

Questions / Answers

1. How did God make Adam?
From dust and breathed into his nose the breath of life
2. What did God say would happen if Adam and Eve disobeyed Him?
They would die.
3. What happened when Adam died?
God took away the breath of life and he turned back into dust.
4. Why do we die?
Because we sin
5. Does the Bible teach that man has an immortal soul?
No
6. What does the word 'Hell' mean?
The grave.
7. What does Gehenna mean?
The Valley of Hinnom where the rubbish from Jerusalem was always burning.
8. How do we have hope of life after death through Jesus?
Our sins are forgiven forever because Jesus gave his sinless life as a sacrifice. Therefore we will not stay dead forever.
9. When will the dead be raised?
When Jesus comes back to set up God's Kingdom on earth.

Memory verses

Romans 6:23 1 Corinthians 15:22—23

Discussion

Look up the following verses. What do they teach us about people who have died?

Psalm 6:5 Psalm 146:4 Psalm 39:13 Psalm 115:17
Ecclesiastes 9:5

Writing

Explain why we die. Describe the hope we have to escape from death through Jesus.

CBM Senior Lessons




Lesson 4 Man is mortal

READING John 3 verses 16—17

LESSON

Sin and the punishment

In the beginning God created the first man, Adam. God made Adam from the dust of the ground. Then God breathed into his nose the breath of life and he became a living being.  Read Genesis 2:7.

God made a beautiful Garden for Adam to live in and made a wife for him. God gave Adam and Eve one simple command, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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).

Adam and Eve had a choice. They could obey God or they could choose to disobey. They had free will to choose what they would do. The serpent lied to Eve. The serpent said that they would not die if they ate the forbidden fruit. Eve believed the serpent. Adam and Eve both chose to disobey God and eat the fruit. They sinned and disobeyed God.



God had said that they would die if they disobeyed. So Adam and Eve were condemned to die and sent out of the garden. Although Adam and Eve lived for a long time after they sinned, they became dying people—they became tired and sick, grew old and eventually died.

What is death?

Death is the punishment for sin. God said, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19). When Adam died God took away the breath of life. Adam's body decayed and turned back into the dust from which he was made.

DUST plus BREATH = A LIVING BEING
DUST minus breath = A DEAD BEING

Adam died because he sinned. We are the same. We all sin and therefore we all die. When we die God takes away our breath and we turn back into dust.

📖 Read Romans 5:12

Wrong ideas

Many people today still believe the lie that the serpent told Eve, “You will not surely die.” They do not like to think that death is the end of them. They believe that they will somehow go on living after death.

Some translations of the Bible use the word SOUL. For example when God made Adam it says, “... man became a living *soul*.” This word ‘soul’ just means a being, a person or an animal. Some people have used this word to describe an immortal part of man that lives on after death. They believe in an immortal soul. There is no such thing as an immortal soul. The words ‘immortal soul’ are not found anywhere in the Bible.

The Bible teaches that death is a punishment for sin. God takes away His breath, the body turns back to dust. There is no life left. There is no consciousness at all. Death is a complete end to life and no part lives on after death. 📖 Read Ecclesiastes 9:5—6.

Heaven

Some people believe that an immortal soul goes to Heaven to live with God because they think that an immortal soul must go somewhere when a person dies. But death is a punishment—living in Heaven would be a reward! The Bible does **not** teach that men go to Heaven when they die. In fact the Bible says that no-one has ever gone to Heaven. 📖 Read John 3:13. David was a man after God’s own heart, but the Bible says he did not go to Heaven. Read 📖 Acts 2:34.

If we have an immortal soul, there was no point in Jesus dying to save us from our sins. Many people who lived before Jesus was born would already be living in Heaven. If people already had an immortal soul and lived for ever, Jesus did not need to die for us. Jesus died because the dead cease to exist. They can only live again at the resurrection because Jesus died for us.

Hell

If men have an immortal soul that goes on living for ever, the wicked must go somewhere. So people believe that the wicked go to Hell to be tormented in fire forever. A God of love would not want to torment people forever. The Bible teaches that the wicked die and do not exist any more. They are not tormented for ever.

The Bible does talk about Hell. So what is hell? The word ‘hell’ is an old English word meaning ‘a hidden or a covered place’. It means the grave. Hell is just another word for the grave. Hell means the grave. Modern versions of the Bible mostly use the word grave instead of the word Hell.

What about hell fire? Jesus talked about this in Mark 9:43—48. He spoke about hell, where the fire is not quenched. What did he mean? The word ‘hell’ in these verses is ‘Gehenna’. It comes from the Hebrew word ‘Ghi-Hinnom’. Ghi is the word meaning Valley. Gehenna means Valley of Hinnom.

The Valley of Hinnom was a valley outside Jerusalem. In the time of Jesus the Valley of Hinnom was the rubbish dump for Jerusalem. Bodies of dead animals and all the city’s rubbish was thrown there. Fires burned there continually to burn all the rubbish. It was a place of utter destruction. Jesus was saying that the wicked will be utterly destroyed in death. They will cease to exist. He did NOT mean that they will be tormented for ever.

God gives us a hope

We are all condemned to death because we all sin. We do not live on in another form after death. So is there no hope for us? Is there no hope of life beyond the grave?

The hope of life after death is through Jesus Christ. Because Jesus lived a sinless life and gave that life in sacrifice, we have a hope of life after death. 📖 Read John 3:16—17. If we do not believe in Jesus we shall perish—we shall cease to exist for ever. But if we believe in Jesus, God will give us everlasting life.

We can have our sins forgiven through Jesus. We die because we sin. If our sins are completely forgiven then, like Jesus, we will not stay dead. When Jesus comes back to the earth he will raise the dead and give everlasting life to those who are faithful. 📖 Read John 6:40.

Resurrection from the dead

The hope of life after death is by resurrection from the dead when Jesus comes back to the earth to set up God’s Kingdom on earth. 📖 Read John 5:28—29. Daniel also spoke about the dead being raised to everlasting life. 📖 Read Daniel 12:2.

We die because we sin. But God loves us and does not want us to perish for ever. God sent His only beloved Son into the world to bring hope and everlasting life. We deserve to die for ever, but God’s gift, through Jesus, is eternal life in His Kingdom on earth. 📖 Read Romans 6:23.