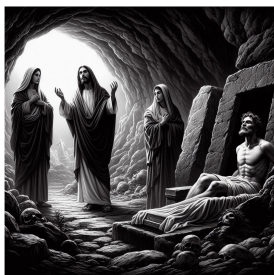


Study Five

The state of the dead—Satan's big lie!



Read the following Bible story: 1 Samuel 28:3-20 (The familiar spirit of Samuel)

The story's lesson for us today: God does not work through spiritists or mediums such as the witch of Endor. Furthermore, those

who seek after the dead for wisdom and understanding, as King Saul did, shall suffer and find their ruin in what God declares to be an abomination in his sight.

What Jesus said: “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

John 11:25

Study Note: Read each question, and then look up the corresponding text(s) for the Bible's answer.

1) How was the first man (Adam) created?
(Genesis 2:7*)

*The body + spirit = a living being (soul).

2) What happens when we die? (Job 19:26-27; Psalms 146:3-4; Ecclesiastes 3:19-20; 9:5-6; 12:7*)

*The word “*spirit*” in Eccl. 12:7 and Genesis 2:7 comes from the Hebrew word “*ruwach*” meaning breath.

3) What is death equated with?
(Job 14:10-12*; John 11:11-14; Acts 7:59-60)

*The word “*ghost*” in Job 14:10 comes from the Hebrew word “*gava*” meaning to breathe out or expire.

4) What was the first lie ever told? (Genesis 3:4)

5) Who besides Eve was seduced by a lying spirit?
(1 Kings 22:20-22; 1 Chronicles 10:13-14)

6) Will people in the latter days be seduced by lying spirits? (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; 1 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 16:13-14)

7) Whom are we *not* to seek wisdom from?

(Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 18:19-20; John 8:44)

8) What does the modern order of spiritualism believe and teach today?

Both the National Spiritualist Association of Churches in the United States and the Spiritualist National Union in the United Kingdom affirm Emma Hardinge Britton's (1823-1899) seven defining principles of spiritualism, which include: 1) **The Fatherhood of God**—God is our heavenly father; 2) **The brotherhood of man**—We are all members of the same divine family; 3) **The communion of spirits and the ministry of angels**—We can communicate with disembodied souls; 4) **The continuous existence of the human soul**—The soul is immortal; 5) **Personal responsibility**—We have free agency, the freedom to choose our destiny; 6) **Compensation and retribution hereafter for all the good and evil deeds done on earth**—For good or for evil, our earthly works earn for us our eternal reward; 7) **Eternal progress open to every human soul**—We can become as God is.

9) Did God give man an immortal god-like soul?

(Ezekiel 18:4; Matthew 10:28; 1 Timothy 6:15-16)

Study Commentary:

What happens when we die is a question that is as old as the devil's lie to Eve. Down through the centuries and in our world today, the devil's lie continues to flourish and bear fruit, even among Christians. Spiritualism (old and new) teaches that the soul of man is immortal, whereas the Bible teaches that the soul that sins shall die. In Christendom today, there is confusion because the terms "soul" and "spirit" are used interchangeably, whereas the Bible differentiates between the breath (spirit) and living existence (soul) of man.

For further thought:

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people [who have not made the Bible the expositor of truth] under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome.” Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 588 (Emphasis added)

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