

The First Lie of the serpent Bible Study Notes

***"Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."
Genesis 3:4***

The devil has been a liar from the very beginning, he is the father of lies; when he speaks lies, he is speaking his native language. Therefore, anything that comes out of his mouth we must never believe for deception is always his end game.

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

Observe the account in the garden of Eden, where Eve was tempted by the serpent and thus deceived. Satan misquoted God and incited conversation with Eve, who then fell for the deception and the rest is history.

***"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***

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" Genesis 3:1

Here we notice the first lie told by the serpent recorded in the Scriptures, misquoting the Word of God.

Our first parents were deceived by the devil when he appeared to them denouncing the Word of God, insinuating that they would not surely die if they disobeyed God. This same lie that Adam and Eve fell for, is the same lie which millions in our day also fall for, thus being deceived; they are drinking the "wine of Babylon", **Revelation 17:2**.

We hear plenty of talk in the media, by friends, family and even in the Church about the immortality of the soul. We lose many loved ones, some who die in Christ and others who never knew Christ, yet we have ministers and pastors who stand in the pulpit and preach that these loved ones are now somehow in Heaven 'looking down' from above, even though they are in the graves and will remain there until The Great Day of the Lord Jesus Christ comes.

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. Jeremiah 23:1

Yes, as a result of sin, death has come into our world, I am not denouncing that, however, as Bible believing Christians, we must know the truth about death as taught in the Word of God so that we may not be led astray and deceived in these last days. Satan deceived our first parents with this first lie pertaining to death, and he does the same to us in these last days. Bible truth must take precedence over tradition always.

"And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you." Matthew 24:4

What happens when a person dies?

Mankind *does not* have a soul contrary to what is commonly taught in the church today, this is not biblical. We hear constantly of having 'a soul' and when we die our soul lives on, but this is another deception from the devil. We hear that the soul goes to heaven after death, and it looks down upon our loved ones. Brethren what does the Bible have to say?

Genesis tells us that when certain conditions are met, mankind BECOMES a soul.

***"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**

The Scriptures are clear that when man is formed and has the breath of life which comes from God alone, then he becomes a soul. The soul cannot exist when there is no breath of life and when there is no body.

*** BODY + BREATH OF LIFE = LIVING SOUL ***

As a result, when a person dies, the breath of life is thus taken back and goes back to God who was the one that gave it in the first place and consequently the living soul ceases to exist, and the body remains in the grave. Here the body shall remain until the first or second resurrection, depending on the reward which the individual shall receive, that is, eternal life or eternal death.

***"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt."* Daniel 12:2**

***"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."* 1st Thessalonians 4:16**

As we see clearly, at the time of Jesus' 2nd Advent, the dead shall be resurrected from their graves. If it was, that their 'souls' went to Heaven after they had died, what then is the purpose of the resurrection? The Scriptures are clear, when we die (*those who die in Christ*), will sleep in the grave until the 2nd Coming of Jesus, when they will receive their reward, that is, everlasting life with Jesus.

***"...Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."* Revelation 20:4-5**

Notice at Jesus' Coming, the dead in Christ are raised as is confirmed in the two previous verses above, however, we also notice that those had not died in Christ throughout the ages were not resurrected until 1,000 years after the Coming of Jesus.

We see later in chapter 20 of Revelation that when the wicked are resurrected after the 1,000 years, they are then judged according to their deeds done when they were upon the earth and then they, along with the devil and his adversaries shall be all thrown into the lake of fire and destroyed for eternity.

It is at this time that Jesus will say ***"affliction shall not raise its head a second time."* Nahum 1:9**

"For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing..." Ecclesiastes 9:5

"As water disappears from the sea and a river becomes parched and dries up, so, man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep." Job 14:11-12

Notice that Job tells us that man shall not awake from his sleep in the grave until the heavens are no more. When will the heavens be no more, you ask? At the Second Coming of Christ of course.

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places...For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:14,17

When we allow the Bible to explain itself, we can never fall for the lies of the enemy.

The devil masquerades as an angel of light, we should not be unaware of his schemes. Instead, we should test every spirit by the Word of God, for God's Word is forever settled in Heaven, it is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword.

"Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven." Psalm 119:89

"Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many." Matthew 27:51-53

We also see from the text above that when Jesus was resurrected from the dead, multitudes of the saints who had died believing in His 1st Coming by faith were also raised. Now we need to ask ourselves, if it was that we receive our reward immediately at the time of death and go straight to Heaven, why is it that these saints were not in Heaven when they had died? Instead, they were raised at the time of Jesus' resurrection.

Satan has deceived multitudes into believing that when they die, they shall go to Heaven; that their soul shall somehow not perish but live on into eternity. This is the same lie by which Adam & Eve were deceived in the garden of Eden, and with this lie, he also deceives the people of our day, especially those in the Church.

However, as we have seen, the soul, according to the Bible, refers to the body and the breath of life. Once the breath of life has been taken and returns to God, then the soul no longer exists. How then can the soul live on?

"Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die." Genesis 3:4

This is why it is important that we spend time in studying the Scriptures and allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us, rather than believing man-made doctrines and traditions.

Church traditions will not save us, only by abiding in Christ are we saved.

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17

Notice these other verses which show us that the dead will be raised at an appointed time. They are not yet in Heaven:

"The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection." **Luke 20:34-36**

"Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So, He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped." **Revelation 14:14-16**

Notice here that there is an appointed time when Jesus shall harvest His people, both the dead in Christ and the faithful living, to take them to Heaven, just before He destroys this earth. The dead in Christ are not already in Heaven, they are still awaiting their reward.

"Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." **John 11:23-24**

We see here even Martha expected Lazarus to rise again at the resurrection at the last day when Jesus shall return again. She does not speak about Lazarus already being in Heaven when he died.

Jesus is very clear when He says: ***"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."*** **John 15:28-29**

Again, He says, ***"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work."*** **Revelation 22:12**

The reward has not yet been given. Those who have died in Christ are still awaiting until Jesus shall call them forth from their graves and their corruptible bodies shall be transformed into incorruptible glorious ones.

Conclusion:

These are just a few Scriptures which I have mentioned, however, they are plenty more. We must understand that satan will mingle just enough truth with his lies so that they sound plausible. Jesus has told us that in these last days there will be widespread deception and we are to take heed lest we are led astray. We must study the scriptures that we may be able to discern what is truth and what is a lie. The devil is the father of lies and he has, through his agents, spread lies and deception throughout the world that we live in today, whether in the media, the workplace, the governments and even the church. Multitudes are deceived into believing and drinking the "wine of Babylon", but God is calling His true remnant of believers out of Babylon and into His fold. We must come out of Babylon, or we shall continue partaking in her sins and as a result we will receive the mark of the beast and therefore the plagues, which shall be poured out upon the wicked after Jesus closes the door of probation for this world.

Death has been brought into the world as a result of sin, however, we have no need to fear death if we have Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour for, we know that we will, by His grace, receive our reward when He shall return for us; Eternal life.

We must stand upon the Word of God as our foundation, lest we be deceived for eternal life is at stake.

"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities."

Revelation 18:4-5

