



The Sinaitic Light

The Eternal Soul Before and After Death

Study Article No. IV

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This article uses the English terms for Elohim (God), Yah (Father) Yahoshua (Christ).

Objective and Learning Outcome

Objective:

The objective of this article is to understand the natural composition of man as the Scriptures defines it.

Learning Outcome:

Upon completion of this study, the reader will:

1. Understand the composition of man according to Yah;
2. Understand the terms monism, dichotomism and trichotomism;
3. Understand how the concept of dichotomy became a part of Christianity;
4. Be able to explain passages that allude to man being body and soul or body, soul and spirit;
5. Be able to explain what a soul is according to Yah's word'
6. Be able to explain what Yah gave to man to animate him;
7. Be able to explain what goes back to Yah at death;

Introduction

Different theologies and denominations teach the eternal existence of the soul or spirit. Many religions especially Christianity, teach that when a person dies their body rests in the grave while their spirit or soul ascends to heaven (God) or descends to hell. They refer to Christ's parable of the rich man and Lazarus as a proof text. The rich man dies and his soul descends into hell while the poor man (Lazarus) dies and ascends to heaven or a special place in hell (Luke 16:19-31). Yet this premise is not biblical and cannot be supported throughout the biblical texts. This assertion argues for the existence of man being composed of *body* and *soul* (or *spirit*) referred to as a dichotomy or two parts.¹ Thus, when a person dies, his soul continues to live separate from his body.

The writers of the Bible did not ascribe to the eternity of the soul or more specifically, the belief that when a man dies, his soul or spirit goes to heaven or hell, while his physical body lies in the grave. This is a platonic idea (ideology of the Greek philosopher Plato) adopted by the patristical church or the church fathers in the second century AD. Although Hellenist Jews (Israelites who converted to Greek culture) adopted this idea in the fourth century BC, it was not a theological concept amongst the patriarchs (BC 4000 – 1500) nor traditional Sinaitic Jews (BC 1500 – 500). Sinaitic Jews understood that man is *monistic* (one being or one active force), an understanding originating with the creation of the first man Adam.^{2 3 4 5 6 7}

Scripture states that Adam was made from the dust of the ground, lifeless at his creation. However, when Yah breathed into his nostrils, *oxygen* referred to as the “breath of life”, he then received life. Adam was animated by oxygen, which Scripture refers to as *neshmat chayeem* (Gen. 2:7). The *neshmat* (oxygen) gave Adam life, it animated the brain which stimulated the organs, thereby, causing Adam to breath. He became a living being or living soul, *chayah nephesh*. Yah did not breath into Adam a soul or spirit. However, there are common rebuttals to this position. Such as when Yahoshua said, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy *both soul and body* in hell” (Matt. 10:28). In this passage Yahoshua was referring to man's ability to destroy the flesh, but their inability to destroy what gives flesh life, in Hebrew, *neshmat*, and *psuché* in Greek. Both terms represent the

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1. What does dichotomy mean?
 2. True or False. The writers of the Bible believed that man was body and soul.
 3. The idea that man is both body and soul where the soul continues to exist after the body dies is a _____ idea.
 4. True or False. The patristical church adopted Plato's idea of a dichotomous human being.
 5. What is another name for the patristical church?
 6. When did the church adopt Plato's view on the soul?
 7. Israelites understood that a man was a _____ being.

catalytic agent that stimulates the brain (mind) to animate the organs, which can only come from Yah.^{8 9 10 11 12 13}

Some assume that when Paul says, “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:23) he is introducing a trichotomy (man composed of three parts). This supposition is also untrue. Once again, man is *not* two or three parts, but one part *animated* or *powered by oxygen* (as fuel powers a car). One does not say that a car is made of two parts, gas and body, but a car is a vehicle animated by gas. So, what Paul says in his benediction, addresses the three aspects of man that make him whole, not three separate “conscious parts.” Paul uses the Greek words *pneuma* for spirit, *psyche* for soul and *sōma* for body. *Pneuma* represents one’s emotions, feelings, character. When Paul uses the word *psyche* in this context, he is praying the blessings over the mental wellness of a person, and when he says *soma*, he is speaking about the *physical* wellness of that individual.^{14 15}

Man is animated by *oxygen* which induces life, thus establishing an active soul, “being or person” who is represented as a mental, emotional and physical being. Paul hopes that congregants are mentally well, representing their mind (mental disorders, dementia, anxieties, paranoia or discomfort). He then hopes that people are emotionally well, representing their feelings or moods (the avoidance of anger, hypersensitivities, anxieties, fear, insecurities etc.), and he hopes that they are physically well representing their body (arthritis, eczema, asthma, etc.). Paul is praying a blessing on a congregant’s whole being, which represents a *monistic* being, not a *dichotomy* or *trichotomy*. The whole being begins with a body stimulated by oxygen that animates the brain which sends a signal to all organs of the body in order to make a person vibrant and active; mentally, emotionally and physically. In Paul’s benediction the body encapsulates the mind, and as a person thinks, so they feel and as they feel so they do.¹⁶

Closing

In closing, when a person dies, the breath that Yah gave to humanity will return to Him, the one who gave it. A *conscious* spirit or soul does not return to Yah because Yah did not breathe a *conscious* spirit or soul into Adam, He breathed oxygen. When a man dies, he breathes his last breath and ceases to exist. Solomon writes “and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it” (Eccl. 12:7). In this passage, *ruach* (spirit, wind, air, oxygen, breath) and *neshmat* are synonymous. Thus, the breath goes back to Yah, which is to say quite

8. What did Yah breathe into Adams nostrils?

9. What animated Adam?

10. What is the Hebrew word used in Genesis to represent the breath of life?

11. What does Christ mean when he says that man cannot destroy one’s soul?

12. What is the Greek word for breath of life or soul?

13. What is the catalytic agent that stimulates the mind?

14. What are the Greek words Paul uses for body, soul and spirit?

15. What does trichotomy mean?

16. Explain how Paul uses trichotomism to address the wellness of a person.

simply that the breath is released into the atmosphere. Thus, we conclude that man is a being (soul or person) who dies and lies in the grave to await the judgment only. There is no disembodiment of souls or spirits from the body where one goes to Hades, Purgatory, Hell, or Heaven at death while the body lies in the grave. In Scripture, there is the body animated by the breath of life. When the breath is removed from that person's nostrils (Ps. 104:29; Is. 2:22), the person dies and lies in the grave awaiting God's resurrection and judgment (Is. 26:19-21; Job 14:13; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28; 11:24; Heb. 9:27).^{17 18 19 20}

There is much more to discuss on this subject. If you have questions about this study or others, join us in fellowship, prayer, praise, and study every Saturday at 11:30 am or, call us for consultation pertaining to this subject and any other you might find intriguing. We are a Messianic Judaic assembly teaching the doctrine of Messianic Sinaiticism, keeping Yah's word in the faith of Yahoshua (Rev. 12:17; 14:12-13) and proclaiming Yahoshua's gospel to the world and to those who are seeking Yah's truth without interpretation or church tradition. May the blessings of the Most High be with you and thank you for reading our article.

17. What returns to Yah when a person dies?

18. What passage in the Bible says that when man dies his spirit goes back to Yah who gave it?

19. Name four words that are synonymous with *ruach*?

20. How does one's last breath go back to God?