

# WHAT IS A 'SOUL'?

1. What is the Hebrew and Greek meaning for the word 'soul'?

[Hebrew number in Strong's concordance] **05315** [Hebrew word] **nephesh** [Strong's personal definition] properly, a breathing creature, i.e. animal of (abstractly) vitality; used very widely in a literal, accommodated or figurative sense (bodily or mental):-- [the other English words in the KJV translated from 'nephesh'] any, appetite, beast, body, breath, creature, dead(-ly), desire, (dis-)contented, fish, ghost, + greedy, he, heart(-y), (hath, jeopardy of) life ( in jeopardy), lust, man, me, mind, mortally, one, own, person, pleasure, (her-, him-, my-, thy-)self, them (your)-selves, + slay, soul, + tablet, they, thing, (she) will, would have it

Hebrew word \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning \_\_\_\_\_

[Greek number in Strong's concordance] **5590** [Greek word] **psuche**, from 5594; [Strong's personal definition] breath, i.e. (by implication) spirit, abstractly or concretely (the animal sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from 4151, which is the rational and immortal soul; and on the other from 2222, which is mere vitality, even of plants: these terms thus exactly correspond respectively to the Hebrew 5315, 7307 and 2416):-- [the other English words in the KJV translated from 'psuche'] heart (+ -ily), life, mind, soul, + us, + you.

Greek word \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is the phrase “**immortal soul**” ever found in the Bible? (check in a concordance, or enter a 'search' for 'immortal soul' in a computer Bible program) **Yes or No**

3. Take a look at the first time the word '**soul**' is used for a man in Genesis 2:7. Based on this verse, what is the composition of a soul? *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul <nephesh>.”*

3. (a) If you have a computer Bible program, look up the Strong's numbers above to see how else '**nephesh**' **05315** and '**psuche**' **5590** have been translated in the Bible ('nephesh' occurs in 683 verses, 'psuche' occurs in 91 verses). See what characteristics apply to a “soul”. For example: What is a soul? Who is a soul? Can a soul die? etc. (\*\*A selection of passages is given on the next 2 pages for those without a Bible program)

3. (b) List any passages that suggest a soul lives forever.

3. (c) List the best 3 passages that indicate a soul doesn't live forever.

4. If possible find a Church Catechism or Statement of Belief online and see what they say about the “soul”.

5. Why might someone want to believe a soul lives forever? \_\_\_\_\_

6 What Bible teachings become confusing if a soul is immortal?

7. Based on your research, write your own definition of “soul”. \_\_\_\_\_

O.T. PASSAGES with the Hebrew word 'nephesh' KJV	COMMENTS & DETAILS
<b>Genesis 1:21</b> And God created great whales, and every living <b>creature &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.	
<b>Genesis 1:24</b> And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living <b>creature &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.	
<b>Genesis 9:4-5</b> But flesh with the <b>life &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat and surely your blood of your <b>lives &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the <b>life &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> of man.	
<b>Genesis 35:18</b> And it came to pass, as her <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.	
<b>Exodus 4:19</b> And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy <b>life &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> .	
<b>Leviticus 5:2</b> Or if a <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcase of an unclean beast, or a carcase of unclean cattle, or the carcase of unclean creeping things, and if it be hidden from him; he also shall be unclean, and guilty.	
<b>Leviticus 17:14</b> For it is the <b>life&lt;nephesh&gt;</b> of all flesh; the blood of it is for the <b>life &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the <b>life &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.	
<b>Numbers 9:10</b> Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a <b>dead body &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> , or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD.	
<b>Deuteronomy 12:20</b> When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> , longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> , lusteth after.	
<b>Joshua 11:11</b> And they smote all the <b>souls &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> , that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them: there was not any left to breathe: and he burnt Hazor with fire.	
<b>1 Samuel 22:22</b> And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the <b>persons &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> of thy father's house.	
<b>Psalms 16:9-10</b> Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.	
<b>Psalms 22:29</b> All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> .	
<b>Psalms 97:10</b> Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the <b>souls &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> , of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.	
<b>Proverbs 12:10</b> ¶ A righteous man regardeth the <b>life &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.	
<b>Ezekiel 18:4</b> Behold, all <b>souls &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> are mine; as the <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> of the father, so also the <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> of the son is mine: the <b>soul &lt;nephesh&gt;</b> that sinneth, it shall die.	

N.T. PASSAGES with the Greek word 'psuche' KJV	COMMENTS & DETAILS
<b>Matthew 2:20</b> Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's <b>life &lt;psuche&gt;</b> .	
<b>Matthew 10:28</b> And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the <b>soul&lt;psuche&gt;</b> : but rather fear him which is able to destroy both <b>soul &lt;psuche&gt;</b> and body in hell.	
<b>Matthew 16:25-26</b> For whosoever will save his <b>life &lt;psuche&gt;</b> shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his <b>life &lt;psuche&gt;</b> for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul <b>&lt;psuche&gt;</b> ? or what shall a man give in exchange for his <b>soul &lt;psuche&gt;</b> ?	
<b>Matthew 20:28</b> Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his <b>life &lt;psuche&gt;</b> a ransom for many.	
<b>Luke 9:56</b> For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's <b>lives &lt;psuche&gt;</b> , but to save them. And they went to another village.	
<b>John 10:11</b> I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his <b>life &lt;psuche&gt;</b> for the sheep.	
<b>Acts 2:31</b> He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his <b>soul &lt;psuche&gt;</b> was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.	
<b>Acts 20:9-10</b> And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his <b>life &lt;psuche&gt;</b> is in him.	
<b>Acts 27:9-10</b> Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our <b>lives &lt;psuche&gt;</b> .	
<b>1 Corinthians 15:45</b> And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living <b>soul &lt;psuche&gt;</b> ; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.	
<b>1 Thessalonians 5:23</b> And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and <b>soul &lt;psuche&gt;</b> and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ	
<b>James 5:20</b> Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a <b>soul &lt;psuche&gt;</b> from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.	
<b>1 John 3:16</b> Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his <b>life &lt;psuche&gt;</b> for us: and we ought to lay down our <b>lives&lt;psuche&gt;</b> for the brethren.	
<b>Revelation 6:9-10</b> And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the <b>souls &lt;psuche&gt;</b> of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?	
<b>Revelation 8:9</b> And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had <b>life &lt;psuche&gt;</b> , died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.	
<b>Revelation 18:14</b> And the fruits that thy <b>soul &lt;psuche&gt;</b> lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.	
<b>Revelation 20:4</b> And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the <b>souls &lt;psuche&gt;</b> of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.	

