

Beyond Death's Door: Body, Soul, & Spirit

Genesis 2:4-7

Introduction:

A. Human beings are different from animals because we are created in God's image.

Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 9:6 - "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

B. We can also reflect on the past, relate it to the present and future, and wonder about the possibility of life after death.

C. By putting together available information, we can know that life has a purpose and that there is an eternal existence awaiting us after this life is over.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Discussion

I. ***Our Tragedy***

A. Death came into the world because of sin.

Genesis 3:17-19 - Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 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."

Genesis 5:1-5 - This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. Then the days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years, and he had other sons and daughters. So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

1 Corinthians 15:22 - For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

1. Death was God's punishment for sin.

Genesis 3:4 - The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

John 8:44 - "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2. Death is spoken of as a physical or spiritual separation.
 - a. Physical death because God separated man for the tree of life.
Genesis 3:22-23 - Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" -- therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.
 - b. Spiritual death because sin separates man from God (Isa 59:1-2)
Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--
Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Ephesians 2:1 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
1 Timothy 5:6 - But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.
James 1:15 - Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
3. Death is a promise of God.
Genesis 2:17 - 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 3:4 - The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!
Hebrews 9:27 - And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,
Genesis 4:8 - Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
 - a. The only exceptions were Enoch and Elijah.
 - b. And only those alive at Jesus' return will escape death.
Hebrews 2:14-15 - Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
1 Corinthians 15:26 - The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
1 Corinthians 15:54-57 - But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. *Our Mortality*

- A. The Bible teaches that we are mortals
 1. Mortal: Liable or subject to death
Romans 6:12 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,
Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 - For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

2 Corinthians 4:11 - For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

2 Corinthians 5:4 - For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

a. The Godhead possesses immortality.

1 Timothy 6:15-16 - which He will bring about at the proper time--He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

2. "Mortal" in each reference alludes to the body, the fleshly part of man.

B. The Bible teaches that our resurrected bodies will be immortal (1 Cor 15:53-53).

2 Corinthians 5:1 - For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:4 - For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

III. *Our Identity*

A. The truth about each of us is very important

1. If I just bear the image of earthly man, I have no real hope or purpose.

1 Corinthians 15:19 - If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

2. If I also bear the image of the heaven Father, I have real hope and purpose.

Genesis 1:27 - God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

B. The truth about each of us is that man is a threefold being.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Body

a. The body is the moral part of our makeup

2 Corinthians 4:16 - Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

b. The body is the earthly house of flesh in which we live

2. The Soul

a. The soul usually refers to the inner person, the seat of the appetites, desires, affections

Matthew 10:28 - "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

b. The soul usually means the person who lives in the body: the "You."

Revelation 6:9-11 - When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the

testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

3. The Spirit

- a. The spirit is the part of man that is made in the image of God.

Hebrews 12:9 - Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

- b. The spirit is the highest part of man, that assimilates him to God

Genesis 2:7 - 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.

Conclusion:

- A. The human makeup includes three parts: body, soul, and spirit.
B. Because of this, the death of the body will neither be the death of the soul nor the spirit that are within each of us. The spirit lives on!
C. Beyond Death's Door there is life!