

MODERN SPIRITUALISM (OR WITCHCRAFT)

The first spiritualistic medium was the serpent. The Devil or Satan spoke directly through the serpent to Eve in the Garden of Eden (see *Genesis 3:1-6*, *Revelation 12:9*). In ancient times spiritualism was always connected with sun-worship or Baal worship, *2 Kings 17:16, 17*. As in ancient times when familiar spirits professed to be dead people (see *1 Samuel 28:8, 11*), modern spiritualism also professes the same.

The Bible warns us that unclean spirits (devils) will speak through the great powers of the earth in the last days, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." *Revelation 16:13-14*.

Our only safety is to flee from any medium or spirits that claim to be a departed or loved one, even if they work miracles, and turn to Christ and His word for safety:

"Many are investigating Spiritualism simply from curiosity. They have no real faith in it, and would start back horrified at the idea of becoming mediums; but they are venturing on forbidden and dangerous ground . . . The only safety for us is in trusting implicitly and following faithfully the instruction of the Word of God . . . We are coming right upon the time when Satan is to work with all manner of bewitching influences, and those who are charmed with them now, or give them the least countenance now, will be all ready to be swept right in to act a part with the devil then. Evil angels are working all the time upon the hearts of men. Satan is working with everyone who is not under the control of the Spirit of God. It is the lying wonders of the devil that will take the world captive, and he will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men. He is to work miracles; and this wonderful, miracle-working power is to sweep in the whole world. It is now just beginning."

*2 Selected Messages, p. 51,
Signs of the Times, August 26th, 1889.*

BIBLE TEACHINGS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE DEAD

Psalm 6:5

"For in death *there is* no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?"

Psalm 13:3

"Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the *sleep of* death."

Psalm 115:17

"The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence."

Psalm 146:4

"His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."

John 11:11-14

"Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead."

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10

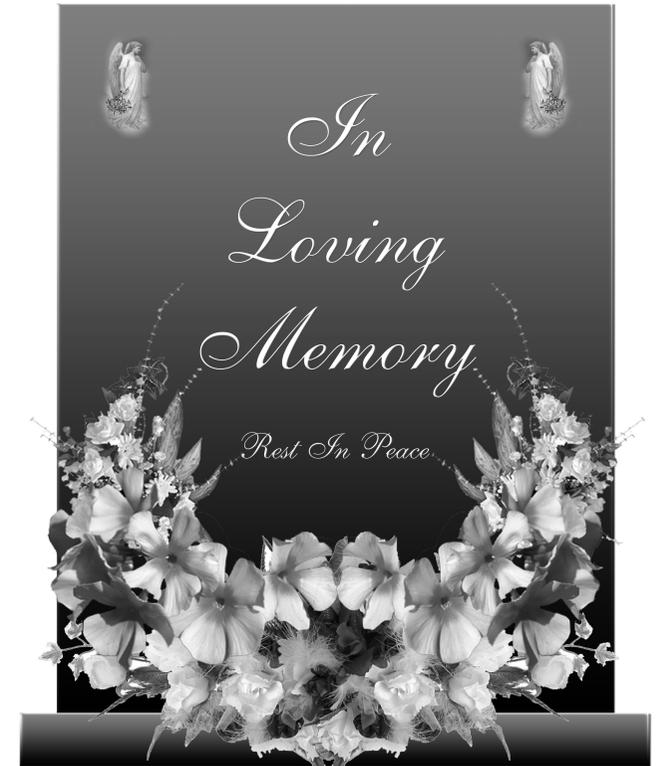
"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished, neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun . . . 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."

Isaiah 8:19, 20

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them."

For more information please write to:

CAN OUR DEAD SPEAK TO US?



DO WE GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN WHEN WE DIE?

"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. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished."

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

The sorrow of death

Perhaps the most painful thing in this life is to experience the death of a loved one. Words cannot express the sadness that is felt through the loss of someone who has meant much to us. The sorrow, the memories of precious moments spent together, the happiness, even sometimes the anger and hatred that was felt towards them, are brought back to the mind over and over again. Even the Majesty of Heaven could not hold back His sorrow when one of His dearest friends and followers, Lazarus, died.

What is Death?

The Bible plainly teaches that **DEATH IS SLEEP**. “Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the *sleep of death*”, *Psalms 13:3*. In the Old Testament the expression, “Slept with his fathers”, is used more than twenty-five times when the deaths of kings are recorded. One sample text is found in *1 Kings 11:43*. Jesus calls death sleep (*John 11:11-14*). Death is the result of sin (*Genesis 2:17; 3:22-24; Romans 6:23*). Christ has abolished death. He changed death into sleep, and has the power to awaken all from the sleep of death (*2 Tim. 1:10; John 5:25-28*).

Are the dead conscious?

The Bible teaches very clearly that the **DEAD HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAPPENS ON THE EARTH AFTER THEY HAVE DIED**. Their thoughts perish, and **THEY RETURN BACK TO THE DUST THAT THEY CAME FROM**: “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. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished”, “His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” *Ecclesiastes 9:5-6; Psalm 146:4*. The dead remain in the grave until the heavens are no more (*see Job 14:12*).

When are the dead raised up?

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” *John 5:28-29*. The **RIGHTEOUS WILL ARISE AT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING**. Jesus clearly taught here that **THERE WILL BE TWO RESURRECTIONS – ONE WILL BE TO LIFE AND THE OTHER WILL BE TO DAMNATION** (*see also Matthew 24:30-31*).

The Bible also shows that **THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF 1,000 YEARS BETWEEN THEM**: “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” *Revelation 20:5-6*. When the wicked arise after the 1,000 years, Satan will then gather them (*see Revelation 20:7-9*) and they will suffer the second death.

What is the Second Death?

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” **THE SECOND DEATH IS TO BE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE** (*Revelation 20:6, 2:11; 20:14-15*). All whose names are not retained in the Lamb's book of life will, because of their persistent love of evil rather than good, suffer the fate of the second death (*Revelation 20:15, Romans 6:23*).

How are the dead raised up?

The same individual will come from the grave as they went into the grave as truly as wheat comes from wheat that is sown in the earth. (*1 Cor. 15:36-38*). The Bible speaks of the resurrection of the dead: “It is sown a

natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.” (*1 Cor. 15:44*). Christ was the first fruits or sample of what the resurrected will be like (*1 Cor. 15:20*). Those that sleep in Jesus will be brought forth as He was (*1 Thess. 4:14*). Jesus arose with the same body that hung on the cross (*Luke 24:29-43*). The righteous dead will be raised immortal (*1 Cor. 15:51-54*). Their bodies will be like Christ's glorious body, and their faces will shine as the sun. Their raiment (clothing) will be white as light (*Phil. 3:20, 21; Matthew 17:1, 2*).

Eternal life is a gift from God

The Bible teaches that God only has immortality (*1 Timothy 6:15, 16*). Eternal life is given to man through Christ, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” *1 John 5:11-12*.

Who will have eternal life?

No wicked person has eternal life, “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” *1 John 3:15*. We are admonished to seek for immortality, or eternal life, and we can only have this by being connected to Christ. If we possessed immortality of ourselves, then we would not have to seek for it, but **IMMORTALITY WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO THE RIGHTEOUS AT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING** (*see Romans 2:6, 7; 1 Cor. 15:51-54*).

HOW IS IT THEN THAT SOME PEOPLE CLAIM TO SPEAK TO THE DEAD?

As clearly seen by our Bible studies, the dead are asleep. Any claimed communication with those who are dead is a deception from the devil. The spirits that people communicate with are not real people, but evil spirits, demons, the fallen angels. We shall see this as we learn more about this on the other side of this leaflet.