

WHAT ABOUT MAN?



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What About Man?

There are some opposing concepts
In this world concerning “man”:
What’s the nature of his being?
What does his existence span?
All the answers to these questions
In the Bible are made clear;
But by some they are perverted—
Dark’ning souls we love so dear.

Some say, “Man is but a mortal.
Only flesh and blood is he,
And besides the breath God giveth,
He is simply what you see.”
Others say that, “Man is mortal.”
And that, “Man is spirit, too.”
That, “The law that governs spirits
Governs men like me and you.”
While the other says, “The ‘spirit’
Is the mind, the life, or breath;
Its existence is extinguished
At the moment of man’s death.”
But the other says, “The ‘spirit’
Is a conscious entity;
That it has an actual being
Though from flesh it is set free.”

Which of these opposing concepts
Does God’s Word in truth uphold?
It’s important that we search it
E’er our thinking we shall mold.

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Let us not be narrow-minded,
Or refuse a different thought;
In this way the Lord can lead us—
Greater knowledge can be brought.
It is true that both these doctrines
Use the Bible as their guide,
And when they are contradicted
To their part they run to hide.
But God's Word—we must divide it—
Rightly understand each part;
With the blessed Holy Spirit
Bearing witness in our heart.

It is not enough to follow
Just the teachings of a man,
Although man God truly uses
To unveil to us His plan.
So I say, "Come, let us reason,
Selfish prejudice disown;
Pray and search it out together
'Til the truth is fully known."
If you now will here permit me,
I'll present to you my views;
And when I am fully finished
I'll hear yours, if you so choose.

If you say this mortal body
Wholly constitutes a man;
That its death blots out its being
'Til God brings it back again:
Why does God not raise the cattle?
They should be of equal worth,
Seeing that their mortal bodies
Just as ours are made of earth.
Or, why is it that God so loves us,
And has made a special plan?

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Should the dogs not be included,
 Since they are a friend of man?
Did you ever stop and think of
 What affects the human race?
God, the angels, and the devils—
 All these “spirits” we must face.

Isn't it strange that all these “spirits”
 Such an interest show in men,
While they seldom seem to bother:
 The elephant, giraffe, or hen?
If it is the size that matters,
 Some of these should be foremost
In the thoughts of God, our Father,
 Here among the living host.
Ah, NO! It is not our fleshly form
 That draws such interest from above,
Not because we're any smarter
 Than a brute we know God's love.

It's because that we're part “spirit”
 That these “spirits” come our way,
Seeking fellowship and entrance
 With our “spirits” if they may.
Since each man is half-way spirit,
 Great attention is on him,
And his destiny affected
 By the pow'rs of spiritual realm.
Two great powers are in conflict
 Over man esteemed so dear,
But if man were not part spirit
 Neither of these pow'rs would care!
For if man had not a spirit,
 There could naught in common be
With a distinct moral nature
 Of a spiritual entity.

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STOP NOW! PONDER THIS THOUGHT
DEEPLY!

Do not hasten it on by.
If the depths we can but comprehend
It will bring the answer nigh!

If we humans were not spirit,
How then could we ever be
Fashioned in, and bear the image
Of the holy Deity?
For our God—"He is a spirit" (John 4:24)
Having no corporeal form
(Psa. 139:7, 8; Isa. 57:15)
Though His pow'rs He oft portrays to
Us in words like "hand" or "arm".
(Psa. 89:13; 139:10)
But He can't be justly likened
Unto earthen, mortal sod.
Thus our **flesh** is not the image
Of the omnipresent God!
If we, therefore, bear His likeness
Who takes in eternity (Gen. 1:26, 27)
It remains that we must bear it
In what we are spiritually!
(Gen. 2:7; Zech. 12:1)

Yes, a man is more than mortal,
He is more than what you see—
Deep within his inner bosom
He's a spiritual entity.
It's a fact, dear friend; let's face it,
View reality and know;
That we're esteemed above the cattle
Just because we have a "soul."
God, the Maker of our spirits,
Has a spirit put in man; (Zech. 12:1)

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Through this avenue we know Him
And His will we understand. (Job. 32:8)
Yea, God makes a clear distinction
‘Twi’x life of man and that of beast—
One goes up, the other downward
When from clay it is released. (Eccl. 3:21)
Though we see there is no difference
In this fleshly, mortal part; (Eccl. 3:18-20)
Yet, the thing that makes the difference
Is the “hidden man”—the heart.
(Psa. 22:26; 1 Pet. 3:4)
When the beast expires to perish
To the ground it goes to stay;
When the human bodies perish
Human spirits fly away.
(Psa. 90:10; Eccl. 12:7)
While our mortal thoughts do perish (Psa. 146:4)
(We “know not” in grave’s cold bed)
(Eccl. 9:5-10)
Hopes and joys our spirits cherish;
They’re not quenched, nor are they dead.
When we’re absent from the body
We are present with the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:8)
This is not a Catholic fable—
But is taught in God’s own Word.
Yea, an “inward man” lives in us,
Deep within our house of clay;
Though our “outward man” may perish
He’s renewed from day to day. (2 Cor. 4:16)
And while everything is temporal
That our mortal eyes can see,
The things that are invisible,
Shall last eternally. (2 Cor. 4:18).

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In another place Paul tells us
His desire was to depart,
And to go and be with Jesus,
The sweet treasure of his heart. (Phil. 1:23)
Yet, to abide, he said, was needful, (Phil. 1:24)
In the flesh with all its pain,
That he might yield fruit for Jesus;
Though to die would be a gain. (Phil. 1:21, 22)

And then Peter said that he
Within a tabernacle dwelt; (2 Pet. 1:13)
This is what he called his body—
How he evidently felt.
And that he must shortly leave it,
By the Lord he had been shown. (2 Pet. 1:14)
How this Scripture goes along with
What the Psalmist has made known!—
David says our days are numbered—
Like a tale they soon pass by,
They are soon cut off, and vanish,
Then from earth away we fly. (Psa. 90:9, 10)

And we find in Second Corinthians,
Where Paul speaks (it is no lie)
Of a man borne to Paradise (2 Cor. 12:4)
Who had heard grand things on high.
Here, perhaps Paul speaks especially
Of experience he had had;
When for preaching Christ at Lystra
He was stoned, drawn out for dead.
(Acts 14:19, 20)

And he said he could not tell if
In the body or if out,
But that he'd seen heav'nly visions
He was sure and had no doubt.
(2 Cor. 12:1-4)

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Notice here his tone of language:

“In the body or if out.”

Do we hear materialists

Dare such things to talk about?

Surely Paul believed distinctly

Different than “soul sleepers” say!

He believed when death o’ertakes us

Then our souls must fly away

To the realms of bliss eternal,

Dwelling in celestial light,

Or to everlasting darkness,

Bound in chains of endless night.

(Jude 6, 2 Pet. 2:4, 9)

Where, while these old “tabernacles”

Sleep within the dusty ground,

We must have a conscious state, while

Waiting the last trump to sound.

(1 Cor. 15:50-52)

Now, moreover, I have found that-

Jesus Christ believes this, too;

For He tells of one named Lazarus

Who expired and then he flew. (Luke 16:22)

He was carried by the angels

To the breast of Abraham,

To the paradise of God,

To the presence of the “I Am.”

And, though some may not believe it,

A rich man expired also;

And, according to the Saviour

Straight to hell he then did go. (Luke 16:22, 23)

And he cried aloud for mercy,

Saying, Father Abraham,

Send now Lazarus with some water,

For to cool my burning tongue.” (Luke 16:24)

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And He answered him and said that,
 “There is here a great gulf fixed,
So that they who here would pass
 May find no passage betwixt.” (Luke 16:26)
And he said, “Oh, please send Lazarus,
 I’m tormented in this flame;
Let him go and tell my brethren
 That they come not where I came.”(Luke 16:28)
“They have Moses and the prophets,”
 Was the answer he received,
“Let them hear what they have written,
 And what they have said believe. (Luke 16:29)
If they will not read their writings,
 And believe what they have said,
Neither would they yet believe them
 Though one rose up from the dead.”
 (Luke 16:31)
And in this, our generation
 We have found it to be so:
People simply won’t believe it
 ‘Til they pass away and **know**.

Next we note when Christ was dying.
 By His side there hung two thieves.
While the one on Him was railing,
 One in faith on Him believed. (Luke 23:39-41)
Then, as he was there expiring,
 “Lord, remember me,” he cried.
“Thou shall be with me in paradise,
 TODAY,” the Lord replied. (Luke 23:43)
And as Jesus hung there, dying,
 ‘Mid the sneering, scoffing host,
He cried, “Father, take my spirit,”
 And He then “gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23:46)

WHAT ABOUT MAN?

So, as Jesus left His body,
Off to paradise He flew;
Where He rested 'til the third day,
Then came back to rise anew.

So it is with every Christian
When He comes to pass away,
That he leaves his earthen temple
'Til the final Judgment Day.
We shall then be resurrected
In the twinkling of an eye,
And these bodies we have lived in
Shall arise—no more to die. (1 Cor. 15:52)
They'll be raised in incorruption
Like the angels who can't die, (Luke 20:36)
And 'twill be a spiritual body (1 Cor. 15:44)
Fitted for to live on high.
And the host of sainted spirits
Who have passed from earth away—
God will bring them all back with Him
On the final Judgment Day. (1 Thess. 3:13, 4:14)
Could He bring them all back “with Him”
As He's coming in the air,
If they're not already with Him
In His country over there?
He will come in clouds of glory
“With ten thousands of His own;” (Jude 14)
They'll receive immortal bodies,
No more death will then be known.
(Luke 20:35, 36)
Thus, the Lord will have completed
His redemptive work for man;
For to save both soul and body
Is the order of His plan.
(1 Pet. 1:9-10; Rom. 8:22, 23)

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So they come from two directions
 On the resurrection day;
With the Lord returns the spirit—
 From the ground returns the clay.
He's returning with the spirits
 Which had gone to Him at death;
 (Eccl. 12:7; 2 Cor. 5:8)
And, believe me, brother, sister,
 They are more than just a "breath."
As He rends the vaulted heavens
 With the mighty trumpet sound,
Then the "houses" they have lived in
 Shall awaken from the ground. (Dan. 12:2)
Not as the "old house" that crumbled
 Shall this shining mansion be, (Dan. 12:3)
But the soul's new habitation;
 From corruption ever free— (1 Cor. 15:54)
Likened to His glorious body—
 (1 John 3:2; Phil 3:21)
 The firstfruits of them that sleep,
 (1 Cor. 15:20-23)
Saints shall rise with shouts of triumph,
 While the wicked wail and weep.
Now behold our brother, Stephen
 As a martyr's death he dies:
"Now, Lord Jesus, take my spirit,"
 Are the words he also cries. (Acts 7:59)
Surely Stephen wasn't crying
 For reception of his "breath"!
How could he become so foolish
 In the hour of his death?
Would you suppose that Stephen
 Wanted Christ to take his "mind"?
Oh, you poor materialist preachers!
 How could you become so blind?

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Stephen saw the heavens opened,
And his blessed Saviour stand. (Acts 7:55)
Surely he received a welcome
That was glorious and grand!

When Paul was in Jerusalem
And was being there abused,
He spoke of the resurrection
Unto those by whom accused. (Acts 23:6)
Then there rose a controversy—
Pharisees 'gainst Saducees:
“In this man we find no evil,”
Cried the sect of Pharisees. (Acts 23:9)
For the Pharisees believed in
Angels, spirits, and man's soul;
Also in the resurrection—
Thus believing in the whole.
But the Saducees believed not
In the words that Paul had said—
Not in angels, not in spirits,
Nor in rising from the dead. (Acts 23:8)
And some sects today, called “*Christian*”
Are like half-bred Saducees;
They confess a resurrection,
But, “No soul; no spirit, please!”
The saints in light, we also find,
Freely acknowledge both.
Their foundation for this doctrine
Is as sure as God's own oath.
Yes, the history of this doctrine
Is revealed before God's Son;
'Twas believed by Zechariah
As he states in twelve and one.

WHAT ABOUT MAN?

“Within man God forms a spirit,”
By the prophet we are told,
So we see this was believed by
The inspired writers of old. (Zech. 12:1)
And we find that Job makes mention
Of the “soul within a man;” (Job 14:22)
Inspiration from Almighty
Making him to understand. (Job 32:8)
And when Jacob’s wife, called Rachel,
In hard labor birth did give,
It was said “her soul departed,”
For she died, and did not live. (Gen. 35:16-18)

Thus do multitudes of Scriptures
This bear out emphatically.
If materialists can annul them
Then a God there must not be!
But God is, and just as surely,
You’re a living soul, my friend;
Which the Lord has made immortal
And shall never know an end.
It’s a fact; you can’t get by it,
Matters not how hard you try—
“No soulism” is refuted
By a God who cannot lie.
Yes, our Saviour plainly states it:
“We have a body and a soul.”
(Matt. 10:28; Luke 12:4, 5)
If this does not teach two-foldness,
I’m as blinded as a mole!
And He says, “Who kills the body,
He the soul yet cannot kill”;
This immortal human spirit
Doth each human bosom fill.

WHAT ABOUT MAN?

It is real and it is conscious;
 Inwardly I've proved it so,
For I feel God's Spirit witness
 With my spirit—thus I know. (Rom. 8:16)
Surely God does not bear witness
 With a "mind," or "breath," or "wind"!
But this is what materialists
 Say man's "spirit" is, my friend.
If the witness of God's Spirit,
 Was upon man's mental part;
Then he'd have a "head religion"—
 Nothing vital in the heart.
Thus, the "mind" is not that spirit
 Which receives life from above,
Neither is man's mind that part which
 Feels and proves God's wond'rous love.

Nay, man's spirit is a living,
 And an inward conscious thing:
And when touched by God's sweet Spirit,
 It an inward peace doth bring.
Yes, we feel the Lord bear witness
 With our spirits in our breast;
And embraced in His caresses
 Then our spirit sinks to rest.
But the spirit of the wicked
 Is just like the troubled sea; (Isa. 57:20-21)
Never resting, ever tossing
 Unto all eternity.
For it has the awful friendship
 Of Satan's fiendish host;
And it oft in terror trembles—
 Knowing it is doomed and lost.

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Oh, dear soul, if you'll surrender,
Put God's Word now to the test;
He will calm your troubled spirit
And His peace will fill your breast.
Then as heaven's blissful currents
In thy bosom chambers roll,
There will be no more a question
As to **what** and **where's** your soul.

The omnipotent Almighty
Will come in, Himself to share
In communion with thy spirit;
Rapt'rous bliss creating there.
Giving just a little foretaste
Of the bliss which is adored
By those "absent from the body,"
Who are "present with the Lord." (2 Cor. 5:8)

Yea, my spirit tastes the rapture
Of the Lord's redeeming love,
And in fellowship with angels,
Casts a longing eye above.
Whence foretasting joys immortal,
Oft it longs to fly away;
There, like Paul, to rest with Jesus
'Til the resurrection day.
When this earthly "house" we live in
Puts on immortality, (1 Cor. 15:54)
Being raised a brand new "mansion"
For the soul eternally.
Now we have the blessed "earnest
Of the Spirit" in our hearts, (2 Cor. 5:5)
And we drink the crystal river
Of life eternal He imparts.
(John 4:14; Rev. 22:17)

WHAT ABOUT MAN?

Yea, our “inner man”—our “spirit,”
He can actually taste and feel
As he feeds on heavenly manna
And his God who is so real.
This is what makes man so different
From the animals, you see;
There is something in his bosom
That imbibes eternity.
Oh, the “inner man” gets happy,
And how oft with joy he’s thrilled
By the touch of his Beloved
Who has all his longings filled.

Oft my soul has felt God’s presence
While at night I lay asleep.
This must mean the soul is conscious
Though the body slumbers deep.
Thus, the soul must needs not slumber
With the body when it dies,
But to wait the resurrection
Off to its own place it flies.

Surely this will be sufficient
To provoke an honest thought,
And I pray that as you search it
Greater knowledge will be brought.
For it is of great importance
And concerns our destiny;
What shall be our state forever
In the vast eternity.
Just as one of old has stated
Man must go to his “long home” (Eccl. 12:5-7)
When the silver cord is loosed, which
Binds him to this mortal dome.

Then shall dust return to earth

WHAT ABOUT MAN?

Then shall dust return to earth
 Until the resurrection day,
While the “inner man”—the “spirit”
 Hastens off to God away.

What a marvelous, wond’rous being
 Is the creature we call “man”.
Think of his unique two-foldness,
 Comprehend it if you can.
He was made a little lower
 Than the angels up on high, (Heb. 2:7)
He was made a little lower
 In that, half of him could die.

And we see God’s Son—immortal;
 Made a little lower, too,
Taking on a mortal body
 That could die like humans do.
But His never-dying Being
 Didn’t fade when His flesh died.
To paradise that day He went;
 And this He verified. (Luke 23:43)
When He raised the earthen temple
 Of His body up again, (John 2:19-22)
Made immortal like the angels—
 He was no more “lower” then. (Phil. 2:8-11)
So, you see, materialist,
 There’s a simple reason why
Human flesh is resurrected,
 Other beasts just simply die—
It’s because we’re more than “body.”
 We are half immortal “soul,”
Thus our flesh is resurrected,
 Simply to complete the whole.

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Just as sure as we are living,
 There's a HEAVEN and a HELL,
And in one of these two places,
 We forevermore shall dwell.
 (Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:10)
Think about it, soul immortal,
 You cannot afford to be
Wrong concerning that which God
 Has formed to last eternally.
Stand in awe before thy Maker,
 Let Him guide thy steps aright,
E'er thy hopes forever vanish
 In a dark eternal night.

—Harlan Sorrell

WHAT ABOUT MAN?

Dear Christian friends who hold the materialist views: If you can prove that man is not partly a spiritual being, then I will have full reason to doubt the existence of any spiritual beings, such as God, the devil, or angels. It is the fact that man is part spirit that gives him something in common with the spiritual world. Otherwise he has no more in common with God or heaven than any other creature in the animal kingdom. Being a little more enlightened than the Sadducees of old, you believe in the resurrection of the dead. Very well. **The very fact that man is more than a physical being is the reason for a resurrection of his physical being.** I humbly ask your careful and prayerful consideration of the Scriptures and thoughts brought forth in this poem.

—Harlan Sorrell

“If ought I have written you understand better,
Please pay me a visit or write me a letter.
I’ll humble myself as a child any time,
And let you instruct me from God’s Word sublime.
But come unto me with the real Bible candle;
All else God forbids me to touch, taste, or handle.”

