

life of dying that we presently possess to the life of living that we have been promised? Barring the exceptions mentioned above, this can only be accomplished through death. Adam must be put to death; we must die.

This would be a grim prospect if it were not for the awesome promise of resurrection. Death in Adam is only hopeless if we are not in possession of the promise of another life. **And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit** (1 Corinthians 15:45). After the first Adam dies (ourselves), we wait for the life that has been promised to us through the last Adam (Christ). The believer has secured that promised next life; the unbeliever has squandered it. God has done it all, and He asks that we have faith in that all. Trust Jesus Christ for your right standing before an awesome God. Believe that Jesus Christ is God, the Word (expression) of God, the Son of God. Believe on His name. Believe what He has done on the cross on our behalf. In short, BELIEVE THE GOSPEL! See John 20:31 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Faith makes the difference. The believer enjoys his new life forever with God; the unbeliever loses his new life in the second death. See Revelation 2:11, 20:6,14.

The promise of resurrection, a life in and through Christ, is the most awe-inspiring, the most exciting, the most hope-filled, the most profound, the most... please fill in an adjective; I struggle to find one that will do justice to this marvelous promise from our great God. The promise of resurrection is in the Bible because men who are dead need resurrection. Resurrection is meaningless and unnecessary if men are not dead. Don't believe Satan's first lie that you will not surely die. Believe God! Believe that the Bible teaches that, ever since the fall, God has set before us the choice between life and death. Choose life that you may live!

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<p>MORE SEED & BREAD <small>FOR THE SOWER FOR THE EATER</small> BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY <small>Isaiah 55:10</small> P.O. Box 1609, Canyon Country, CA 91386 Otis Q. Sellers, Founder 342</p>

Satan's First Lie

By Robert Juneau

One does not read very far in Genesis before coming to the first lie told in Scripture. Who tells that lie? None other than the father of lies, Satan himself. With respect to the ramifications of disobeying God, the serpent said to the woman, **“You will not surely die”** (Genesis 3:4, *NKJV* used throughout). Compare this with what God had told Adam just a few verses earlier. **And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”** (Genesis 2:16-17). Satan's lie was diametrically opposed to what God had said. God declares to Adam that he would die; Satan declares to the women that she would not die.

Adam disobeyed God, and because we were all in Adam when he sinned, we all received this death penalty. **Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned** (Romans 5:12). There are only three exceptions to this truth in Scripture. Enoch (Genesis 5:24), Elijah (2 Kings 2:11), and some who are alive when God's kingdom resumes (1 Corinthians 15:51).

Setting these exceptions aside, most believers don't deny the truth that they will die, but insist that it is only our bodies that die; the real person inside (our souls) will never die. They say this is true of both believers and unbelievers, and that everyone will live forever somewhere. They contend that faith in Christ only determines *where* someone spends eternity. But this is not how the Bible defines death; this is how the Bible defines immortality, something only Christ possesses. **...who [Christ] alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen** (1 Timothy 6:16).

The choice held out to mankind in the Bible has always been between the two juxtaposed options of life and death. **“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and**

cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live (Deuteronomy 30:19).

How did God impart life to His creation? What is it that makes the material we are made of be alive and not just a lump of lifeless tissue? "*The first mention of "the breath of life" (neshamah chayim) is found in Genesis 2:7. There we are told that it was breathed directly into the nostrils of the man whom God had created, and this resulted in man becoming a living soul (chayyah nephesh). Thus, the first truth we learn of "the breath of life" is that it is a direct emanation from God.*" - Otis Sellers-SB078, *The Breath of Life*

This marvelous gift of the breath of life from God describes the spirit aspect of man. This breath/spirit (heb. - ruach) is what causes us to be alive, what makes us living souls. While we live, we are in possession of this measure of God's spirit; when we die, we lose it.

The definition of death from the Bible is that of a return. The body returns from where it came: the ground, the dust of the earth. The breath of life (spirit) returns from where it came: to God, who gave it. "**And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul** (Genesis 2:7 KJV). "**In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return**" (Genesis 3:19). **Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it** (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

Most Christians believe and teach that this is the fate of animals at death but deny that this definition could apply to men because men have souls, they have spirits, and animals do not. But the Bible defines the character of life and death for man to be the same as it is for animals. Men and animals both have bodies and they both have the breath (spirit) of God that makes them alive. These both return from where they came. **For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust** (Ecclesiastes 3:19-20).

A dead man is dead; there is no existence in death. It goes against Scripture to claim that a man's soul lives on after death. **For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing** (Ecclesiastes 9:5). **Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going** (Ecclesiastes 9:10). **They are dead, they will not live; They are deceased, they will not rise. Therefore You have punished and destroyed them, And made all their memory to perish** (Isaiah 26:14).

In defending the traditional doctrine of universal, eternal existence, some contend that the Old Testament should not be used to form our beliefs concerning life and death. This is invalid at the onset (2 Timothy 3:16). Does the

New Testament teach something new concerning death? Did something change from the Old Testament to the New Testament concerning the nature and destiny of man? **He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life** (1 John 5:12). **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord** (Romans 6:23). **For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life** (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). **For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away** (James 4:14). Also see 1 Corinthians 1:18, 15:22, 26, 2 Peter 3:9.

Some claim that the teachings of Jesus trump everything else said in Scripture. First, this is incorrect because everything taught in Scripture is the teaching of the LORD, and Jesus *is* the LORD (Jehovah). Second, Jesus taught nothing that changed or contradicted what the rest of Scripture teaches on this subject. The truth is that those who claim this don't believe Jesus' teachings either. **...for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, ...narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life** (Matthew 7:13-14). **...that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life**. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should **not perish** but have everlasting **life** (John 3:15-16). **He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life** (John 3:36). **But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life** (John 5:40). **And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand** (John 10:28).

Our *unrighteousness* is found in and through the life we presently possess, the life we have in and through *Adam*. Conversely, our *righteousness* is found in and through the life we have been promised, the life we will one day have in and through *Christ*. **Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous** (Romans 5:18-19). **For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive** (1 Corinthians 15:22).

There are three important points to acknowledge in this short verse. First, in Adam, ALL DIE. That means believers and unbelievers alike. Second, in Christ, ALL shall be made ALIVE. Yes, Christ purchased a second life for all. Third, all SHALL be made alive. "Shall" means that a future intervention is needed to reverse the state of having died. The "shall" of this verse refers to resurrection. Also see 2 Timothy 4:1.

The future life that God has promised us *does not*, and *cannot*, come to us through the life that we presently possess in Adam. How can we get from the