

Jonathan: It was an instant connection! We became bosom buddies.

Rick: It was like, in three seconds!

Sometimes people connect. Give credit to the human mind and its connectivity with other human beings.



What about the concept of soul mates? It has a reincarnation connotation as the “soul mate continuum,” finding those you were married to in your past lives and getting together with them again.

If we are trying to look at this from a scriptural perspective, please consider the context of Scripture and what it teaches us about life, death and resurrection. Accept the fact that humans are miraculously made. We are able to connect with some people in ways we cannot imagine.

What about the whole idea of immortality? Reincarnation assumes an immortal being. The Bible does not.

Two New Testament words that describe elements of immortality:

Immortality: Strong's #861 *aphtharsia*; incorruptibility, generally unending existence; (figuratively) genuineness
King James Version - immortality, incorruption, sincerity

Immortality: Strong's #110 *athanasia*; deathlessness
King James Version - immortality

Romans 2:7: (KJV) *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and **immortality** <861>, eternal life.*

If we must seek for it, we do not automatically have it.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54: (KJV) *⁵³For this corruptible must put on **incorruption** <861>, and this mortal must put on **immortality** <110>. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible shall have put on **incorruption** <861>, and this mortal shall have put on **immortality** <110>, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

We are corruptible and mortal. We do not already have deathlessness; we have to put that on.

Interestingly, Ancient Egyptian culture was steeped in the thought of life continuing after a physical death. We are not inherently immortal.

As of the writing of this text, only Jesus possessed immortality:

1 Timothy 6:16: (NASB) *(Jesus) who alone possesses **immortality** <110> and dwells in unapproachable light (the light of God - 1 John 1:5), whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.*



RESURRECTION *over* REINCARNATION

**The Bible is consistent in telling us
the dead are dead
and verifying that immortality
is not inherent to our human lives.**

The further we go with this conversation, the bigger the gap between biblical principles and reincarnation!

**Should mystical, physical objects be
part of our efforts to stay safe and become more spiritual?**

Talking about mystical objects like good luck charms and talismans might sound like an odd thing to insert into our conversation, but think about their relevance. Reincarnation is about a slow, “lives-long” transformation to spirituality. Having objects to protect us in our journey would seem to be logical. Should a mystical physical object help us accomplish that appropriate goal?

Karina asks: I am obsessed with good luck and bad luck charms/remedies. Is it ok to be Christian but wear evil eye jewelry at the same time?



TO: Inspiration@ChristianQuestions.com

Before we answer, we wanted to share some Wikipedia research we summarized on good luck charms, especially “evil eyes.”

The terms “amulet” and “talisman” are often used interchangeably as something bringing good luck or warding off evil, or bringing special positive energy to a person. Examples of these charms might be a lucky rabbit’s foot, a horseshoe, a four-leaf clover, garlic, horns, crucifixes, Aladdin’s magic lamp, magic wands, crystals, statues, even written or spoken words like “Abracadabra.”



- Using such things was an ancient practice in Rome and Greece, and even King Solomon-era amulets exist in many museums. The Eye of Horus was an ancient Egyptian symbol of protection, royal power and good health. Funerary amulets were often made in the shape of the Eye, intended to protect the pharaoh in the afterlife and to ward off evil.
- In Christianity, medals worn around the neck, holy water and making the “sign of the cross” superstitiously to ward off evil have been used for centuries. Even within Christianity, we have certain physical symbols that have been adopted through time, as well as pagan perspectives.





- Although some Muslims believe amulets are forbidden in Islam, some denominations consider them “permissible magic” to be used under certain conditions. Buddhism uses many different types of magical pieces. Currently, there are over 2,400 Hindu amulets being sold on Etsy.com.

So what is the evil eye our listener asked about?



The evil eye is a superstitious curse believed to be conveyed by an evil glare or even a compliment. Evil eye jewelry is a round talisman or amulet used to protect the wearer against a malevolent force. (It is odd that both the problem and the solution are called the same thing!) It is represented by a black dot surrounded by a light blue circle, then a white circle and a dark blue outer circle. Belief in the evil eye is strongest in West Asia, Latin America, East and West Africa, Central America, South and Central Asia and Europe.

Does the Bible speak of an evil eye?

Matthew 6:23: (KJV) *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*



The evil eye was added as an emoji in 2018

To understand this, we need to look at the previous verse:

Matthew 6:22: (MKJV) *The light of the body is the eye. Therefore if your eye is sound (clear), your whole body shall be full of light.*



An evil eye dishtowel

What we see, we absorb into our lives. Jesus is telling us that if we are looking for evil, then we will be full of darkness. If we are clearly looking towards God, we will be filled with light. **Verse 23** is not about a symbol that protects us from evil. We need to watch what we choose to absorb because it will affect our lives.

Here is God's perspective:

Psalms 32:8: (KJV) *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*

This verse is referring to God's providence in our lives. Satan imitates sacred things with counterfeits all the time. Anything sacred is subject to Satan's corruption. Is *that* what we choose to do with what is sacred? This is why Israel was to remain separate from other nations.

Many observant Jews will avoid talking about anything valuable they own, or any good luck that has happened in their lives, particularly in regards to their children. If they do, they or their listener will add in Hebrew or in Yiddish, “without an evil eye,” or “no evil eye.” They will literally or pretend to “spit at evil” three times.

In India, parents will paint black eyeliner on their baby's eyes, or will put part of the umbilical cord in an amulet with a black string around the baby's neck to ward off the evil eye.



We have many listeners in Trinidad and Tobago, where it is thought that babies are especially vulnerable to evil when people look admiringly at the child, giving them a pat on the head, or even from a parent being obsessed with their own child. Newborns wear bracelets made of black beads or a bag of blue dye on their clothes as a preventative measure against bad luck.



Let's get to our answer to Karina who asked:

Is it ok to be Christian but wear evil eye jewelry at the same time?



Those who claim to be Christian take on certain responsibilities.

The Apostle Paul described Christians this way:

2 Corinthians 5:20: (NASB) *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*



An ambassador is someone who represents his country in a foreign land. As Christians, we represent Christ. People watch what we say and do. Why would we want them to associate the evil eye with our Christianity? We do not want these superstitious customs associated with following Christ. An obsession with good luck charms is a distraction to our Christian walk.

These should all be left behind because we are dealing with God's wisdom rather than inanimate objects:

1 Corinthians 10:31: (NASB) *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

Do all to the glory of God should be our standard of what we do, say and think, even what we wear.

Instead of wearing evil eye jewelry for protection, we should be wearing the armor of God. We, as Christians, have God's providence, not luck. We have what God has allowed in our lives. We want to accept whatever God's will is for us. We have *God's protection*; we do not rely on an object - even if it is "blessed" by a religious authority. It is not about objects; it is about our spirituality, our dedication, our loyalty and moving our minds into line with the mind of Christ and his overruling in our lives.



Source monitoring memory errors, Are Child Reincarnation Stories Real, DNews

- Let's look at the scientific alternatives [here](#). Studies published in the Journal, "Consciousness and Cognition" found that people who believe they lived past lives are twice as likely to make memory errors as the general population. Specifically, source monitoring memory errors, where you forget where a thought or idea originally came from. They found that when people with this tendency are repeatedly asked to talk about a suggested idea, like say, having a past life, some of them go on to convert the idea to a full-blown false



memory. In the psych world this is called the “power of suggestion” - the great power of the mind to realistically blur the lines between a story or idea that's been suggested to us and something that's actually happened. Researchers at Harvard found similar results in alien abduction studies. They also found that these source memory errors are more common in people with vivid imagery spillage in the brain. They respond to an imagined experience in more vivid and realistic detail making it easier to misattribute information as a memory when it isn't. Of course, this effect is exaggerated for little kids who are particularly vulnerable to the power of suggestion and forgetting where an idea came from, especially if it was planted by, say, their parents.

Laurie, one of our CQ volunteers, told us the story of one of her clients who told her about the Past Lives Café in Japan where you pay \$10 to hear about each “life” you once had. It is, of course, “strongly recommended” you ask (and pay) for a minimum of three lives. Hearing about “who she had been” was very appealing to this woman, so she brought her family members to the café the following week. This client thought this was a Christian idea from the Bible so she assumed Laurie would be very interested. Reincarnation is NOT a Christian concept!



Because reincarnation is unclear in its process, it lends itself to vague and mystical attachments to ward off evil.

The Bible is specific about our personal responsibility to apply and make use of godly protections to keep us away from evil.

We need to be careful to not get sucked into searching for good luck instead of applying God's protection!

The bottom line:

If we put reincarnation and the Bible side-by-side, what are the differences?

Looking at the two philosophies together is very revealing. What we will find is that reincarnation is mystical and in some ways beyond consciousness. The Bible, on the other hand, lays out a clearly-defined plan with significant markers along the way. These are two dramatically-opposing views of human life!

Those who advocate for reincarnation say it is cyclical; our lives go in cycles again and again with the hope of growing into something more spiritually enlightened. In contrast, the plan of God is linear - it only moves forward. We do not travel through different animal lives or previous human lives to find our way to God.

We are going to compare reincarnation and the biblical perspective on four points. Here is the first:



Reveals a mystical path to enlightenment.



(Source: Excerpts from: <https://www.joincake.com/blog/animal-reincarnation>)
Hinduism is one of the oldest religions on earth, and it has a very deep concept of eternal life through many reincarnations and rebirths. Hindus believe that both humans and animals have souls and both of them are caught in the death and life cycle...



Chinese peasant, *Reincarnation Alive and Well in Today's Culture*, CBS News

- (Reporter) *The concept of reincarnation goes back some 3,000 years to India and Greece. Although it's largely been rejected by Jewish and Christian traditions, Boston University religion professor Stephen Prothero says it's alive and well in pop culture today. Americans are fascinated by the idea they have lived before.*
- (Stephen Prothero) *The skeptical part of me about the past life thing is that just statistically the odds are that in my past life I was a Chinese peasant, right? But hardly anybody ever is a Chinese peasant; everybody is Cleopatra or Marc Anthony or Jesus. In the Indian tradition, reincarnation was undesirable. It wasn't something you wanted. I mean the goal was to get out of this life, but in America we see reincarnation as this sort of great second opportunity. You say, "I'm going to be an accountant. In the next life I can be an astronaut."*

If we do not remember what we were in a past life beyond a vague sense of déjà vu, how do we learn from our past experiences?

THE BIBLE

Reveals a clearly-defined path to eternal life.



1 Timothy 2:3-6: (NASB) ³*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,* ⁴*who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* ⁵*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,* ⁶*who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

This passage says *all men are to be saved*. All men are on the path of enlightenment and are to come to a full discernment of the truth. It also says the ransom of Jesus covers all.

We can see the difference: Reincarnation is a mystical path to enlightenment. It is not well defined - it is mystical. Biblically, the path to eternal life is very clear that all are "bought" by Jesus. When it says *all*, it does not leave anybody out. *Everybody* is given that opportunity. This is a major difference between the mystical path of reincarnation and the clearly-defined path toward eternal life shown in the Bible.

The first comparison point was about the path. Now for the second point:



REINCARNATION

Reveals a need to get better in this life while being ignorant of past lives.

...The concept of the afterlife and reincarnation in Hinduism is linked to karma, which means you're born again in a better or a worse form, depending on your deeds performed during life...

Reincarnation reveals a need to get better, but if we do not know what happened before, how do we know how to get better?



Skepticism, *Reincarnation Alive and Well in Today's Culture*, CBS News

- (Michael Shermer) *I don't think there's any chance that this is true.*
- (Reporter) *Michael Shermer, the founder of the Skeptic Society, and the publisher of Skeptic Magazine is - no surprise - skeptical about reincarnation.*
- (Michael Shermer) *I think it's a complete construction of our brains projecting ourselves into a future state that doesn't exist. It's a way of dealing with the anxiety of losing lost loved ones and losing our own lives and coming to grips with our own mortality.*
- (Reincarnation believer) *We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience.*

This is an interesting thought because God created us as humans, not spirit beings, to live on this earth. He created man from the dust of the ground. This then, differs from the biblical perspective.

Is this a satanic corruption of truth? Yes, it is built upon Satan's first lie to humanity. He said *thou shalt not surely die*. The concept that God created man as a spirit briefly inhabiting the earth is a continuation of this lie. We should be careful and not dabble in this. We do not need to be a part of this false belief - there is more to this than is generally understood. By putting the biblical viewpoint next to that of reincarnation, we are illuminating some of these differences.

THE BIBLE

Reveals a recognizable enlightenment opportunity
for each and every human being.



The called-out followers of Jesus KNOW their opportunity is NOW:

1 Peter 2:10-12: (NASB) ¹⁰*for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* ¹¹*Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.*

Now we have received mercy. We know that for the footstep followers of Jesus, today is the day of our salvation. Today is the day we need to be transformed from our earthly tendencies by looking to our Lord.

The rest of the world will know their opportunity when it is revealed to them in the future. That is what the Day of Judgment is all about. A lot of Christians look at the Day of Judgment as a negative event, but it is the beginning of rehabilitation and reconciliation.



It will be a time of reckoning and accountability:

¹²*Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Glorify God in the day of visitation - this refers to the Day of Judgment.

The Bible reveals this day as an opportunity for every human being to recognize where they have been wrong, to improve and glorify God.



Whereas, reincarnation reveals a need to be better, but the person does not even know where they have been, so they are not sure how to get to where they are going.

So far, we have looked at the path to enlightenment and the need to improve our spiritual growth toward that enlightenment and eternal life.

Here is the third point:



REINCARNATION

Reveals forward progress and backwards failures in theory.

...In both Hinduism and Buddhism, reincarnation as an animal is viewed in a negative light and is seen as a step backward in the journey to self-mastery. Followers are instructed by the religion to help souls in a lesser form regain a higher level of reincarnation...

How is it possible to help lower animal forms progress and gain a higher level of reincarnation? We can train a higher-level animal like a dog, cat or dolphin to behave in certain ways, but are they consciously seeking a higher level of morality and spiritual growth? Are we to just treat them nicely? That should go without saying. There is not a clear-cut logical process here.

THE BIBLE

Reveals a clear-cut time of accountability for every individual's wrong doing.

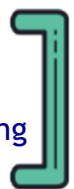


Jeremiah 31:29-30: (NASB) ²⁹*In those days they will not say again, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children's teeth are set on edge.* ³⁰*But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge.*

This shows mankind will have a well-stated, undeniable accountability. *In those days* - something different is going to happen. Currently, all of mankind dies due to Adam's disobedience. We all sin on our own as well, but we are condemned in Adam. These verses tell us that *in those days* (in the days of God's kingdom), no one will die unless he, himself, chooses to turn his back on the blessings and life offered. (Also see Ezekiel 18:2,4,20.) This gives mankind understanding of what is expected of them but with accountability for their own actions. See the Bonus Material for more on this citation.



It seems there is only a nebulous understanding given to those seeking self-mastery in reincarnation. They seem to have to stumble on enlightenment by being reborn numerous times.



Here is the fourth point in our comparison:



REINCARNATION


Reveals individuals attempting to find spirituality on their own by way of countless lives over countless centuries.

...Interestingly, rebirth in Buddhism is considered to be a part of a painful cycle that only ends when you've achieved enlightenment and mastery over earthly desires. Buddhism believes in a



concept of six realms that someone can be reborn into based on their karma. Three of those realms are considered heavenly: Deva (heavenly), Asura (demigod) and Manusya (human), and the other three: Tiryak (animals), Preta (ghosts) and Naraka (hell), are considered to be hellish...

Karma is what defines an individual's progress or backward slide in reincarnation. Each individual will have different experiences. There are no provisions for wide-scale education or salvation. Of course, each individual in the Bible also has an individualized plan, but there is much more provision for education so that the majority of mankind will have a real chance to choose and succeed in attaining eternal life.

THE BIBLE 

Reveals a full-scale teaching, accountability and growth process engaged in by all who choose obedience.

This is clearly laid out in many prophecies. We are choosing one here. Look at this carefully - it shows teaching, accountability and the growth process.

Teaching:

Micah 4:1-4: (NASB) *¹And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. ²Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

It talks about nations going to *the mountain of the LORD* to learn. There is a consciousness of where to go and who to go to for this learning. They do not stumble about looking for an elusive enlightenment. They show a thirst for knowledge and want to move forward. They have been raised from the dead and see God's glory unfolding around them. They will want to be a part of it. There is teaching!

Accountability:

³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations.

There are other Scriptures that talk about accountability for our words and actions. *In the last days* will be a time of accountability. But *we will know for what we are accountable*. It will NOT be that we do not know who we were in a past life or not know what we did wrong or right. We will NOT be unsure of what we have learned or where we are going. These Scriptures are clear and focused on all of mankind growing toward perfection.

These next thrilling verses show that growth process!

Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. ⁴Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

Never again will they train for war - think about that in the context of the world in which we live. Think about beating our *swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks*. Think about a complete paradigm shift because we will have Jesus in charge of God's government here on earth. This is the linear



process of growing in which every human being can participate. The Bible is clear and concise, showing how all this will happen.



Reincarnation presents a path from bad to good that is individual, and therefore has no time limitations.

The Bible presents a plan and timeframe to go from sin to righteousness based on justice and mercy.

Because of Jesus' ransom price, it includes all humanity in its invitation to approach eternal life.

There is a massive difference between reincarnation and the scriptural process and prophecy of resurrection. The Bible gives us answers. It does not leave us wondering, feeling vulnerable, thinking we need a good luck charm or an incantation against evil. If we know that God has a plan, that you and I are in it, and that *everyone* has a chance at eternal life because of Jesus, it gives us security, comfort and the surety of our standing in God's family.

It will not necessarily be easy. It will require work and honesty, rising above our baser instincts, becoming mature. This is what reincarnation asks of its followers, too, but the Bible shows us how this is possible. It shows us when each stage will happen in God's timeline. It presents this information in a clear, concise, scriptural, prophetic, true way. That is what we want to hold onto!

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

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to **22828** to get started.



Join us next week for our podcast on November 2, 2020
Ep. 1150: Are We Supporting the Right World Leaders?

Bonus Material and Study Questions

The pursuit of truth and beauty is a sphere of activity in which we are permitted to remain children all our lives. — Albert Einstein



Laurie contributes: One of my Japanese clients recently told me about the Past Lives Cafe in Japan. You pay \$10 to hear about each "life" you once had, although it's "strongly recommended" you ask (and pay) for a minimum of three lives (\$30). My client was surprised I didn't believe in this because she thought this was a Christian idea from the Bible. I said no, it's definitely not. She's a creative person with a very open mind who loves stories, so this notion



of hearing about “who she had been” was very appealing to her. She said it was so much fun that she brought her mom and sister the following week (Total spent: \$90 - and that didn’t include the food they ordered, ha!). I was both heartbroken and angry as I thought about how she had been cunningly and unwittingly deceived. When she asked me what I thought about all of this, I smiled and said, “I think they liked taking your money...”



The Bible says the soul is made up of two parts. To create the first man Adam, God took dust from the ground to make a body and breathed into man what is called the breath of life.

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>.*

Soul/Being: Strongs #5315, *nephesh*; a breathing creature

This word *soul* from the original Hebrew can also be translated into English as *living being*.

Human life can only exist if these two parts - body and breath of life - are working together. This means a person does not “have” a soul...they ARE a soul!

The soul is not something separate that lives on after a person dies:

Ezekiel 18:4: (NASB) *...The soul who sins will die.*

Since all humans are imperfect, all humans sin. This Scripture is saying that all humans eventually die and go into the grave. A person can do nothing in the grave.

Ecclesiastes 9:10: (NLT) *Whatever you do, do well. For when you go to the grave, there will be no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom.*

In other words, death is likened to a deep sleep until the resurrection. But once a person is dead, how will they be resurrected in God’s kingdom? We might imagine a person’s character and personality as files on a computer. Many people currently backup or copy their files to something called “the cloud,” a powerful memory system that keeps files safe. But there is an even MORE powerful cloud that exists, with UNLIMITED storage - God’s perfect mind, allowing Him to recreate and resurrect the identical character and personality of everyone who has ever died into His future kingdom.

Whether a person is resurrected to live on a perfect earth or in heaven depends on how they live their life now. Faithful Christians who give their lives to God, do their best to serve Him and try to copy the life of His son, Jesus, are promised a heavenly body. Everyone else will receive a new earthly body. So, what is the soul? A living being made up of two parts that can’t work without the other: a body and the breath of life. A person does not HAVE a soul - they ARE a soul. The soul is not something separate that lives on after a



person dies. God remembers everything about every soul who has ever died, so that in His future kingdom, they can be brought back to life with their same personalities, either on a perfect earth or in heaven.

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

Genesis 1:20-21: (KJV) ²⁰And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. ²¹And God created great whales, and every living creature 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.

All life forms fit into one definition - breathing creatures!

If all life forms fit into one definition then death should be the absence of life for all as well:

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

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

Ecclesiastes 9:10: (KJV) Whatsoever 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.

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

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

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...

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

Ezekiel 18:2-4: (KJV) ²What 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? ³As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. ⁴Behold, 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 New Testament word for soul fits exactly with the Old Testament definition of being:

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

Man's soul/being IS the man - it is not just his mind or 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 neighbour as thyself.



Jesus' soul/being 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.*

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.*

More on Jeremiah 31:29-30 (and Ezekiel 18:2,4,20)

In our lives and characters are certain things with which we have nothing to do. From our ancestors, we have received something for which we are not responsible. For instance, we had nothing to do with Adam's sin and its effects. We have to do only with what we ourselves sow.

Those things which have come to us by heredity, not by our own volition - conditions over which we had no control - are all arranged for in our great Creator's plan. In Christ, God has made provision for the covering of all the imperfections that have come to us through the fall of Adam, so that we are not responsible for anything but what we sow. God will attend to what Adam sowed. He has provided a just sacrifice for the unjust sinner; for as by man (Adam) came sin and death, so also by the man Christ Jesus will come deliverance from those imperfections which result from Father Adam. See 1 Corinthians 15:22 and Romans 5:12-21.

This is applicable not only to the faithful followers of Jesus now, but will be applicable to the whole world during the Millennial Age. The world of mankind will not be held responsible for what their fathers sowed, though now all suffer for those things. *The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge* - in this present life we suffer from these disabilities. But this is true only of this life. Sowing sin brings a certain harvest, just as sowing wheat brings wheat.

More texts that might appear to teach reincarnation:

Ecclesiastes 1:9: (NASB) *That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.*

The argument for reincarnation: Nothing, including the people, are here for the first time and "new" on the earth. None of us can claim that life on earth is something "new" for us. Rather, in the ages before this life, it has already been known to us.

Biblical commentary from F.B. Meyer, quoted in eSword: This book was written and incorporated in the Bible to show that man's quest for happiness is vain, so long as it is apart from God. Solomon had unbounded opportunities for pursuing his quest. Youth, wealth, wisdom, royalty, human love were his, but



when all were mixed in the golden cup of his life, he turned from the draught unsatisfied and sad.

Biblical commentary from John Wesley, quoted in eSword: There is nothing in the world but a continued and tiresome repetition of the same things. The nature and course of the beings and affairs of the world, and the tempers of men, are the same that they ever were and shall ever be; and therefore, because no man ever yet received satisfaction from worldly things, it is vain for any person hereafter to expect it. *No new thing* - in the nature of things, which might give us hope of attaining that satisfaction which hitherto things have not afforded.

Ezekiel 34:23: (NASB) *Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd.*

The argument for reincarnation: Here is proof that the Messiah was to be the reincarnation of David. Since Ezekiel lived 400 years after David, his prophecy could only mean that David was going to reappear on the earth later as the Christ.

Our response: We are not to understand from this that the prophet David of old is to be made Jehovah's representative and given the care of the sheep for the future. David = Beloved, and we believe the antitype of David is meant. Jesus is preeminently the Beloved of the Father, and of his true church, Jesus says in John 16:27, *The Father himself loveth you*. Christ and his church will be the antitypical "David," or beloved of God, into whose care all who are or desire to become his sheep during the Millennial Age will be committed.

More background on reincarnation from Wikipedia:

Reincarnation is a central tenet of Indian religions, namely Buddhism, most Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism and most Paganism, although there are Hindu and Pagan groups that do not believe in reincarnation but believe in an afterlife. In various forms, it occurs as an esoteric belief in many streams of Judaism in different aspects, in some beliefs of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas, and some Indigenous Australians (while most believe in an afterlife or spirit world). A belief in rebirth/metempsychosis was held by Greek historic figures, such as Pythagoras, Socrates, and Plato. It is also a belief in various modern religions. Although the majority of denominations within Christianity and Islam do not believe that individuals reincarnate, particular groups within these religions do refer to reincarnation; these groups include the mainstream historical and contemporary followers of Cathars, Alawites, the Druze, and the Rosicrucians. The historical relations between these sects and the beliefs about reincarnation that were characteristic of Neoplatonism, Orphism, Hermeticism, Manichaeism, and Gnosticism of the Roman era as well as the Indian religions have been the subject of recent scholarly research. In recent decades, many Europeans and North Americans have developed an interest in reincarnation, and many contemporary works mention it.

The origins of the notion of reincarnation are obscure. Discussion of the subject appears in the philosophical traditions of India. The Greek Pre-Socratics discussed



reincarnation, and the Celtic Druids are also reported to have taught a doctrine of reincarnation.

Early Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism: The idea of reincarnation, *saṃsāra*, did not exist in the early Vedic religions. The idea of reincarnation has roots in the Upanishads of the late Vedic period (c. 1100 - c. 500 BCE), predating the Buddha and the Mahavira. The concepts of the cycle of birth and death, *samsara*, and liberation partly derive from ascetic traditions that arose in India around the middle of the first millennium BCE. Though no direct evidence of this has been found, the tribes of the Ganges valley or the Dravidian traditions of South India have been proposed as another early source of reincarnation beliefs.

The early Vedas do not mention the doctrine of Karma and rebirth but mention the belief in an afterlife. It is in the early Upanishads, which are pre-Buddha and pre-Mahavira, where these ideas are developed and described in a general way. Detailed descriptions first appear around the mid 1st millennium BCE in diverse traditions, including Buddhism, Jainism and various schools of Hindu philosophy, each of which gave unique expression to the general principle.

The texts of ancient Jainism that have survived into the modern era are post-Mahavira, likely from the last centuries of the 1st millennium BCE, and extensively mention rebirth and karma doctrines. The Jaina philosophy assumes that the soul (*Jiva* in Jainism, *Atman* in Hinduism) exists and is eternal, passing through cycles of transmigration and rebirth. After death, reincarnation into a new body is asserted to be instantaneous in early Jaina texts. Depending upon the accumulated karma, rebirth occurs into a higher or lower bodily form, either in heaven or hell or earthly realm. No bodily form is permanent: everyone dies and reincarnates further. Liberation (*kevalya*) from reincarnation is possible, however, through removing and ending karmic accumulations to one's soul. From the early stages of Jainism on, a human being was considered the highest mortal being, with the potential to achieve liberation, particularly through asceticism.

The early Buddhist texts discuss rebirth as part of the doctrine of *Saṃsāra*. This asserts that the nature of existence is a "suffering-laden cycle of life, death, and rebirth, without beginning or end". Also referred to as the wheel of existence (*Bhavacakra*), it is often mentioned in Buddhist texts with the term *punarbhava* (rebirth, re-becoming). Liberation from this cycle of existence, *Nirvana*, is the foundation and the most important purpose of Buddhism. Buddhist texts also assert that an enlightened person knows his previous births, a knowledge achieved through high levels of meditative concentration. Tibetan Buddhism discusses death, *bardo* (an intermediate state), and rebirth in texts such as the Tibetan Book of the Dead. While *Nirvana* is taught as the ultimate goal in the Theravadin Buddhism, and is essential to Mahayana Buddhism, the vast majority of contemporary lay Buddhists focus on accumulating good karma and acquiring merit to achieve a better reincarnation in the next life.

In early Buddhist traditions, *Saṃsāra* cosmology consisted of five realms through which the wheel of existence cycled. This included hells (*niraya*), hungry ghosts (*pretas*), animals (*tiryak*), humans (*manushya*), and gods (*devas*, heavenly). In latter Buddhist traditions, this list grew to a list of six realms of rebirth, adding demi-gods (*asuras*).



(Source: <https://www.joincake.com/blog/animal-reincarnation>)

1. Hinduism

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions on earth and it has a very deep concept of eternal life through many reincarnations and rebirths. Hindus believe that both humans and animals have souls and both of them are caught in the death and life cycle. The [concept of the afterlife and reincarnation in Hinduism](#) is linked to karma, which means you're born again in a better or a worse form, depending on your deeds performed during life.

The concept of animal reincarnation in Hinduism shows up mostly as punishment for a human soul that was wicked in the previous life and now has been reincarnated in a "lower form," such as an animal. Even though animals are treated very well in the Hindu religion, reincarnation in an animal form is considered to be a "lower form" based on a lack of qualities such as knowledge, self-awareness, speech, and intelligence.

To come back as an animal is mostly considered to be part of the cycle of punishment for a corrupt soul until it can redeem itself again to the level of a human body. Some Hindus believe the opposite can be true if a higher form needs to reincarnate as an animal to achieve a particular goal on Earth.

2. Buddhism

To understand [the idea of reincarnation in Buddhism](#), we need to understand the difference in their understanding of karma.

Unlike in Hinduism, karma in Buddhism is an ever-changing state of a human being. It is based on the belief that, just like energy in the physical realm, humans emit and receive moral energy as well. The energy is constantly based on your actions and on the energy that comes back to you because of those actions.

Buddhists don't view karma and fate as the same thing. To a Buddhist, fate has a sense of predestination whereas karma is entirely under your control and is not pre-planned. Karma is always evolving.

Interestingly, rebirth in Buddhism is considered to be a part of a painful cycle that only ends when you've achieved enlightenment and mastery over earthly desires. Buddhism believes in a concept of six realms that someone can be reborn into based on their karma. Three of those realms are considered heavenly: Deva (heavenly), Asura (demigod) and Manusya (human), and the other three: Tiryak (animals), Preta (ghosts) and Naraka (hell), are considered to be hellish. Unfortunately, animal reincarnation falls in the category of the hellish realms.

In both Hinduism and Buddhism, reincarnation as an animal is viewed in a negative light and is seen as a step backward in the journey to self-mastery. Followers are instructed by the religion to help souls in a lesser form regain a higher level of reincarnation. As a result, in Buddhism, people believe their pets have souls that need help and many followers of the faith involve the presence of their pets when they perform religious activities such as meditation, chants, and worship.

Study QUESTIONS

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

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1149-reincarnation/>

See:  **CQ Rewind**
SHOW NOTES

1. What is the definition of reincarnation? How does it work? Is resurrection a “similar process,” as Wikipedia says?
2. Is reincarnation supported by the Bible? In Matthew 16:13-16, could the Jews have believed in transmigration or reincarnation? Where could this incorrect belief have come from? (See Matthew 11:14-15, Matthew 14:2)
3. When Jesus refers to Elijah *having already come* and was persecuted by those he came to help, who was Jesus referring to? What did this man do for Israel? How was he similar in purpose and mission to the original Elijah? How was he different? (See Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 17:11-13)
4. When Jesus refers to Elijah coming in the future to *restore all things*, who does this refer to? How is their purpose and mission similar to the original Elijah? How are they different? (See Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 17:11-13, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, 1 Peter 2:9)
5. What was Jesus comparing himself to when he said he was *living bread*? (See John 6:30-58)
6. What did Jesus mean when he used the words “you” or “your,” instead of “your children” or “your fathers”? Does this indicate Jesus felt he was talking to the ancient Israelites from the wilderness, reincarnated in his time? (See John 6:30-58, Deuteronomy 18:15, Acts 7:51,52, Hebrews 3:9, 1 Peter 1:18)
7. If reincarnation assumes an immortal life, do humans qualify? (See Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:19, Romans 2:7, 1 Corinthians 15:53-54, 1 Timothy 6:16)
8. Is Matthew 6:22-23 talking about an evil eye? How does this superstitious belief go against our relationship with God? (See Psalm 32:8)
9. What responsibilities do we assume as followers of Jesus? (See 2 Corinthians 5:20, 1 Corinthians 10:31)
10. What is the full-scale teaching, accountability and growth plan shown in the Bible? Who will benefit from this plan? (See Micah 4:1-4, Jeremiah 31:29-30, Ezekiel 18:2,4,20, 1 Timothy 2:3-6) How does this compare to reincarnation?