

EXAMINING OUR FAITH, part 19 quotes

1 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” 2 Corinthians 13:5.

(Show picture #13 - the Third Angel’s Message)

2

(Show picture #14 - the Non-Immortality of the Soul)

“...the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” 1 Timothy 6:15-16.

Since God alone has immortality, then this means that no human being is immortal! Then how do we understand what the Third Angel declares that the wicked "shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name"? Does this mean that the wicked keep on burning for eternity and therefore must be immortal.

“...the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground....and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.” Genesis 19:24-25, 28.

“Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Jude 1:7.

The literal cities of Sodom and Gomorrah “were situated on the Jordan River plain in the southern region of the land of Canaan...which corresponds to the area just north of the modern-day Dead Sea” (Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia, under word Sodom and Gomorrah, at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sodom_and_Gomorrah, accessed 4-12-18). Any who have seen this area realize that there is no fire continuing to burn ancient people anywhere in this locality. All that is seen remaining of Sodom and Gomorrah, or any of its inhabitants - some 3500 years after being destroyed by eternal fire and brimstone -- is nothing but ashes.

“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes”. 2 Peter 2:6.

(NOTE: A very good documentary and investigation of one of the cities destroyed along with Sodom and Gomorrah is done by Ron Wyatt, and he even shows some of the brimstone balls that remain from that destruction.)

3 Since human beings are not immortal, then what are they?

“Shall mortal man be more just than God?” Job 4:17.

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body”. Romans 6:12.

4 As mankind is mortal, then he is subject to death. But what is death?

The Bible refers over and over again that death is likened to sleep. In Old Testament times, when someone died it was declared that he “slept with his fathers” (see 1 Kings 2:10, 11:43, 14:20, 31, 15:8, 24). In New Testament times, death was also likened to sleep (see 1 Corinthians 11:30, 15:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:14). In fact, Jesus plainly stated this same idea when referring to the death of his friend Lazarus:

“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.” John 11:11-14. (See also Matthew 27:52; 1 Corinthians 15:51; Daniel 12:2).

5 As death is just like being asleep, then what exactly occurs we die?

"His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."
Psalms 146:4.

– As there is no consciousness in the grave, then will God show us any of His wonders, whether past, present or future, after we die and are buried in the grave?

"Wilt thou shew wonders to the dead? shall the dead arise and praise thee?...Shall thy lovingkindness be declared in the grave? or thy faithfulness in destruction? Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?"
Psalms 88:10-12.

– Will we praise the Lord in the grave?

"The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." Psalms 115:17.

– Will we even remember the Lord in the grave?

"For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" Psalms 6:5.

6 Will we see anyone else while we are dead?

"I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave...I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world." Isaiah 38:10-11.

– Will we see our loved ones and friends coming to our grave to pay us respect?

"But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost...His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not..." Job 14:10, 21.

These verses clearly reveal that those who have died really do not know anything!

"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." Ecclesiastes 9:5.

7 Does the Bible teach that we go to heaven and see the Lord when we die?

"...I shall go to the gates of the grave...I shall not see the Lord, even the Lord, in the land of the living..." Isaiah 38:10-11.

– Does the Bible teach that dead relatives are in heaven and are watching over their family members on earth and working for their good?

"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." Ecclesiastes 9:10.

8 What about those who believe that they have actually seen or even talked with their dead loved ones apparently alive after having died?

"So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." Job 14:12.

– What about those who believe in, or who have seen, ghosts or the spirits of the dead haunting houses or graveyards or even helping people?

"...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." Ecclesiastes 9:5-6.

9 Since the Bible of truth teaches that ghosts cannot be the actual dead person's spirit raised to life, then who are these apparitions?

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him....For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world..." Revelation 12:7-

9, 16:14.

– Does the Devil or any of his evil angels tell the truth?

"He [the devil]...abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44.

10 As we simply sleep or rest in the grave when we die, then we do not reincarnate in an endless circle of death and life!

"...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement..." Hebrews 9:27.