THE BIBLE OR PLATO?

We begin our study in this lesson with the creation of humanity as recorded in Gen. 2:7. The text contains three successive ideas. First, God composed the physical body from the dust of the ground (cf. Isa. 64:8). Next, He infused the breath of life into the nostrils of the lifeless body. Finally, when body and breath came together, Adam became a living soul. Thus, according to the creation account, God did not give Adam a soul, and Adam did not have a soul—Adam was a soul. The soul was not some pre-existent entity that God implanted in the body of Adam. The soul was Adam in his totality—physically, mentally, and spiritually. The soul is not a part of a person; it is the total person.

The words soul and spirit were common in the Greek world, and the same words appear frequently in the New Testament (NT). However, they do not necessarily carry the same meaning in the NT as they did in the Greek world. That is to say, we must not determine the meaning of these words by how Greek philosophers such as Plato and Socrates understood them, but rather by their cognate Hebrew words in the Old Testament (OT). When we study the doctrine of the state of the dead, the connotation and meaning of words matter. Therefore, in this lesson, we will study three OT Hebrew words and their cognate Greek words in the NT. The OT words are nephesh ("soul," “life,” “person”), ruach (“spirit”), and neshamah (“breath”), and their NT cognates are psyche (“soul,” “life,” “person”), pneuma (“spirit”), and pnoe (“breath”).
Read Genesis 2 from the translation of your choice. Write out Genesis 2:7. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Genesis 2. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

Why is an accurate understanding of these terms so important?

How does the larger culture today confuse these terms?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead02-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after reading Genesis 2? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How aware are you of the development of the physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions in daily life?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead02-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Ecclesiastes 12:7
Job 27:3; 33:4
Ezekiel 18:4
Acts 2:25–27, 31, 32
1 Kings 17:17, 21, 22
Matthew 16:26 with Luke 9:25
Acts 5:1–10

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Genesis 2:1–23?

Review your memorized verse from Genesis 2.
What is He saying to you through the texts of the week?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is Jesus saying to you about your career goals and professional trajectory?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Genesis 2 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/dead02-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are you convicted of personally?

What are other practical applications outside of your personal ones?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dead02-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

According to Isaiah 64:8, what is the body composed of (cf. Gen. 2:7)? Why cannot the body function independently of the “spirit” or “breath”?

How does a comparison of Matthew 10:28 and Luke 12:4, 5 help us understand the meaning of the word soul?

What are examples where we use the word soul as a synonym for a person?

The Bible teaches that animals are souls and have a spirit. What is the difference between animals and humans? (Hint: a refrigerator and a computer are both material objects and have a common power source, but they different).

How important is it to care for the physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions of human nature? What are the dangers of removing these dimensions to human identity?