

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Jehovah's witnesses' false testimony of man's nature

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The Jehovah's Witnesses pervert the Scriptures in a subtle way. They will note how a term is used in one passage, and then disregard other meanings of the same word in other contexts. This error is evident in their teachings about the nature of man.

One belief of the Jehovah's Witnesses is that man is a combination of two things: the dust of the ground, and the breath of life. This combination produces a living soul, or a man. They use Genesis 2:7 to establish these points: “And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” The Jehovah's Witness will reason from this passage that man does not have a soul distinguished from the body of dust and the breath of life.

While Genesis 2:7 is emphasizing that man became a living person with the breath of life; and that the combination of the dust of the ground and breath of life is shared by animals (Genesis 7:15), it is error to conclude that this is the total makeup of man. Why? Because the word “soul” is used in other ways in presenting

the full picture of man's nature. “Soul” in both the Old Testament and the New Testament refers also to the “inner man” that is distinguished from dust and breath.

God said He would punish His people because “their soul abhorred my statutes” (Leviticus 26:43). Job despondently says, “My soul is weary of life; I will give free course to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul” (Job 10:1). The word “soul” here is emphasizing the part of man that reasons and mentally reacts to life. It is distinguished from life.

In the New Testament, the word “soul” is also distinguished from the body and mere animal life. In coming to Christ for forgiveness, “ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matthew 11:29). Was He promising you easier “breathing” in a relaxed “body of dust”? No. He is saying your inward man, the soul, shall find rest from the burden of sin.

Jesus encouraged his disciples: “and be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him who able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

Man can kill the body, but in doing so, is unable to kill the soul. Jesus clearly presents the soul of man as more than the combination of body and the breath of life. The soul of man continues even though the body ceases to function and breath has gone.

Jesus' soul was distinguished from His body. David had prophesied, “...Because thou wilt not leave my soul unto Hades, Neither wilt thou give thy Holy One to see corruption” (Psalm 16:10). Peter applying this to Christ says, “he foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption” (Acts 2:31). How can the soul cease to exist, as the Jehovah's Witnesses claim occurs at death, if Jesus' soul was in Hades? The Holy Spirit connects “He” with “soul”. The soul of man has personality, and distinguished from the flesh and mere animal life.

Dear “Jehovah Witnesses”, present the whole counsel of God concerning man's nature (cf. Acts 20:27), instead of applying ONLY a partial truth, disregarding the total picture presented by the Spirit of truth.