

Is There A Real Spirit World?

Part 5

Revelation 12:12 [NIV] *“Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because **the devil** has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he **knows that his time is short.**”*

We are living in the “*last days*” and Satan knows this, so his work to destroy humanity is becoming more intense.

Although Satan is powerful we have seen that he is always under God’s control, limiting what he is able to do.

One of the reasons God allows Satan to work his evil and bring temptation to humanity is so that those who pretend to be Christ’s followers, Christians, will be weeded out from Christ’s true believers.

Satan knowing that the last great confrontation with Jesus Christ is near, he is desperately trying to recruit as great a force as possible for this final battle.

Revelation 19:11-21 [NIV] *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called **Faithful and True**. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no-one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron sceptre.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. **On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.** And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in mid-air, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.” **Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.** But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulphur. The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”*

A horrific battle that ends with the start of the rule of Jesus Christ here on earth, as King of Kings.

How do we avoid being on the wrong side of this battle?

What can defend us from being deluded by Satan into joining his army that will be defeated?

Ephesians 6:16 [NIV] *“In addition to all this, take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”*

Faith.

Faith in the promises that we have by accepting Jesus Christ as our needed Saviour.

Faith is in the heart and human spirit and is worked out by the body in acts of love.

James 2:26 [NIV] *“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”*

Faith and works of love are combined to create this shield that will defend us from the attacks of Satan.

What can create holes in the protecting shield of faith?

Genesis 3:1-2 [NIV] *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, **“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’**” The woman said to the serpent, **“We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,”***

The serpent [Satan] tried, successfully in this case, to put doubt about what God had said into Eve’s mind.

Doubt creates a gaping hole in our defensive shield.

1 Peter 5:5-8 [NIV] *“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, **clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”** Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*

Pride was the reason for Satan’s downfall and pride can be our downfall.

Pride creates a gaping hole in our defensive shield.

What other things in this society can open up our mind to Satan’s influence?

One thing that comes under different names can weaken our defence against Satan’s attitude.

Channelling.

This is the one word that covers extensive psychic activities, such as astrology, hydromancy, necromancy and rhabomancy.

Channelling, contact with spirit beings other than God, is becoming a very popular phenomenon.

Why is channelling gaining so much interest?

Because it claims to be a personal ticket to a new and improved self, a mental evolutionary step into a new age!

In reality channelling is an ancient occult art.

Let’s examine a typical channel [one who practices channelling].

He or she gathers an audience, chants a few lines or in some meditative way puts their conscious mind into a neutral state that is receptive to a particular *“spirit guide”*.

The person channelling suddenly seems filled with an entirely different personality.

It is allegedly the invited spirit working in the individual.

The *“channel”* will engage in captivating dialogue with the audience. It may give personal messages to each listener, make a diagnosis of illness, or deliver eloquent *“wisdom”* and fantasy.

James 3:15 [NIV] *“Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.”*

Some “wisdom” is not from God but can be from Satan!

Many hypnosis sessions, meditative “higher consciousness” techniques and therapeutically assisted methods in the “human potential movement” may be considered a form of channelling.

The biggest danger of channelling is you come to believe that the messages are true.

You rely on them because they seem to come from a higher source, a personal contact with the gods.

Channelling, and those who heed their message, inevitably restructure their lives to conform to the messages brought from this “higher consciousness”.

This impressive sensation of channelling causes people to rely on it more and more, turning them inward, and causing them to be no longer in touch with reality or in control of themselves.

Most messages received are vague and the person who receives them shapes the knowledge in their own mind.

What about the channelers who teach that the spirits are people who have “passed over” to the next world after death?

Can we contact the dead through a channeler?

What truth does the Christian Bible tell us about those who have ended this physical life in death?

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 [NIV] *“For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun.”*

The dead do not have any influence on what happens to the living.

Psalms 146:4 [NIV] *“When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.”*

The spirit in humans returns to the safe keeping of God and the physical body returns to the dust.

Psalms 6:5 [NIV] *“No-one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from his grave?”*

The dead are unable to praise and worship God or have a relationship with Him.

Ecclesiastes 3:18-21 [NIV] *“I also thought, “As for men, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. Man’s fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; man has no advantage over the animal. Everything is meaningless. All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. Who knows if the spirit of man rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?”*

In our physical life we are like all animals with a life-giving spirit in us that comes from God and is given at our conception.

Psalms 104:24, 29-30 [NIV] *“How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” ... “When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.”*

When the human spirit leaves the physical body we die.

There is no way we can contact those who have died.

Anyone who tries to convince us otherwise is leading us astray, and deceiving us.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

Christians who die are referred to as being “asleep” and when we are asleep we have no action in the world that is around us.

1 Corinthians 15:12-23 [NIV] *“But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. **But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.”***

Only at Christ’s return will Christians that have died again have a part in what is happening on the earth, by a resurrection from the dead.

What about those who are not Christians?

What happens to them after death?

Revelation 20:11-13 [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. **And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.** Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”*

All people who have died not being Christians will also be resurrected back to physical life.

Note “standing” not laying in the grave.

Note also “books were opened” referring to the Christian Bible being opened to their understanding for the first time.

This is not the message Satan wants us to hear or understand and he will do anything he can to blind us to this truth.

When our faith is grounded on these truths as revealed in God’s Word, not the words of other created spirits, then our shield will be without holes that allow Satan to overcome us.