What is Man?

Summary

Do we have an immortal soul, or are we something else entirely? This foundational study goes back to Genesis 2:7 to answer one of the oldest questions in religion — and traces where the popular answer actually came from.

- Genesis 2:7: man as a mortal, physical being who "became" a living soul rather than receiving one, returning to dust at death like the animals.
- The popular "immortal soul" doctrine traced to Egyptian and Greek (Platonic) philosophy, adopted by early theologians such as Origen, Tertullian, and Augustine — not to Scripture.
- A distinct, non-conscious "spirit in man" that enables reasoning.
- Yahweh's Holy Spirit, received at conversion, "begetting" the believer toward a future bodily resurrection to immortality.

The full article begins on the next page.

What is Man?

Man is the most complex, truly unique physical mechanism ever designed and made.

With such a marvellous mind and body, we might expect it was only natural that our Maker send along His "Instruction Book" - just as a manufacturer sends along with the instrument or device he manufactures an instruction book describing what his product is designed to do.

That Instruction Book Yahweh did send. It reveals the missing dimension in knowledge - the incredible human potential.

This Instruction Book tells us what we are, why we are, where we are going, and the way to get there! We call it the Holy Bible.

It reveals that Yahweh first created angels - composed of spirit, though lesser than Yahweh and lacking in ultimate creative power. It reveals that the physical universe, including the earth, was next brought into existence. A third of the angels were then placed here on earth. They were put under the rule of the government of Yahweh, which was administered on earth by the great archangel known as Lucifer.

Under the government of Yahweh - which is in reality the administration of Yahweh's way of outgoing love as spelled out by Yahweh's Commandments - the earth was initially filled with peace, happiness, joy and wonderful accomplishment. But ultimately, Lucifer led the angels under him into rebellion. The government of Yahweh was rejected, no longer enforced. As a result, the earth became waste and empty, in confusion and darkness *(Genesis 1:2)*. Later, in six literal days Yahweh renewed the face of the earth (Psalms 104:30). He made physical life forms - the flora and then the fauna. These life forms were created without reasoning or decision-making processes, and without ethical or moral capabilities, except for man, Yahweh's masterpiece of creative workmanship.

In the foundation of knowledge, Yahweh's Instruction Book for man, the Creator Yahweh reveals much knowledge about man that is totally beyond man's ability to discover for himself - including the knowledge and understanding of what man is, why he was made that way, and what he is ultimately to become.

Yahweh created the first man. And He tells us how He made him so there would be no doubt as to what we really are. The first man was made from and therefore composed of earth - the dust of the ground! *(Genesis 2:7)*. It was the whole man - "thou" - that was composed of the dust of the ground *(Genesis 3:19)*.

After Yahweh had formed the man - made all the cells in his body - Yahweh imparted to him physical life *(Genesis 2:7).* Yahweh blew into the man's lungs, through the nostrils, air - "the breath of life" - containing oxygen, and the man began to live! Notice that the verse does not say Yahweh breathed an immortal soul into the man.

The source of physical life in man and all animals is the same. Not once in the Bible does the "breath of life" even remotely refer to an "immortal soul" or life apart from the physical body. Otherwise animals, birds and even insects - gnats, fleas, mosquitoes - have immortal souls, for they all have the same "breath of life" *(Genesis 7:21-22)*.

When Yahweh breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of the first man, he became "a living soul" *(Genesis 2:7).* Man does not have a soul - man IS a "soul"! Since man is a soul, and the soul is mortal - then man is mortal, subject to death. That is why the Scriptures call human beings "mortal man" *(Job 4:17).*

When an animal dies, it is dead. When man dies, he is completely dead, too. All men and animals alike go to the same place at death *(Ecclesiastes 3:20)*. Why? Because they all have the same temporary source of life - air. After death, all men and animals become dust once again.

The government of Yahweh ceased to be administered on this earth after the rebellion of Lucifer *(now Satan)* and one third of the angels. Later, Yahweh created the first human, Adam, with the potential of qualifying to replace Satan as ruler of the earth, thus restoring the government and way of Yahweh to this earth. But to qualify as successor to Satan, the human successor had to reject Satan's way and voluntarily come under the government of Yahweh.

Yahweh's master plan for accomplishing His purpose for the human race took form and shape even before man was made. Yahweh planned that if mortal man sinned by rejecting Yahweh's government - as all but Yah'shua have - Yahweh would make it possible for him to REPENT - to turn from sinning, to be reconciled to Yahweh and to live Yahweh's way of life, finally to be born of Yahweh as members of His eternal family!

Repentance is turning from the way of Satan to the government of Yahweh. It is accepting Yahweh's rule over our lives through His law of love. It is accepting Yah'shua the Messiah as Saviour and coming King - the "second Adam" who qualified *(where the first Adam failed)* to re-establish the government of Yahweh on the earth by overcoming Satan. Those who are to reign with the Messiah must likewise reject Satan's way; overcome that way day by day, and actually live by Yahweh's law of love. If they continue in this way, they will be born of Yahweh - become immortal spirit at the first resurrection *(1 Corinthians 15:42-54; John 3:3-8).*

But those who will not repent and accept the Messiah's sacrifice in payment for their sins - those who refuse to turn from Satan's way and refuse to come under the government of Yahweh in their lives - will ultimately perish *(Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14-15; Malachi 4:1-3)*.

Yahweh wants every human being who has ever lived to have the opportunity to repent and live forever. *(2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4)*. But Yahweh will not force anyone to choose life. For those who refuse to follow Yahweh's way to eternal life there will be the "second death" - the fate of all unrepentant sinners. They will cease to exist forever. They will be as if they had never been!

We can now see that Yahweh chose to make man first out of physical matter instead of spirit for an important reason. Before the creation of man, He had made the angels out of immortal spirit - not mortal flesh and blood, subject to death. And one third of these angels sinned by rebelling against the government of Yahweh. But the punishment of sinning angels is not death.

Angels are composed of spirit and therefore cannot die. Since one third of the angels chose the way of sin, their punishment will last for eternity. Their sins have resulted in eternal hopelessness and frustration, their minds being filled with resentment, bitterness and rebellion. Happiness and joy have left them forever!

But for man, Yahweh planned in advance that if man, composed of matter, sinned and refused to repent, he would die - he would be as though he had not been. Yahweh will not allow any incorrigible human being to live forever in mental anguish and torment like the fallen angels. This plan reflects Yahweh's great mercy toward mortal man!

When called by Yahweh and made to realize that he has sinned, man can REPENT - turn from his sin to Yahweh's way. And once his course is changed, with Yahweh's help he can pursue a life of obedience to Yahweh. He can grow in spiritual knowledge and develop the character of Yahweh - overcome wrong habits, weaknesses and faults. And this is all done through the free will and choice of each human mind.

Only man, of all Yahweh's physical creatures, has the seemingly miraculous ability to think, reason, plan and design, and come to conclusions based on acquired knowledge. Animals cannot comprehend the concepts of good and evil. They don't repent.

Have you ever wondered why? Have you ever thought about the vast difference between animal brain and human mind, and what could possibly account for it?

There is a great, uncrossable GULF between animal brain and human mind. The evolutionary theory assumes that humans are animals. But one thing evolution can never explain is the total difference between animal brain equipped with instinct, and the human mind with creative reasoning powers of intellect and devoid of instinct in the strict sense that animals possess it.

Some animals have physical brains as large or larger than man's brain, and with similar cerebral cortex complexity - but none has the powers of intellect, logic, self-consciousness and creativity.

The physical brain of a dolphin, whale or elephant is larger than the human brain, while a chimp's is slightly smaller. Qualitatively the difference between them and the human brain is very little - not enough

to remotely account for the vastly superior intelligence and output of the human brain. The gap between animal brain and human mind is incredibly vast!

When Yahweh moulded Adam out of the dust of the ground, he was made in the "likeness" - the outward form and shape - of Yahweh Himself *(Genesis 1:26)*. Yahweh did not make any of the other creatures to be a clay replica of Himself. This unique form and shape was given to man alone. This is because man was created with the potential to become a God!

Each animal was created with a brain suited for its particular animal kind. But animals do not have the potential of MIND and CHARACTER that Yahweh gave only to man. No animal was ever given the gift of mind power - ability to think, to reason, to make choices and decisions - as was man!

It is this very SPECIAL ATTRIBUTE OF MIND AND CHARACTER that separates men from animals!

Animals possess what we call instinct. Their brains are programmed, so to speak, by Yahweh with particular instinctive habit patterns in their feeding, nesting, migration and reproduction. Thus beavers build dams and birds build nests. These aptitudes are inherited - they are not the result of logical, cognitive or thinking processes.

For example, millions of birds flock south each year as winter approaches in the Northern Hemisphere. They don't stop to reason why, they don't ask themselves whether they should, they don't plan ahead an itinerary for the trip. At a given internal signal - like the preset alarm of a clock - they leave their summer feeding grounds in the north and travel hundreds, sometimes thousands of miles south. Scientists don't fully understand why - they merely observe the operation of the animal instinct.

Each species or kind of bird builds a different type of nest, feeds on specific kinds of foods, and migrates at different times to various destinations. But none of these actions is planned in advance by the birds as humans would. Birds merely have the capability and proclivity to do that which Almighty Yahweh

built into the instinct of each at creation.

But man's mind is vastly different from animal instinct. Man is able to devise various ways to do any one thing or to achieve a predetermined goal. Man can acquire knowledge and reason from it. He can draw conclusions, make decisions, will act according to a thought-out plan.

Man can design and build different types of houses, using different designs and different building materials. Some houses are built of wood, some of brick or stone, and some people living near the North Pole even live in ice houses called igloos. Humans also eat different foods, prepared in many different ways. We may live entirely different life-styles from one another. And if a man wants to change his way of life - he can! Man is not subject to instinct. He is not governed by a set of predetermined habit patterns as animals are.

Man can choose - he has free moral agency. He can devise codes of conduct and exercise self-discipline. Man can originate ideas and evaluate knowledge because he has a MIND that is patterned after Yahweh's own mind! Man can devise, plan and bring his plans to fruition because he has been given some of the very creative powers of Yahweh!

Man alone can wonder, "Why was I born? What is life? What is death? Is there a purpose in human existence?" Man, unlike the animals, not only "knows" how to do certain things, but he also KNOWS that he knows - that is, he is aware that he has knowledge. He is conscious of the fact. He is self-conscious, aware of his own existence as a unique being.

These attributes of mind and character make man Yahweh's UNIQUE physical creation. Yahweh has shared some of His own qualities with man. And Yahweh expects man to develop and become conformed to the spiritual "image" of Yahweh's perfect mind and holy character *(Matthew 5:48)* - just as man now is formed in the physical "image" of Yahweh.

Man was created to have a special relationship with Yahweh that animals are utterly unable to have. Man was made in the likeness of the God kind. He was made in Yahweh's image so that he might one day be born into Yahweh's divine family!

Yahweh's purpose in making mortal man after His own likeness demanded mind power in man patterned after Yahweh's own mind. That is why the most remarkable thing about man is his mind.

What is it then that separates humankind from the animal kingdom? What gives man this God-plane power of intellect? It all boils down to a non-physical component in the human brain that does not exist in animal brain. It is this non-physical component that makes man so vastly different from animals. It is what makes man truly UNIQUE!

Man does not have an immortal soul within him that enables him to live on apart from his body after death (remember man is a mortal soul). But the Bible nevertheless does speak of a "Spirit IN Man" *(Job 32:8, 18; Zechariah 12:1; 1 Corinthians 2:11).*

Many passages of Scripture show that there is a "spirit" IN man! This spirit is not the man - it is something that is IN the man, joined with the physical brain providing its unique powers of intellect and personality - the ability to think rationally and make free will decisions. It imparts the ability to learn mathematics, languages or other types of knowledge such as music, art, carpentry, and flying.

But that's all. The spirit that is IN man has no consciousness of itself. It is not an "immortal soul". This spirit is not the "man", nor is it "alive", or possess any "life" of its own.

The spirit that is IN man can be called "human" spirit, for it is in each human, even though it is spirit essence and not matter. It is not a "ghost", spirit being, or His Holy Spirit. It is not the man, but spirit essence IN the man. It is NOT a soul - the physical human is a soul.

The human spirit does not supply human life - the human life is in the physical blood, oxidized by the breath of life *(Leviticus 17:11).* But the spirit in man does impart the power of intellect to the human brain. This non-physical component in the human brain is spirit essence, just as in the material world air is a gaseous essence. This "human" spirit cannot see. The physical brain sees through the eyes.

This human spirit cannot think. The brain thinks - although the spirit imparts the power to think far above the level of brute animals' brain function. Without such spirit animals cannot do original thinking.

Whatever knowledge enters the brain through the five senses is instantly stored (memorized) in the "human" spirit within the man or woman, much like a computer stores information. It enables the brain to have instant recall of stored-up knowledge in the spirit, thus enabling the brain to utilize bits of related knowledge in the process of THINKING and REASONING.

The human spirit imparts the power of intellect to the physical brain in two ways: 1) it gives the brain instant recall of whatever the brain calls for in the knowledge stored in this memory; 2) it supplies the brain whatever energy is needed to cause it to think - that is, to put the pieces of information stored in the spirit together in the process we call "thinking," "reasoning" and "drawing conclusions". The human spirit also is the means Yahweh has instilled to make possible a personal relationship between human MAN and divine Yahweh.

The truth about the "spirit in man" is so important that Satan, the arch deceiver, twisted and perverted it long ago. He clouded the minds of men and led them into believing his "big lie" as far back in time as the first human beings in the garden of Eden.

Here was the origin of the "immortality of the soul" teaching so prevalent today! Satan told the first woman she would "not surely die" *(Genesis 3:4)*. In other words, she had an "immortal soul" that would live forever. Eve believed this lie. And most of the world today continues to believe some variation of that ancient "big lie"!

Man has the intellectual capacity to design space ships to take him to the moon and back, to invent the computer and to do other marvellous exploits in the physical, material realm. Yet during man's nearly 6,000 years on earth, he has proved that he cannot solve his problems with fellowman.

Why has this been so? Because man's real problems are spiritual in nature and the natural man simply cannot solve spiritual problems. In producing the computer or in flying to the moon, he is dealing with physical matter that he can understand because of the human spirit within him. But he cannot solve problems with fellow humans because this involves knowledge and understanding of spiritual principles, which he cannot comprehend without the addition of another spiritual element to his mind!

Man was made to need another spirit - the Holy Spirit of Yahweh! Just as a human could not know the things of human knowledge except by the human spirit within him, so he cannot know the things of Yahweh - spiritual knowledge - except by the addition of the Spirit of Yahweh *(1 Corinthians 2:9-11, 14)*.

Just as surely as no animal brain - such as a cow's, for example - can comprehend or understand human affairs without the human spirit, so no human mind can have comprehension of spiritual truths on the divine plane without His Holy Spirit!

Even the greatest scientific and philosophical minds simply cannot come to know and understand SPIRITUAL truths with their natural minds. Spiritual truths are "foolishness" to them. The natural man, with human spirit is limited to material knowledge.

Spiritual things cannot be seen with the eye, heard with the ear, felt with the hands, tasted or smelled. The human mind which can receive knowledge only through the physical senses, can never really comprehend spiritual concepts and principles without the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. A man or woman can come to know that which is spiritual only through Yahweh's Holy Spirit, which works with the human spirit in the mind. That is the only way the human mind can receive and comprehend the knowledge of and attain Yahweh's GREAT PURPOSE for man's existence!

Man was created incomplete. He was made to need another spirit - the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. How can one receive His Holy Spirit? Through the Messiah, the second Adam, we can receive Yahweh's gift of His Holy Spirit. Upon repentance and faith in Yah'shua the Messiah, whose death paid the penalty for sin in our stead, we may be reconciled to Yahweh and receive the Holy Spirit of Yahweh, which is added to our human spirit *(Acts 2:38; John 7:38-39).* Thus we become the begotten children of Yahweh *(1 Peter 1:3; Romans 8:14-17).*

The human spirit in man and the Holy Spirit of Yahweh join to make a begotten child of Yahweh, just as the male sperm cell and the female ovum or egg cell join to make a begotten human, but not yet developed or ready to be born as a human being.

Yahweh's Holy Spirit, when it combines with the human spirit in the human mind, does two things: 1) it begets the human with divine, eternal life later to be born into the Yahweh family as a divine being, then composed wholly of spirit; 2) it imparts to the mind the ability to comprehend spiritual knowledge - to understand the things of Yahweh.

The first human beings were freely offered this second and much-needed Spirit. Of the two symbolic trees in the garden in Eden, the "tree of life" represented Yahweh's Holy Spirit. To have taken the fruit of that tree would have been to receive Yahweh's Holy Spirit, which would have joined with their human spirits, impregnating them as begotten *(not yet born)* children of Yahweh.

But by taking of the fruit of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil", our first parents rejected Yahweh's Spirit, which would have begotten the very life of Yahweh in them and would have enabled them to understand revealed spiritual knowledge. Thus they cut themselves and their descendants off from access to Yahweh's Spirit. They limited themselves and the human race to material knowledge and

understanding *(Genesis 3:22-24)*, except for those whom Yahweh would specially call *(John 6:44)* and give His Spirit.

The Spirit-begotten Israelite now has, conditionally, the presence of eternal life within him *(or her)* through a portion of His Holy Spirit from the Father. But this does not mean he is an immortal spirit being. He is not yet composed of Yahweh's Spirit. He is now an "heir" of Yahweh *(Romans 8:16-17)* - not yet an inheritor or a possessor, not yet "born again". But, if His Holy Spirit dwells in us, Yahweh will at the Messiah's return to earth as King of kings, give us immortality by His Spirit that dwells in us *(Romans 8:11).*

Now just as in human reproduction the impregnated embryo, which later becomes a fetes, is not yet born, but must be nourished for a period of time through the human mother, so the begotten Israelite is not yet born into the Yahweh family. The divine life has merely been begotten. It must now grow!

Included in Yahweh's purpose for creating man is the development of righteous, spiritual character within him. Notice again what Yahweh said in Genesis 1:26: "Let us make man in our image..." The original Hebrew here indicates far more than merely the form and shape of Yahweh - His outward likeness. "Image" also refers to mind and character! Yahweh intended for man - to whom He gave the gift of a thinking, reasoning mind - to ultimately have the very mind and character of Yahweh!

Yahweh's purpose in creating man is to reproduce Himself with the perfect spiritual character only Yahweh possesses. Man was therefore created in Yahweh's own image and likeness, His own form and shape with a mind similar to His, so Yahweh could begin to develop the very character of Yahweh in him.

Just as the human body and brain gradually begin to form during the gestation period in human reproduction, the righteous and holy character of Yahweh must begin to form and grow once one is begotten by Yahweh's Spirit *(2 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 2:1-2)*.

Obviously, one cannot become absolutely perfect in character until the resurrection, when Yahweh will complete the process by giving each begotten human a new, perfect spirit body with perfect, sinless nature *(1 John 3:2,9),* that will be like the Messiah's and the Father's. But in the meantime, Yahweh wants His Spirit-begotten children to grow in this spiritual character daily by obeying His commandments and overcoming and rooting sin out of their lives - growing toward that spiritual perfection!

Such perfect, holy and righteous character cannot be created by fiat. It must be developed, and that requires time and experience. Yahweh gives mortal man time in which to learn that only Yahweh's way of life brings real peace, happiness and a joyful, abundant life. Men will have learned that sin causes only heartache, misery, suffering and death. Those whom Yahweh calls will have seen the results of Satan's way of life and rejected it, and will have been developing, with the help of Yahweh's Spirit, Yahweh's own holy, righteous character until their change to sinless immortal life!

We become spiritual "embryos" when, upon receipt of His Holy Spirit, we are begotten of Yahweh. And to grow spiritually, we must take in spiritual nourishment. Just as the embryo in a mother's womb must be nourished with life-giving food through the placenta, so we must be nourished by the Word of Yahweh. "The words that I speak unto you," said Yah'shua, "they are spirit, and they are life" *(John 6:63).* Those words are recorded in the Bible - and Yah'shua said we are to live by every word of Yahweh (Matthew 4:4). We drink in these life-giving words from the Bible through reading, studying and meditating (thinking) on what we read.

Spiritual character development requires time and comes largely by experience - by putting the Word of Yahweh into practice in our daily lives. One builds the righteous character of Yahweh as one comes to discern, through Yahweh's revelation in the Holy Bible, right from wrong - the true values from the false - truth from error, then chooses the right and rejects the wrong and, with the help of Yahweh's Holy Spirit, resists the wrong and DOES the right.

This growing in spiritual knowledge and spiritual character is a gradual process that continues the rest of one's life. In addition to Bible study, earnest prayer is absolutely necessary. You absorb spiritual nourishment through personal, daily contact with Yahweh. When you study the Bible, Yahweh is talking to you. When you pray, you are talking to Him. You get to really know Yahweh in this manner, just as you become better acquainted with people by conversation.

Yahweh's "elect" - His chosen ones, are the spiritual "mother" of all who have been begotten by Yahweh's Holy Spirit. Yahweh has set his called and chosen "elect" in the Congregation to "feed the flock" so the individual members may grow spiritually *(Acts 20:28).*

The Messiah has given His "elect" the responsibility to SHARE REVEALED UNDERSTANDING with the rest of the members of the FAMILY OF Yahweh - the Congregation, which is all of spiritual Israel *(Ephesians 4:11-15).* So just as a human mother feeds her begotten child within her womb through the placenta and umbilical cord, Yahweh's children are nourished with spiritual food from Yahweh's Word, with the help of His elect.

And as the human mother carries her unborn baby in that part of her body where she can protect it from physical harm, the function of Yahweh's elect is also to protect the begotten children of Yahweh from spiritual harm - the false doctrines of false ministers who appear as the Messiah's representatives, but who actually represent Satan and his way *(2 Corinthians 11:13-15).*

Finally, when resurrected from the dead or changed from mortal flesh to immortal Spirit at the Messiah's return, the incredible human potential will have blossomed into reality for those who were called by Yahweh and begotten by His Holy Spirit. We will have been BORN into the divine family of Yahweh possessing the fullness of the very character of Yahweh!

Now we see clearly the great purpose the Creator Yahweh had in making man UNIQUE among all His physical creations. Mortal man has within his reach the glorious reality of attaining to the resurrection of the dead, and receiving immortality - forever being a part of the universe-ruling family of Yahweh.

The idea of an "immortal soul" long predates the founding of today's major religions. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus *(5th century B.C.)* tells us in his History that the ancient Egyptians were the first to teach that the soul of man is separable from the body, and immortal. This Egyptian idea existed centuries before Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity or Islam came onto the scene.

But what of the professing Christian world? Certainly here we should find the doctrine of an immortal soul independent of any Egyptian or Greek influence? Now consider this fact: Many of the early theologians and scholars of the professing Christian religion - including such men as Origen, Tertullian and Augustine - were closely associated with Platonism. Tertullian *(A.D. 155-220),* for example, wrote: "For some things are known even by nature: the immortality of the soul, for instance, is held by many...I may use, therefore, the opinion of Plato, when he declares: `Every soul is immortal'" *(The Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. III).*

Notice, it is the opinion of Plato that is cited! Augustine of Hippo *(A.D. 354-430)* - held to be the greatest thinker of Christian antiquity - also taught the immaterial and spiritual nature of the human soul. But notice the source of his teachings. The Encyclopaedia Britannica admits: "He *(Augustine)* fused the religion of the New Covenant with the Platonic tradition of Greek philosophy".

Why should those early professing Christian scholars have resorted to the opinions of a pagan Greek philosopher? Could it be that the immortal soul doctrine is not clearly supported in Israelite Scripture? The deep-seated teachings of centuries were not to be easily dislodged, even by Protestant reformers. Theologians and churchgoers alike persisted, for the most part, in their unquestioning embrace of the ideas passed down from the ancient pagan philosophers. As the Encyclopaedia Britannica summarizes: "Traditional Western Philosophy, starting with the ancient Greeks...shaped the basic Western concepts of the soul".

Notice the warning of the apostle Paul, who once personally confronted Greek thinkers on Mars' Hill in ancient Athens *(Acts 17:15-34)*. To the Greeks in Colosse in Asia Minor he wrote: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after the Messiah" *(Colossians 2:8).*

So what does the Bible really say? Yah'shua the Messiah, in fact, declared that Yahweh is able to destroy one's soul *(Greek psuche, or life)* in Gehenna fire *(Matthew 10:28).* The words immortal soul are found nowhere in the Bible - Old Covenant or New. The word immortal occurs only once in the entire Bible in 1 Timothy 1:17, where it refers specifically to Yah'shua the Messiah!

The word immortality is found only in the New Covenant, where it occurs fewer than half a dozen times. One of those places - 1 Timothy 6:16 - clearly states that, of all humans, Yah'shua the Messiah "ONLY hath immortality"! Romans 2:7 admonishes Israelites to "SEEK FOR...immortality". If man already had immortality, he would not have to seek for it!

1 Corinthians 15, the "resurrection chapter" of the Bible, shows that a Israelite "puts on" immortality at a future resurrection of the dead *(see verses 50-54)*. As Yah'shua clearly stated: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of His Holy Spirit is spirit" *(John 3:6).* Man - born of the flesh - is flesh. He was not created with inherent immortality. He has only a temporary physico-chemical existence. "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return", Yahweh told Adam *(Genesis 3:19).*

Only when mortal man is "born again" in a future resurrection will he finally put on immortality and be spirit! Why would a resurrection of the body be needed if the soul were already in heaven? The soul does not go to heaven! The mortal soul - man's physical life - dies and turns to dust.

The New Covenant then, teaches the resurrection - a rising from the dead - in direct opposition to the pagan Greek idea of an immortal soul. The resurrection is our only hope of eternal life!

Yah'shua the Messiah's resurrection was a type or forerunner of the resurrection Yahweh promises to all who obey Him *(John 5:28-29; 11:25; Romans 8:11; Philippians 3:10-11)*. Man has no hope of future life inherent within himself!

← Return to the Articles Index