

1. A living soul

- a) While God formed other living creatures like birds, fish, and animals, what was unique about the creation of the human family? Genesis 1:26-27
- b) Genesis 2:7 How did the LORD create a living human soul?
- c) Why is it important to understand that human beings are living souls rather than possess souls that can exist apart from a body? (Acts 27:37 KJV, NKJV)

2. Mortal souls

- a) What important truth can we learn about the human soul from the word of the LORD recorded by the prophet Ezekiel? Ezekiel 18:4,20
- b) What additional insight about our mortal souls can we learn from Solomon? Ecclesiastes 3:19-20
- c) Is it possible to possess eternal life now and still be mortal, subject to death? John 6:40
- d) Why is the resurrection from the dead when Jesus returns in glory so important for mortals who have been redeemed by faith in Jesus as their Savior? 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

3. The breath given by God and returning to God

- a) Genesis 2:7 What happened when the breath of God entered the lifeless form of Adam?

- b) How is death an undoing of creation? Ecclesiastes 12:6-7, Psalm 104:29
- c) While we have hope in a resurrection from the dead through faith in Jesus, why is losing someone in death such a painful experience?
- d) Why is it healthy to grieve with hope when a loved one dies? (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- e) How can we grieve with hope even if we are not certain about the final destiny of a loved one who has fallen asleep in death?
- f) Why are the following prophecies such an encouragement for our lives today? 1 Corinthians 15:26, Revelation 20:14-15

4. The sleep of death

- a) What word did Jesus use to describe death? John 11:11-14
- b) Why does the apostle Paul emphasize the importance of not being ignorant regarding those who have fallen asleep? 1 Thessalonians 4:13
- c) According to the Scriptures, what is the human condition in the sleep of death? Psalm 146:4, Ecclesiastes 9:5,10, Psalm 115:17, Job 3:11-13
- d) Share a time when you lost a loved one in death. What comfort did you find in knowing the truth about death from the Scriptures?

