



### LESSON 11

## Key Judeo-Christian Doctrine

The doctrine of the "immortal soul" is perhaps the most central, and most damaging, taught in the churches. Not only is it a central teaching of most churches today, but it also serves as the basis for other key pagan concepts: the triune nature of man ("body, soul and spirit"), the so-called "rapture" theory, a literal place in outer space known as "heaven," a physical place of eternal torment called "hell," disembodied spirits of deceased persons, supernatural spirit beings known as "ghosts," "demons" and "devils," pre-existence, reincarnation, astral (out-of-the-body) travel, communication with the dead, exorcism, and a number of others.

The concept of an immaterial entity which inhabits a person's living body and then vacates it at death, having unending consciousness, is pagan and totally contrary to Scripture. This spurious doctrine has intruded into Christianity, thereby corrupting the minds of believers and blinding them to the simple truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom: the "good news" of the Kingdom of God upon the earth and the present reign of King Jesus. Our hope and freedom is in Christ — not in a so-called "immortal soul."

This lesson will begin a Scriptural study of this damaging false pagan doctrine. It, and following lessons, will expose this doctrine for what it really is — a lie. They will also reveal the correct meaning of the word **soul** as used in the Scriptures. We will begin our study in this lesson by examining the meaning and use of the Hebrew word **nephesh** from which the English word **soul** is translated in the Old Testament.

### KJV Translations of "nephesh"

(Rendered into 44 different English words)

Number of times used

<b>soul</b> (475)	<b>him</b> (4)	<b>herself</b> (2)	<b>her</b> (1)
<b>life/lives</b> (120)	<b>any</b> (3)	<b>lust</b> (2)	<b>men</b> (1)
<b>person</b> (30)	<b>man</b> (3)	<b>thee</b> (2)	<b>mortally</b> (1)
<b>heart</b> (15)	<b>me</b> (3)	<b>thing</b> (2)	<b>myself</b> (1)
<b>mind</b> (15)	<b>pleasure</b> (3)	<b>breath</b> (1)	<b>one</b> (1)
<b>creature</b> (9)	<b>themselves</b> (3)	<b>deadly</b> (1)	<b>own</b> (1)
<b>himself</b> (8)	<b>will</b> (3)	<b>discontented</b> (1)	<b>she will</b> (1)
<b>body</b> (7)	<b>appetite</b> (2)	<b>fellow</b> (1)	<b>tablets</b> (1)
<b>yourselves</b> (6)	<b>beast</b> (2)	<b>fish</b> (1)	<b>they</b> (1)
<b>dead</b> (5)	<b>ghost</b> (2)	<b>greedy</b> (1)	<b>thysself</b> (1)
<b>desire</b> (5)	<b>he</b> (2)	<b>hearty</b> (1)	<b>we</b> (1)

"Nephesh" appears a total of 751 times in the Hebrew text.

## SOUL — OLD TESTAMENT USAGE

In the Old Scriptures the English word **soul** is translated from the Hebrew word **nephesh** (#5315 in Strong's Concordance). The chart on the preceding page illustrates the variety of ways **nephesh** was translated in the King James Old Testament in its 751 occurrences. The number of times each particular rendering is used is also listed. From this information we can see that the English word **soul** was by far the most common translation (475 times out of 751 occurrences — 62.5 percent of the time). Thus, we shall examine this Hebrew word to help us understand more about the English word **soul**.

### Soul (nephesh) = Animals

#### **FIND THE ANSWERS**

1. Genesis 1:21 states, "And God created great whales, and every living \_\_\_\_\_ [**nephesh**] that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind . . ."
2. According to Genesis 1:24 God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living \_\_\_\_\_ [**nephesh**] after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so."
3. Genesis 2:19 states, "And out of the ground the LORD God formed every \_\_\_\_\_ of the field, and every \_\_\_\_\_ of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living \_\_\_\_\_ [**nephesh**], that was the name thereof."

#### **Read Genesis 9:8-17**

4. In verses 10, 12, 15, and 16, the word **creature** is translated from what Hebrew word?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. According to verse 10, which of the following are included as **creatures** (**nephesh**)?  
A. fowl B. cattle C. every beast of the earth D. all three

#### **Read Leviticus, Chapter 11**

6. In verse 10 what word is translated from **nephesh** (#5315)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Pertaining to the clean and the unclean, verse 46 states, "This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living \_\_\_\_\_ that moveth in the waters, and of every \_\_\_\_\_ that creepeth upon the earth . . ."
8. Leviticus 24:18 states, "And he that killest a \_\_\_\_\_ [**nephesh**] shall make it good; beast for beast."

The above verses clearly show that the Hebrew word **nephesh** (the word translated **soul**) is used to refer to animals — those in the water, in the air and upon the land. Note that none of these verses indicate these animals (creatures) **had** souls inside them. Rather, they WERE souls (**nephesh**).

## Soul (nephesh) = Person(s)

Not only is the Hebrew word **nephesh** used for animals, but it is also used to refer to people (individually or in groups).

### FIND THE ANSWERS

1. Concerning the people and goods captured, The king of Sodom told Abram in Genesis 14:21, "Give me the \_\_\_\_\_ [souls], and take the goods to thyself."
2. Reference is made in Genesis 36:6 to Esau moving his wives, and his sons, and his daughters, and "all the \_\_\_\_\_ [souls] of his house."
3. According to Exodus 16:16, what did Moses tell the Israelites to gather "according to the number of your **persons** [souls]?"  
A. water B. grain C. manna D. sheep
4. In Numbers 5:6 the LORD instructed Moses to tell the Israelites, "When a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ shall commit any sin that men commit, to do a trespass against the LORD, and that **person** [soul] be guilty . . ."

### Read Numbers 31:21-54

5. In verse 35 part of the "booty" of war included 32,000 \_\_\_\_\_ [souls].
6. Verse 40 states, "And the **persons** [souls] were sixteen thousand; of which the LORD'S \_\_\_\_\_ was thirty and two **persons** [souls]."
7. Concerning Israel, Deuteronomy 10:22 states, "Thy fathers went down into Egypt with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **persons** [souls] . . ."

### Read Jeremiah 52:24-34

8. Verse 29 indicates Nebuchadnezzar " \_\_\_\_\_ away captive" 832 **persons** [souls] from Jerusalem.
9. Verse 30 states that a total of \_\_\_\_\_ **persons** [souls] were carried away captive.
10. According to Ezekiel 27:13 the merchants Javan, Tubal and Meshech " \_\_\_\_\_ the **persons** [souls] of men and vessels of brass" in the market.

The Hebrew word **nephesh** often refers to the whole person. In fact, other Bible translations correctly use the word **souls** in these passages. In these verses we have souls (nephesh) captured in war, moved from one land to another, used for determining the amount of manna to be gathered, guilty of committing sin, carried away into captivity, and traded (sold) by merchants. If "souls" were immaterial spirit entities, the above verses would be absurd and illogical.

## Soul (nephesh) = Man/Men

### FIND THE ANSWERS

1. Concerning the passover convocations, Exodus 12:16 states that ". . . no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every \_\_\_\_\_ [soul] must eat . . ."
  2. Concerning the money of the dedicated things brought into the house of the LORD, II Kings 12:4 says, ". . . the \_\_\_\_\_ that every **man** [soul] is set at . . ."
  3. Isaiah 49:7 states, "Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom **man** [soul] \_\_\_\_\_ . . ."
- Read I Chronicles 5:18-22**
4. According to verse 21, how many **men** [souls] were taken away in war? \_\_\_\_\_

The above verses clearly indicate that the Hebrew word **nephesh** (soul) is used to refer to a person or persons (in this case, a "man" and "men").

## Soul (nephesh) Translated as Pronouns

### FIND THE ANSWERS

5. Leviticus 11:43 states, "Ye shall not make \_\_\_\_\_ [your souls] abominable . . ."
6. Job 18:4 declares, "He teareth \_\_\_\_\_ [his soul] in his anger . . ."
7. Psalms 35:25 states, "Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so \_\_\_\_\_ have [our soul has] it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up."
8. Psalms 105:18 says, "Whose feet they hurt with fetters: \_\_\_\_\_ [his soul] was laid in iron."
9. Psalms 131:2 states, "Surely I have behaved and quieted \_\_\_\_\_ [my soul] . . ."
10. Jeremiah 3:11 declares, "And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified \_\_\_\_\_ [her soul] more than treacherous Judah."
11. Isaiah 46:2 states, "They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but \_\_\_\_\_ are [their soul is] gone into captivity."

## FIND THE ANSWERS

1. Leviticus 4:27 states, "And if any \_\_\_\_\_ [soul] of the common people sin through ignorance . . ."
2. Leviticus 2:1 says, "And when \_\_\_\_\_ [a soul] will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour . . ."

The preceding verses are just a few examples of how the Hebrew word **nephesh** (**soul**) was translated into pronouns. In each case, the word refers to a person or persons — not some invisible spirit being(s) inside of them.

## More Proof That Soul = Person

So far we have examined passages that show that the Hebrew word **nephesh** can mean people as well as animals. However, the King James version didn't use the English word **soul** in any of those verses. Are there any passages in the King James Bible that use the word **soul** to refer specifically to people?

## FIND THE ANSWERS

3. Genesis 2:7 states that man became a living \_\_\_\_\_ [nephesh].

In the above verse God clearly says that the man was created "a living **soul**." Note that God did not say that the man "received" a soul or that a soul "went into" the man. The "man" and the "soul" are the same. There is no indication in this verse that the man and the soul were two entities joined together. Yet, that misconception is held and taught by many.

## FIND THE ANSWERS

### Read Genesis 11:31-12:5

4. According to verse 5, Abram moved to Canaan and took with him Sarai, Lot, all the substance they had gathered, and the " \_\_\_\_\_ [nephesh] that they had gotten in Haran."
5. According to Genesis 46:15, how many **souls** [nephesh] did Leah bear? \_\_\_\_\_ (See verses 18 and 22 for two more examples.)
6. Exodus 1:5 indicates that 70 \_\_\_\_\_ [nephesh] came out of the loins of Jacob.

In the above verses, the word **soul** plainly refers to people. There is no indication the word refers to immaterial entities separate from the body. How could "spirit entities" be produced by mortals?

## FIND THE ANSWERS

1. According to Leviticus 5:2, if a **soul** [nephesh] \_\_\_\_\_ any unclean thing, he also becomes unclean.
2. Leviticus 7:20 explains that the **soul** [nephesh] that \_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings shall be cut off from his people.
3. Leviticus 17:12 states, "No **soul** [nephesh] of you shall eat \_\_\_\_\_ . . ."
4. In Numbers 21:5 the people said to God and Moses, "Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our **soul** [nephesh] \_\_\_\_\_ this light bread."

These are just a few of the many verses which equate **soul** with people. None of these passages suggest that "soul" is an entity apart from the body. How could "spirit entities" touch something and become unclean? How could they eat flesh and blood?

### Can A Soul (nephesh) Be Dead?

Those who advocate the immortal soul doctrine not only believe in an immaterial spirit entity (soul) that is separate from the body, but they also believe that this entity is "immortal" — they say it cannot die but continues to live on after the body dies. The Old Scriptures clearly contradict this pagan idea.

## FIND THE ANSWERS

5. Speaking of the high priest, Leviticus 21:11 states, "Neither shall he go in to any dead \_\_\_\_\_ [nephesh] . . ."

The above verse clearly makes reference to a "dead" **nephesh** (a dead soul — a dead person). However, logic dictates that if a soul is "dead," it cannot also be "immortal."

## FIND THE ANSWERS

### Read Numbers 6:1-12

6. Concerning a Nazarite, verse 6 states, "All the days that he separateth himself unto the LORD he shall come at no \_\_\_\_\_ **body** [soul]."

According to the above passage, a Nazarite became defiled if he came near a "dead" soul (person). The context plainly has reference to someone who has died. Again, a "dead" soul cannot be "immortal."

The preceding verses clearly point out that the Hebrew word **nephesh** is used in referring to "dead" people. The Old Scriptures reveal that people, whether alive or dead, are nephesh — **souls**.

### FIND THE ANSWERS

1. Numbers 19:13 states, "Whosoever toucheth the dead **body** [nephesh] of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that \_\_\_\_\_ [nephesh] shall be cut off from Israel . . ."

According to the above verse, any **soul** that defiled himself by touching a **dead soul** was to be cut off from Israel. Notice, again, how a soul (nephesh) can be alive or dead. If a soul is immortal, how could it be dead?

### Can A Soul (nephesh) Be Killed?

### FIND THE ANSWERS

2. According to Genesis 37:21 Reuben delivered Joseph from his brothers and told them, "Let us not \_\_\_\_\_ **him** [his soul]."
  3. In Numbers 23:10 Balaam told Balak, "Let **me** [my soul] \_\_\_\_\_ the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."
  4. Numbers 31:19 says, ". . . whosoever hath \_\_\_\_\_ any **person** [soul] . . ."
- Read Numbers 35:9-34**
5. Verse 11 states, "Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the slayer may flee thither, which \_\_\_\_\_ any **person** [soul] at unawares."
  6. According to verse 30, "Whoso killeth any **person** [soul], the murderer shall be put to \_\_\_\_\_ by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any **person** [soul] to cause him to \_\_\_\_\_."
  7. Deuteronomy 22:26 states, ". . . for as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and \_\_\_\_\_ **him** [his soul] . . ."
  8. Deuteronomy 27:25 declares, "Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an \_\_\_\_\_ **person** [soul] . . ."
  9. Samson says in Judges 17:30, "Let **me** [my soul] \_\_\_\_\_ with the Philistines."
  10. In I Samuel 22:22 David says, "I have occasioned the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the **persons** [souls] of thy father's house."
  11. Proverbs 28:17 states, "A man that doeth violence to the \_\_\_\_\_ of any **person** [soul] shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him."

## FIND THE ANSWERS

1. Jeremiah 40:14 states, "Dost thou certainly know that Baalis the king of the Ammonites hath sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to \_\_\_\_\_ **thee** [your soul]?"
2. Ezekiel 33:6 declares, "But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the \_\_\_\_\_ come, and take any **person** [soul] from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."
3. Job 36:14 states, "**They** [their souls] \_\_\_\_\_ in youth, and their life is among the unclean."

All of the preceding verses expressly indicate that the nephesh (soul) can die. There is no indication whatsoever in any of these verses that the body dies while the nephesh (soul) lives on. Clearly the soul perishes.

However, at this point someone may argue that the word **soul** was not specifically used by the translators in the the passages cited. Are there any passages, then, in the King James Bible that use the word **soul** in relation to death?

## The Soul Can Indeed Die

## FIND THE ANSWERS

4. In Ezekiel 18:4 God says, "Behold, all **souls** [nephesh] are mine; as the **soul** [nephesh] of the father, so also the **soul** [nephesh] of the son is mine: the **soul** [nephesh] that sinneth, it shall \_\_\_\_\_ ." (see also verse 20)

Note, in the above verse, that God plainly says that "the soul" dies. He does not say that the body dies and the soul keeps on living. It is obvious that the "person" and the "soul" are the same. Whether a person is alive or dead, the person IS the soul (nephesh) — soul is NOT something separate from the person.

## FIND THE ANSWERS

5. Speaking of a day of atonement, God says in Leviticus 23:30, "And whatsoever **soul** [nephesh] it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same **soul** [nephesh] will I \_\_\_\_\_ from among his people."

According to the verse above, a soul can be destroyed. If a soul is "immortal," it can not be destroyed.



## FIND THE ANSWERS

### Read Joshua 10:28-43

1. According to verses 28, 30, 32, 35, 37, and 39, Joshua smote and destroyed "all the \_\_\_\_\_ [nephesh] that were therein."
2. Joshua 11:11 states, "And they smote all the **souls** [nephesh] that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly \_\_\_\_\_ them: there was not any left to breathe: and he burnt Hazor with fire."

The verses above plainly indicate that Joshua killed "souls" — people. There is no suggestion that only the peoples' bodies died while their "souls" kept on living.

## FIND THE ANSWERS

3. Speaking of Saul's desire to kill him, David says to Saul in I Samuel 24:11, ". . . yet thou \_\_\_\_\_ my **soul** [nephesh] to take it."

In the verse above, David certainly wasn't talking about Saul taking some invisible spirit entity away from him. Even if such a thing existed, how could Saul possibly take it? No, David was referring to Saul's attempts to take his life — to kill him.

## FIND THE ANSWERS

4. Job says in Job 7:15, "So that my **soul** [nephesh] chooseth \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ rather than my life."
5. Job 33:22 states, "Yea, his **soul** [nephesh] draweth near unto the \_\_\_\_\_, and his life to the destroyers."

If Job's soul was an immaterial spirit entity residing in him that could not die, then how could it choose to be strangled to death? If such an immortal entity existed, how could it "draw near unto the grave"? Such statements are completely meaningless if souls cannot die. No, these verses show that "soul" refers to the person.

## FIND THE ANSWERS

6. Proverbs 6:32 states, "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it \_\_\_\_\_ his own **soul** [nephesh]."

How could a person destroy their own soul if it was immortal and couldn't die? However, if their soul is synonymous with their own life, it makes logical sense.

## FIND THE ANSWERS

### 1. Read Ezekiel 22:25-31

Concerning the abominations of Jerusalem, verse 25 states, "There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey: they have \_\_\_\_\_ **souls** [nephesh] . . ."

2. Verse 27 says, "Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to \_\_\_\_\_ **souls** [nephesh], to get dishonest gain."

In the verses above, Ezekiel describes the destruction of souls (people) by wicked leaders and rulers in government. The use of the words "devoured" and "destroy" expose the fallacious theory that souls cannot be destroyed.

## FIND THE ANSWERS

3. The writer of Psalms 22:20 says, "Deliver my **soul** [nephesh] from the \_\_\_\_\_."

4. Psalms 22:29 states, ". . . and none can keep \_\_\_\_\_ his own **soul** [nephesh]."

5. Psalms 33:18-19 declares, "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their **soul** [nephesh] from \_\_\_\_\_ . . ."

6. Psalms 49:15 says, "But God will redeem my **soul** [nephesh] from the power of the \_\_\_\_\_ : for he shall receive me."

7. Psalms 78:50 states, "He made a way to his anger; he spared not their **soul** [nephesh] from \_\_\_\_\_ , but gave their life over to the pestilence."

From the above verses, it is obvious that the writers of the Psalms did not believe in the indestructibility of souls. They knew full well that souls could perish and that only God could deliver them from death and the grave. So-called "immortal souls" would not be under the power of death and would not need to be rescued from the grave.

In this lesson we have seen that the English word **soul** was one of many that were translated from the Hebrew word **nephesh**. We learned that this Hebrew word was used to refer to both animals and people. It was used for dead persons as well as those living. We examined a number of Old Scripture passages that clearly stated that souls were people and that souls were destroyed by death. None of these passages support the false theory of an "immortal soul" that exists separate from the person and continues living on after the person dies. We will continue to study and expose this false doctrine in the next lesson.



## ANSWER KEY

### LESSON 11

#### Page 102

1. creature
2. creature
3. beast; fowl; creature
4. nephesh (#5315)
5. D (all three)
6. thing (water-dwelling animals)
7. creature; creature
8. beast

#### Page 103

1. persons
2. persons
3. C (manna)
4. man; woman
5. persons
6. tribute
7. threescore; ten
8. carried
9. 4,600
10. traded (meaning they "sold" them)

#### Page 104

1. man
2. money
3. despiseth
4. 100,000
5. yourselves
6. himself
7. we
8. he
9. myself

#### Page 104 cont'd

10. herself
11. themselves

#### Page 105

1. one
2. any
3. soul (meaning "person")
4. souls (referring to "people")
5. 33
6. souls

#### Page 106

1. touches
2. eats
3. blood
4. loatheth
5. body
6. dead

#### Page 107

1. soul
2. kill
3. die
4. killed
5. killeth
6. death; die
7. slayeth
8. innocent
9. die

**Page 107 cont'd**

10. death
11. blood

**Page 108**

1. slay
2. sword
3. die
4. die
5. destroy

**Page 109**

1. souls
2. destroying

**Page 109 cont'd**

3. hunteth
4. strangling; death
5. grave
6. destroyeth

**Page 110**

1. devoured
2. destroy
3. sword
4. alive
5. death
6. grave
7. death

**Notes:**