



SAVED TO SERVE
Pastor Andrew Henriques
www.prophecyagain.com
THE STATE OF THE DEAD, PART 2
CAN OUR DEAD SPEAK TO US?

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will continue studying the state of the dead. We learned previously that the dead do not go immediately to heaven or hell but remain in the grave until the resurrection of life or the resurrection of damnation. This lesson will answer: can the dead communicate with the living?

2. Is there consciousness in the grave? Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10; Psalm 146:3-4; Job 14:10, 21

3. What happens to our dead loved ones who lived a righteous life? Are they praising God in heaven right now? Psalm 115:17; 6:4-5; Isaiah 38:18, 19

4. Can the dead come back to visit and communicate with their loved ones who are living? Job 7:7-10

5. **Note:** Modern Spiritualism claims to have communion or dialogue with the spirits of the dead. It is identical with ancient witchcraft, which was likewise communion or dialogue with the dead. The fact that witchcraft was a real thing, and not simply a superstition, is evident because it was prohibited by the Lord under the penalty of death.

6. What do the following Old Testament scriptures teach? Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

7. What do the following New Testament scriptures teach regarding witchcraft and sorcery? Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:7-8

8. Who has the Lord sent to minister unto us? Hebrews 1:13-14 _____

“The connection of the visible with the invisible world, the ministration of angels of God, and the agency of evil spirits, are plainly revealed in the Scriptures, and inseparably interwoven with human history. **There is a growing tendency to disbelief in the existence of evil spirits, while the holy angels that “minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation” (Hebrews 1:14) are regarded by many as spirits of the dead. But the Scriptures not only teach the existence of angels, both good and evil, but present unquestionable proof that these are not disembodied spirits of dead men.**” {GC 511.1}

9. What warning is given for these last days? Revelation 12:12; Revelation 16:13, 14

Rebuttals

10. **Note:** Surface readers of the Bible may use the account of King Saul and the witch of Endor to prove that the dead can communicate with the living. Does the account of Saul and the witch of Endor prove this? Read 1 Samuel 28:3-25. We will examine this idea in the following questions.

11. What did king Saul desire from God, and what was God's response? 1 Samuel 28:6

12. Why did the Lord not answer Saul by dreams, Urim, and by prophets? **Answer:** Saul had severed his connection from the Lord; he had slain the high priest who wore the Urim (1 Samuel 22:17-19); he had rejected the words of the prophet Samuel and the words of God, which the Bible likened unto the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

13. What did the evil spirit lead Saul to do at that time? 1 Samuel 28:7

14. Yet, what did Saul do in his earlier years as king? 1 Samuel 28:3, 9

15. What did Saul request of the witch with the familiar spirit? 1 Samuel 28:11

16. **Note:** Saul did not see the figure that represented Samuel. The witch claimed to have seen Samuel (1 Samuel 28:14). The witch said that the old man had a mantle, and Saul believed it to be Samuel. In these last days, Satan will use many methods to deceive people. Like Saul, he will cause individuals to hear detailed descriptions of their dead loved ones (the way they dressed, phrases they commonly used, etc) from modern spiritualists. For others, Satan will deceive them by allowing them to literally see and touch demons who are posing as their dead loved ones.

17. What did Saul hear from the evil angel posing as Samuel? 1 Samuel 28:15-19

“The Scripture account of Saul’s visit to the woman of Endor has been a source of perplexity to many students of the Bible. There are some who take the position that Samuel was actually present at the interview with Saul, but the Bible itself furnishes sufficient ground for a contrary conclusion. If, as claimed by some, Samuel was in heaven, he must have been summoned thence, either by the power of God or by that of Satan. **None can believe for a moment that Satan had power to call the holy prophet of God from heaven to honor the incantations of an abandoned woman. Nor can we conclude that God summoned him to the witch’s cave; for the Lord had already refused to communicate with Saul, by dreams, by Urim, or by prophets. 1 Samuel 28:6. These were God’s own appointed mediums of communication, and He did not pass them by to deliver the message through the agent of Satan. The message itself is sufficient evidence of its origin. Its object was not to lead Saul to repentance, but to urge him on to ruin; and this is not the work of God, but of Satan...** He did not communicate with Samuel, the prophet of God; but through the sorceress he held intercourse with Satan. Satan could not present the real Samuel, but he did present a counterfeit, that served his purpose of deception.” {PP 683.1}

18. Many people have had supernatural encounters. Based on scripture, are these occurrences imaginary or real? What is said about the power of Satan regarding the apparition of the dead? 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 16:14

19. Why will Satan deceive people to believe that their dead loved ones are communicating with them? 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11

“When they have been led to believe that the dead actually return to communicate with them, Satan causes those to appear who went into the grave unprepared. **They claim to be happy in heaven and even to occupy exalted positions there, and thus the error is widely taught that no difference is made between the righteous and the wicked. The pretended visitants from the world of spirits sometimes utter cautions and warnings which prove to be correct. Then, as confidence is gained, they present doctrines that directly undermine faith in the Scriptures. With an appearance of deep interest in the well-being of their friends on earth, they insinuate the most dangerous errors.** The fact that they state some truths, and are able at times to foretell future events, gives to their statements an appearance of reliability; and their false teachings are accepted by the multitudes as readily, and believed as implicitly, as if they were the most sacred truths of the Bible. The law of God is set aside, the Spirit of grace despised, the blood of the covenant counted an unholy thing. The spirits deny the deity of Christ and place even the Creator on a level with themselves. Thus under a new disguise the great rebel still carries on his warfare against God, begun in heaven and for nearly six thousand years continued upon the earth.” {GC 552.2}

20. Who will Satan finally impersonate as his final attempt to deceive all of humanity? Matthew 24:4, 5; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-10; Colossians 2:18

“**As the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ draws near, satanic agencies are moved from beneath. Satan will not only appear as a human being, but he will personate Jesus Christ; and the world that has rejected the truth will receive him as the Lord of lords and King of kings.** He will exercise his power, and work upon the human imagination. He will corrupt both the minds and the bodies of men, and will work through the children of disobedience, fascinating and charming, as does a serpent. What a spectacle will the world be for heavenly intelligences! What a spectacle for God, the

Creator of the world, to behold!" {5BC 1105.8}

"The form Satan assumed in Eden when leading our first parents to transgress, was of a character to bewilder and confuse the mind. He will work in as subtle a manner as we near the end of earth's history. All his deceiving power will be brought to bear upon human subjects, to complete the work of deluding the human family. **So deceptive will be his working, that men will do as they did in the days of Christ; and when asked, Whom shall I release unto you, Christ or Barabbas? the almost universal cry will be, Barabbas, Barabbas! And when the question is asked, "What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?" the cry again will be, "Crucify him!"** {5BC 1106.1}

21. As we close, what warning is given to God's commandment-keeping people? 1 Timothy 4:1; Matthew 24:24, 25, 13

"I saw that the saints must get a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved friends and relatives, who will declare to them that the Sabbath has been changed, also other unscriptural doctrines. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy and will work miracles before them to confirm what they declare. The people of God must be prepared to withstand these spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who appear to them are the spirits of devils. Our minds must not be taken up with things around us, but must be occupied with the present truth and a preparation to give a reason of our hope with meekness and fear. We must seek wisdom from on high that we may stand in this day of error and delusion." {EW 87.2}