



Daily Verse and Comment

Genesis 3:1-4

(1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: (3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. (4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

King James Version

In the Garden of Eden, the serpent told Eve that she could disobey [God](#), and she would not die. Even as that initial deception of mankind concerned death, modern conceptions about death and the afterlife commonly contradict the Bible.

Most professing Christians believe in an [immortal soul](#) that lives on beyond death. They believe that if one professed [Christ](#) then his soul goes to heaven, but if the dearly-departed did not “get saved” before dying, then his soul goes to an ever-burning [hell](#) to be tortured for eternity. This belief, rooted in [Gnosticism](#) and even further back in Egyptian and Babylonian mystery religions, proclaims that death really is not death but just part of a mystical journey.

What the Bible teaches is different. The Bible shows that man does not *have* a soul, but that man *is* a soul. Man *has* a spirit, and *has* a body, but only when God breathed life into Adam did he become a living soul (*nephesh*; [Genesis 2:7](#), KJV).

Moreover, the Bible states clearly that the soul who sins will die ([Ezekiel 18:4](#), 20). It says that God alone has immortality ([1 Timothy 6:16](#)), unlike man who must seek it because he does not have it ([Romans 2:7](#)). Scripture asserts

that “the wages of [sin](#) is death” ([Romans 6:23](#)). Death is not a shedding of the body and a freeing of the soul, as is commonly held, but a complete cessation of existence.

— David C. Grabbe

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[What Is the Second Death?](#)

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[Soul that Sins Shall Die](#)

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