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Telephone: 503 292 4352

• Internet: www.askelm.com •

Email: askoffice@askelm.com

Spirits Can Die

by David Sielaff, July 2020

Read the accompanying [Newsletter for July 2020](#)



To say “Spirits Can Die” is controversial and a seemingly foolish idea. That is due to a false idea that like “immortal” souls, good and evil spirits cannot die because they are not flesh and their spirits are “immortal.” To the contrary, created beings composed of spirit without human flesh can die. This article will show that some spirits will die for their sins (at God’s specific command), and other spirits might die. As you read this article remember, God **“only has immortality”** (1 Timothy 6:16). The fact that spirits can die also shows they also are not immortal.

Dr. Ernest Martin’s writings are useful resources, beginning with [“Chapter 15: Can Sinning Angels Be Saved?”](#) from Dr. Martin’s book, *The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*. His comprehensive double-sized 1997 article [“The Time Periods for the Resurrections”](#) will also be helpful in understanding your physical and spiritual future with God and Christ. Both writings have much to say about spirits dying.

Christ’s Spirit Died

Christ is our example, in both the spiritual and physical realms. God the Father created everything through His Son (John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:12–17; Hebrews 1:2), and Christ is **“the power of God, and the wisdom of God”** (1 Corinthians 1:24, and also verse 30; Proverbs 8:1, 22–30; Colossians 2:3). Christ had a beginning and He died in 30 AD.¹ He was made flesh (John 1:14) and He has flesh now: **“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones”** (Ephesians 5:30).

“And you ... now has he [Christ, verse 7] reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.”

• **Colossians 1:21–22**

“For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit.”

• **1 Peter 3:18**

¹ Christ, the Son of God was the firstborn of God’s creation of God, and the firstborn from the dead, Colossians 1:15, 18:

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature ...

And he is the head of the body, the church [ekklesia]: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

The translations below state that the spirit of Jesus was made alive after His spirit died. His spirit was not alive or conscious. No one can be alive and dead at the same time. There is no consciousness after death. The soul dissolves. The body returns to dust. The death of Jesus, through whom God accomplished all creation (John 1:3, Colossians 1:15–17) meant that He ceased to exist until His resurrection. Jesus was dead three days and three nights.

English Version	1 Peter 3:18 Translation	
English Standard Version	“put to death in the flesh but	made alive in the spirit”
King James Version	“put to death in the flesh, but	quickenened by the spirit”
New American Standard	“put to death in the flesh, but	made alive in the spirit”
New English Translation (NET)	“put to death in the flesh but by	being made alive in the spirit.”
Revised Standard Version	“put to death in the flesh but	made alive in the spirit;”
Rotherham Translation	“put to death, indeed, in flesh, but	made alive in spirit;”
Young’s Literal Translation	“put to death indeed, in the flesh, and having been	made alive in the spirit;”
Concordant Literal Translation	“being put to death, indeed, in flesh, yet	vivified in spirit;”

Jesus sacrificed His soul as said in Matthew 20:28; John 10:11, 15, 17, 15:13. In these verses most translations use the word “life” for the Greek word *psuche*, which means “soul.” If you correctly translate those verses as “soul,” then Jesus clearly stated several times that He intended to voluntarily sacrifice His “soul.” He knew His soul would die.

Jesus did not live again until His heavenly Father breathed the unique spirit of Jesus into His physical dead body, uniting spirit and body again. The same personality we know as Jesus became “**a living soul**” as the last Adam, somewhat comparable but immeasurably greater than the first Adam.

“And YHWH God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”
[Hebrew, *neshamah*, breath]

• **Genesis 2:7**

Until the moment God breathed His spirit back into Him, Jesus was dead. His body was not glorified until He went to heaven to appear before God, to sprinkle His own blood on the altar before His Father. This explains the brief encounter between Jesus and Mary Magdalene:

“Jesus said unto her, ‘Mary.’ She turned herself, and said unto him, ‘Rabboni’; which is to say, Master.’

Jesus said unto her, ‘Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but [you] go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.’”

• **John 20:16–17**

At the moment of His resurrection, Christ Jesus experienced life again. His physical body was healed but He did not yet have a glorified body. He experienced what you and I will experience after our death. When He ascended, He received “**a spiritual body**.” His body underwent what you eventually undergo when God glorifies you, as the apostle Paul explains:

“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, ‘The first man Adam was made a living soul’; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:44-45**

In 1 Peter 3:18 it says Jesus was “**quickenened by the spirit**.” Paul says Jesus Himself has “**a quickening spirit**” in 1 Corinthians 15:45. He has full power to “quicken” the spirit of many brethren when He returns to earth.

Eventually every human being will be **“quickened by the spirit”** personally by our elder brother Christ Jesus. He possesses **“a quickening spirit”** able to energize others to receive **“a spiritual body,”** a body just like His own. Paul continues to explain in First Corinthians:

“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:46-49**

Again, after Christ Jesus was **“quickened by the Spirit,”** He became **“a quickening spirit”** on our behalf to vivify, or to bring life to our dead spirits in our resurrection from the dead. Your quickened spirit will be put into a glorified body that Paul talks about. It will be a body that will **“bear the image of the heavenly”** body. In some translations it is expressed as an **“image of the celestial”** body.²

To sum up, Christ’s spirit died on the tree of crucifixion (1 Peter 2:24). Keep that in mind as we proceed.

The Human Spirit in Every Person

Every human being has a **“spirit of man”** within him or her. The individuality of our spirit is what makes each of us unique among the billions of human beings who lived since Adam. That **“spirit of man”** or the **“spirit in man”** has no consciousness in death and it separates from the body: **“Then shall [1] the dust [the body] return to the earth as it was: and [2] the spirit shall return unto God who gave it”** (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

This separation of the spirit from the body results in a dissolution of the soul which is a unity of body and spirit from our first **“breath of life”** (Genesis 2:7) until death. Our physical life, long or short, is an experience of the dying process. See my article, compiled from Dr. Martin’s research, **“The Pagan Immortal Soul and ‘Double Doctrine’.”**

“If the Spirit of him [God our Father] that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.”

• **Romans 8:11**

The phrase **“spirit of man”** is a unique spirit within each human being that makes you an individual. It unites with our body to make us individuals made by God to be different from each of the billions of human beings born from Adam. Job’s friend Elihu spoke of the spirit in man:

“But there is a spirit in man [Hebrew, *enosh*, mortal]: and the inspiration [Hebrew, *neshamah*, breath] of the Almighty gives them understanding.”

• **Job 32:8**

“The spirit of man [Hebrew, *enosh*, mortal] is the candle of YHWH, searching all the inward parts of the belly.”

• **Proverbs 20:27**

“Who knows the spirit of man [Hebrew, *adam*, human] that goes upward, and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?”

• **Ecclesiastes 3:21**

“The burden of the word of YHWH for Israel, says YHWH, which stretches forth the heavens, and lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man [Hebrew, *adam*, human] within him.”

• **Zechariah 12:1**

² This completes the creation of mankind begun with Adam. God intended to **“make man in our image, after our likeness”** (Genesis 1:26). See my August 2015 article, **“God and Demographics.”**

Note the important point God makes in Zechariah 12:1 about you as an individual, and how important you are to God. Read the verse again, and let the truth sink in. YHWH says His forming “**the spirit of man**” has an equal importance to stretching forth the heavens and laying the foundation of the earth.

“For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man [Greek, *anthropos*, human being] which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God.”

• **1 Corinthians 2:11**

Your Spirit Will Die — Your Spirit Will Be Resurrected

Like Christ Jesus, when you die you will cease to exist. James the half-brother of Jesus understood the relationship of body and spirit, “... **the body without the spirit is dead** ...” (James 2:26). At a time in the future,³ your spirit (being preserved by God) will be united quickly with a body to make your soul conscious.

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

• **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

For believers that physical body will become a glorious — and immortal — spiritual body:

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:52–53**

Again, Dr. Martin’s articles “[The Time Periods for Salvation, Part 1](#)” explains the sequence of times for all mankind to be saved and raised to glory. Then read “[The Time Periods for Salvation - Part 2](#).”

“Knowing that he [God] which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound [overflow greatly] to the glory of God.”

• **2 Corinthians 4:14–15**

I wrote in the past that “you are the object of creation.”⁴ This is similar to Paul saying, “**all things are for your sakes**. Yes, it is true that everything is about God’s will and God’s glory, as it should be, but nevertheless, you are the object of the totality of God’s plan of all creation. You will receive unbelievable blessing from God’s grace. God’s love for you is boundless (John 3:16–17).

In God’s salvation, every human being will be resurrected to glory eventually and “**we know that, when He [God’s Son] shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is**” (1 John 3:2). This will be the case when you are glorified by God and Christ. Christ’s “**quickening spirit**” (1 Corinthians 15:45), which He received from His Father, will be used to raise you to glory. Here is how that works:

“But you [a believer] are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

But if the Spirit of him [God] that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.”

• **Romans 8:9–11**

So, the spirit of Jesus died. Your spirit dies when you die and your soul dissolves. For the spirits of billions of people before and after you, each spirit dies when the person dies. Very few believers will be alive at the

³ Your death very likely will occur before Christ returns. See my June 2020 article “[End Times? Not Yet!](#)”

⁴ See my October 2019 Commentary, “[Your Role in the Creation of God](#).”

moment Christ returns (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

The Sons of God in the Old Testament Were Sentenced to Death

God created (through His Son) spirit beings in the Old Testament called Sons of God. They were not human beings. I analyze Psalm 82 in “[Idolatry and God’s Punishment](#).” Read it to learn who the Sons of God are in Psalm 82, and in Deuteronomy 32:8, Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7; and Psalm 89:6. Psalm 82 announces the deaths of the Sons of God.

The “Sons of God” bred children with the “**daughters of men**” [Hebrew, *adam*] in Genesis 6:2, producing evil and powerful sons (there is no biblical teaching about daughters), called Nephilim, Anakim, Rephaim, and other names. They were considered by YHWH as humans from Adam.⁵ They are identified as “**gods**” and as “**children of the most High**”:

“I have said,

You are [plural verb] **gods** [*elohim*]; and all of
you are [plural verb] **children** [Hebrew, “sons”] **of the most High. But**
you shall die [plural verb] **like men, and**
 [you shall] **fall** [plural verb] **like one of the princes.**⁶

Arise, O God [*Elohim*], **judge** [singular verb] **the earth:**
for you **shall inherit** [singular verb] **all nations.”**

• *Psalm 82:6–8*

These *elohim* were sentenced to death, to “**die like men.**” They were not men who thought they were “gods,” but they were “gods” who were subordinate to YHWH, who sentenced them to die like men. So, who and what are they? Scholars in the past (Christian, Jewish, and secular) have said they were Jewish leaders or priests in ancient times who judged the people with evil and biased rulings, and performed the role of *elohim*.⁷ They are *elohim*, spirit beings with great power, but with hateful and evil judgments.

In eight verses the *elohim* are being judged by God (verse 1) for favoring the guilty and being wicked on their own part. They do not help the poor or needy, nor protect or rescue them from the wicked (verses 2–4). The oppression of the victims causes the foundations of the earth to be “**out of course**” (verse 5).

In verse 6 they are identified as “**gods**” [*elohim*] and “**children of the most High**” who harm rather than help those without power. These “**gods**” are spirit beings. In verse 7 they are sentenced to death. They will not just die, but they “**shall die like men.**” I understand this to mean they are limited somehow to the physical realm. These “gods,” these *elohim*, are not deathless or immortal, although perhaps they thought themselves to be so. After all they were rejoicing back when the foundation of the world was laid (Job 38:7).

Verse 8 is interesting. A different *elohim* is addressed. His assignment is to “**Arise ... judge the earth: for you shall inherit all nations**” (see Psalm 2:8, 22:28; Revelation 11:15). This *elohim* was Jesus before He emptied Himself (Philippians 2:6–8). To conclude, the Sons of God will die. Perhaps all are dead already.

The Hosts of the Heavens Also Will Die

The phrase “**hosts of heaven**” is a collective term for many kinds of spirit beings who serve God in many capacities, or so it seems from the usage of the phrase. In Isaiah chapter 34 there is a very intriguing passage:

⁵ Dr. Martin’s “[Chapter 28, Who Are the Sons of God?](#)” in *Essentials*, is complemented by my article “[Who Are the Nephilim](#),” and my June 2013 Commentary “[Anakim Are from Adam](#).”

⁶ Some scholars connect the princes in Psalm 82:7 to an allusion to later supernatural beings such as the Prince of Persia and the Prince of Grecia. [Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible](#), ed. Karel van der Toom, et al., 2nd revised edition (Grand Rapids, MI: William B Eerdmans, 1999) 774. Hereafter referred to as [DDD](#), with a working link. Presumably “**the princes**” are humans.

⁷ Paul taught Christians in Corinth to settle social and legal disputes within the *ekklesia* and not go to secular courts (1 Corinthians 6:1–4). He said that the saints will judge the world and angels.

“Draw near, nations, to hear, And folk, attend! Let the earth hear, and its fullness, The habitation and all its offsprings. For wrath has Yahweh against all the nations, And fury against all their host; He will doom them; He will give them up to slaughter. Their slain, they shall be flung away, And from their corpses their stink shall ascend; The mountains will be melted from their blood;

All the host of the heavens shall decay, And the heavens will be rolled up like a scroll;

All their host [of the heavens] shall decay as a leaf decays from the vine, And like a decaying leaf from a fig tree.”

When My sword has been satiated in the heavens, Behold, on Edom it shall descend, And on the people I have doomed for judgment.”

• *Isaiah 34:1–5 Concordant Old Testament*

What will happen in the heavens? **“The host of the heavens”** is not just the physical structure of the universe, but is a reference to the spirit entities that sustain the operations of the heavens. They are in rebellion. The host of the heavens are in decay. They are dying **“as a leaf decays from the vine.”** The connection with the source of sustenance has stopped.

YHWH’s sword is first directed against the hosts of the nations, with doom, slaughter, stinking corpses, and mountains flowing with blood. Then YHWH’s sword shifts to a new target and is **“satiated in the heavens”** leaving dead, decaying leaves. We are not told why, but death is in the heavens. The sword moves to Edom. How is a sword used? It cuts or stabs to kill, wound, or threaten harm. Isaiah is describing the wrath of YHWH.

Violence in Heaven; War in Heaven

When John the Baptist began his ministry, it upset spirit beings in heaven. Jesus told the crowds of people:

“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Matthew 11:11

What Jesus said is easily glossed over. He said John the Baptist was one of the greatest people **“born of woman” in human history.**⁸ Jesus continued:

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”

Matthew 12:12

The beings in heaven were so disturbed at what John was teaching and doing, it caused violence of some kind to occur in **“the kingdom of heaven.”** Things got worse for evil spirits when the 70 disciples of Jesus returned with stories of success in preaching, healing, and driving out spirits. Jesus said. **“I beheld Satan as lightning fell from heaven”** to earth (Luke 10:17–20). Satan fell to repair his evil works in Judea. Whatever the case, there was violence in the Kingdom of Heaven (meaning the work of the Kingdom of God on earth sent from heaven.) Violence occurred, and **“the violent take it by force.”** What is the result of such violence? Is it talking only about human beings? Or, are spirit entities being referred to?

“And there was WAR in heaven: Michael and his angels FOUGHT against the dragon; and the dragon FOUGHT and his angels, And [Satan] prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

• *Revelation 12:7–9*

When spirits fight and war against each other, do they die? Certainly there is violence. We read about contentions between Gabriel and Michael against the Prince of Persia in Daniel 10:13, and perhaps a later

⁸ Jesus was speaking about the righteous people such as Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, John was equal to them all.

conflict with the Prince of Grecia (Daniel 10:20). We know spirits have been imprisoned in prison or confinement of some kind (1 Peter 3:19). Other spirits were confined in *tartaroo* (mistakenly translated “hell”) in 2 Peter 2:4. Satan will be violently seized and imprisoned for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1–3).

In Revelation 9:1–11 the creatures of the first woe will be released from confinement. These flying beasts will not kill, but will cause extreme pain.

Later in Revelation 9:12–21, a cavalry of 400 million creatures (200 million riders on 200 million mounts). Both riders and mounts wield weapons deadly to humans.⁹ These are spirit beings released from confinement from within the Euphrates River. They appear and nothing is said about them again. Are they all killed? If so, it will take a large amount of ammunition. If the third King of the North organizes the defense, then he will be a true hero, to give him credibility when he becomes the antichrist.

In fact, the “**little horn**” assaults and overcomes some spirit beings in the future:

“And it [the Little Horn] waxed great, even to the host of heaven [the angelic army of heaven]; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars [angels] to the ground, and stamped on them.”

• **Daniel 8:10**

Will some of the host of heaven be killed? The antichrist will have evil spirit allies fighting with him against God and Christ. The forces of evil will be desperate to maintain their power. They would certainly kill if possible. They may have some victories before Christ returns to earth. Then it is “Game Over” for them.

Pagan gods Reportedly Died

Throughout history more than a few “gods” have reportedly died. Some have been reborn. The difficulty is that the information comes from questionable non-biblical sources. But here is a list of some

- The Mesopotamian storm god “Amurru” or “Martu” is said to have died but he did not have a grave, ([DDD 33](#)).
- The Egyptian god Apis died and was buried, later to be associated with Osiris ([DDD 69](#)).
- In the article, “God (1),” ([DDD 354](#)) it says,

“It should be stressed that the Egyptian gods are not eternal, not all-seeing and all-knowing, and not all-powerful. The gods are not eternal because they have a beginning and an end; gods are born and eventually die.”
- In the article “Dead” **“The gods kept immortality for themselves (gods can be 'killed' of course by other deities; but, in theory, they are immortal and never die a human death)”** ([DDD 225](#)).¹⁰
- The Syrian god Adonis was killed by a wild boar on Mt. Lebanon.¹¹
- The Egyptian god Osiris was slain by his brother Set or Typhon and was rejuvenated (*ERT 524*),
- The Greek god Dionysus was murdered by the goddess Juno (*ERT 524*).
- The god Pan was reported dead according to the Greek historian of Roman and Greek history,

⁹ These are not Chinese, Indian, or Persian invaders riding horses across the Euphrates. The mass invasion is released from being bound at or on the Euphrates River (Revelation 9:14).

¹⁰ In Mesopotamian epics such as the various Gilgamesh stories, unlimited life seems to have been a privilege of gods. They are “eternal” because they can renew themselves ([DDD 359](#)).

“One characteristic which the Canaanite gods share with the Mesopotamian deities is the possession of life everlasting. Though it is doubtful whether this concept should be translated in terms of absolute eternity, the longevity of the gods represents a distinct difference from humans” ([DDD 361](#)).

¹¹ “Deicide,” in James Hastings, John A. Selbie, and Louis H. Gray, editors. *Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics* (Edinburgh; New York: T. & T. Clark; Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1908–1926), 524. Hereafter cited as *ERT*.

Plutarch, in his book *Moralia*, vol. V.29: “The Obsolescence of Oracles.” Late in life Plutarch was a priest of Apollo at the Greek holy city of Delphi. The Christian historian Eusebius mentions Pan’s death in his *Preparation of the Gospel* during the reign of Emperor Tiberius of Rome. Pan’s death caused an uproar in the Empire. See *Essentials*, “[Chapter 15: Can Sinning Angels Be Saved?](#)”

- The god Ba’al/Hadad died (or disappeared) and mourning services were regularly celebrated on the plain of Megiddo in ancient times ([DDD](#) 380). It seems such “observances” are prophesied to occur again in the future according to Zechariah 12:11.

In the article “Dying and Rising Gods,” in the *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Jonathan Smith explained:

“Despite the shock this apparent fact may deal to modern Western religious sensibilities, it is a commonplace within the history of religions that immortality is not a prime characteristic of divinity: GODS DIE. Nor is the concomitant [associated trait] of omnipresence a widespread requisite: GODS DISAPPEAR.

The putative category of dying and rising deities thus takes its place within the large category of dying gods and the even larger category of disappearing deities.

- Some of these divine figures simply disappear;
- some disappear only to return again in the near or distant future;
- some disappear and reappear with monotonous frequency.

All the deities that have been identified as belonging to the class of dying and rising deities can be subsumed under the TWO LARGER CLASSES OF DISAPPEARING DEITIES OR DYING DEITIES.”

- Smith, “Dying and Rising Gods?”¹²

Can the Hosts of Heaven Die?

The phrase “**hosts of heaven**” refers often to living beings, not the stars in the skies. Note the apposition of “**all His messengers**” and “**all His Hosts**” in Psalm 148.

“Praise Yah.

Praise Yahweh from the heavens;

Praise Him, all His messengers;

Praise Him, sun and moon;

Praise Him, heavens of the heavens,

Praise Him in the heights.

Praise Him, all His hosts.

Praise Him, all stars of light.

And the waters that are above the heavens.

May they praise the Name of Yahweh,

He makes them stand for the future,

He has set down a statute,

For He Himself determined, and they were created.

for the eon;

and it shall not pass away.”

- *Psalm 148:1–6 Concordant Literal Version*

The statements on the right are not restatements of those on the left. Each side adds information different from statements on the other side. Together they give a fuller understanding of the issues described. By this understanding the quality of the Hebrew poetry is increased. In verse 1, the word *heavens* is qualitatively different from *heights* because of the scale. *sun and moon* are not the same as *all stars* though all three are in the sky. In the line above it, *messengers* are distinct from *all His hosts*.

All things listed in this Psalm [1] “**were created**,” will last [2] “**for the future**,” at least [3] “**for the eon**.”

¹² Underlining and capitals are mine. Jonathan Smith, “Dying and Rising Gods” in *Encyclopedia of Religion*, edited by Mercea Eliade (New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1987), 521–27.

This seems to indicate they will have a limited life. For comparison ...

Concordant Version, Psalm 148:2, 5–6	King James Version, Psalm 148:2, 5–6
“Praise Him, all His messengers; Praise Him, all His hosts. ...	“Praise you him, all his angels: praise you him, all his hosts. ...
May they praise the Name of Yahweh, For He Himself determined, and <u>they were created</u>.	Let them praise the name of YHWH: for he commanded, and <u>they were created</u>.
He makes them stand for <u>the future</u>, <u>for the eon</u>”	He has also established them <u>for ever and ever</u>”

The King James Version translates the final words of verse 6 as **“forever and ever.”** That seems to make the angels (messengers) and the host immortal. They are not. The sons of God were sentenced to **“die like men”** (Psalm 82:7). They were not immortal in the past (they were created), and they were also part of the hosts of YHWH. Some may remain deathless so long as God chooses to have them live. None are immortal except God the Father, and He **“alone has immortality”** (1 Timothy 6:16).

That being said, we can know that every intelligent creature of God will be reconciled to its Creator, as you will read verses that may have an impact you never realized before. As the end times approach, many of the spirit beings will participate in conflicts. God will punish them:

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that YHWH shall punish [Hebrew, “visit upon”]

[1] **the host of the high ones that are on high, and**

[2] **the kings of the earth upon the earth.**

And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited [called to account].

Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when YHWH of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients [elders] gloriously.”

• **Isaiah 24:21–23**

Not only will people (**“the kings of the earth”**) be punished and held captive at Zion in Jerusalem, but so will powerful spirit beings be held captive there. In fact, the text says that spirit beings will be greatly diminished in power and will be physically confined and mingle with human beings. That is interesting.

The King of Tyre – Ezekiel Chapter 28

In Ezekiel 28:1–19 two rulers of Tyre are discussed. The first is a human “governor” of Tyre (who thinks he is an *elohim*) in verses 1–10 and the second has the title **“King of Tyre”** in verses 11–19. He is a spirit being identified as a cherub who was present in Eden. Dr. Martin gives strong evidence that this cherub was one of the two guarding the entrance to the Garden of Eden. This rebellious cherub is not Satan.¹³ See Dr. Martin’s analysis in his September 2000 article [“Lingering Idolatry in the Temple of God.”](#)

His title is **“King [melek] of Tyre.”** Hebrew has no vowels, so the spelling of *melek* without vowels would be **“m-l-k.”** A chief god of the Ammonites was Moloch, who was also popular in Tyre. Spelled without vowels, his name in Hebrew with no vowels would also be **“m-l-k.”** This could change the title in Ezekiel chapter 28 from **“King of Tyre”** to **“Moloch of Tyre.”** Such a designation makes more sense than understanding that the King of Tyre was Satan. Note what YHWH says about Moloch who was a cherub:

“Moreover the word of YHWH came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king [Melek? or Moloch?] of Tyrus, and say unto him, ‘Thus says the Lord YHWH;

¹³ It is a mistaken assumption that Satan is referred to in Ezekiel chapter 28. That identification is not validated anywhere else in Scripture. In addition to the serpent, there were the two cherubs in Eden guarding the Garden entrance. The titles of Satan are found in Revelation 12:9: [1] the great dragon, [2] old serpent, [3] the Devil, and [4] Satan.

- **you** [Moloch] **seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.**
- **You have been in Eden the garden of Elohim; every precious stone was your covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle [a bright red gem], and gold: the workmanship of your tabrets [tamborines] and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were created.**
- **You are the anointed cherub that covers; and I have set you so:**
- **you were upon the holy mountain of God [in heaven];**
- **you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.¹⁴**
- **You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you.¹⁵**
- **By the multitude of your merchandise [trade] they have filled the midst of you with violence, and you have sinned: therefore**

I [YHWH] **will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God** [Moloch will be cast to earth]: **and**

I will **destroy you,** O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.¹⁶

- **Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty,**
- **you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness** [Moloch, or Saturn, was a bright planet in the heavens at times]:

I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings, **that they may behold you.**¹⁷

- **You have defiled your sanctuaries** [temples to Moloch, in Tyre, other places, and in Jerusalem] **by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your traffic** [trading]; **therefore**

I will bring forth **a fire from the midst of you, it shall devour you,**¹⁸ **and**

I will **bring you to ashes** upon the earth **in the sight of all them that behold you.**¹⁹

All they that know you among the people shall be astonished at you: you shall be a terror, and never shall you be any more [until *olam*, the eon].”

• **Ezekiel 28:11–19**

This indictment of the cherub in Ezekiel shows it is not about a human being, nor is it about a spirit ordinarily unaffected by fire. This criminal will be burnt to ashes. The burning to ashes will occur **“upon the earth in the sight of all.”** Fire burning a living being to ashes reads like death to me. For Moloch to be destroyed he would need to be changed to a physical state allowing him to be burned to ashes. Non-physical beings are not subject to such punishment. Yet YHWH says He will carry out this judgment. It is, however, a very serious punishment for serious crimes encouraged by the “god” Moloch over centuries.²⁰

¹⁴ Was there a mountain of fire near where God resides called the **“holy mountain of Elohim”** in heaven? Certain pagan people (and too many Israelites) sought favor from their gods (Moloch among them) through the ritual murder of firstborn sons, causing them to **“pass through the fire.”** See Leviticus 18:21; Deuteronomy 18:1; 2 Kings 16:3, 17:17, 21:6, 23:10; 2 Chronicles 33:6; Jeremiah 7, 31–32, 32:35; and Ezekiel 16:21, 20:26, 31; 23:37. This was done to honor Moloch, or other gods such as Baal.

¹⁵ This was not the case with Satan who was a murderer **“from the [his] beginning”** and **“the father of lies”** (John 8:44).

¹⁶ Second Kings 23:10 tells about reforms in the Jerusalem area by King Josiah of Judah. It says what occurred there over generations during the reigns of evil kings of Judah: **“And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.”**

¹⁷ This “god” will be visible and apparently limited to a physical existence, setting him to be killed.

¹⁸ It seems that Moloch will die by the fire.

¹⁹ A spirit cannot be reduced to ashes. Yet this burning to ashes of the cherub of Ezekiel 28 will be observed by kings near to him. Moloch will suffer a punishment like many firstborn Israelite and Gentile children who were burnt to ashes at the Tophet in Jerusalem and wherever the cult of Moloch was practiced. This prophecy seems to clearly describe a physical act of destruction inflicted upon a spirit being bound to a physical reality.

²⁰ Understand that there was some reality behind some ancient gods. The “gods” like the being in Ezekiel chapter 28 did try to

This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled and Moloch still lives, if an idea Dr. Martin had is true. He wondered if this cherub, who he identified as Moloch, relates to the image of the beast in a future Temple in Revelation 13:15, 14:9, 11. Cooperating with the antichrist and false prophet, the ark of the covenant will be discovered or remade. The image of the beast would be a cherub covering the ark. Dr. Martin even thought it perhaps would be the one covering YHWH's figurative seat. Moloch may manipulate that image and seemingly bring it to life. Again, I recommend his article, "[Lingering Idolatry in the Temple of God.](#)"

If Spirits Die, Will They Live Again?

Yes.

They will live again, and they will be reconciled to YHWH their Creator, as Paul tells us. All spirits of all ranks ...

principalities,
powers,
rulers of the darkness of this world,
spiritual wickedness in high places (Greek, "**among the heavenlies,**" Ephesians 6:12),
thrones,
dominions (Colossians 1:16),
angels,²¹
archangels (only one, Michael, is known in Jude verse 9),
cherubim,
seraphim,
the morning stars,²²
the elders before God's throne (often with the four beasts),²³
the watchers,
the demons (unclean spirits),
the elemental spirits, and
even Satan ...

all are subject to YHWH. He is their God (Psalm 29:1, 95:3, 97:9). It is reasonable to think that all non-human beings who die will receive similar consideration to what Jesus told a gathering of Jews:

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation [judgment]."

• *John 5:28–29*

respond and encourage their worshippers. Ritual murder continues today around the world. If there is no perceived reward, people would not risk doing such abominable and illegal acts. The ancient people were not stupid, horribly evil, yes, but not stupid.

²¹ Some of the named angels are Michael, Gabriel, Apollyon. Satan is not an angel. Scripture nowhere says he is an angel, although he appears as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). Satan does have his own set of angels (messengers) according to Revelation 12:7–9.

²² Job 38:7. I understand that the morning stars are distinct from the Sons of God. Scripture does not say if the morning stars are angels. We can know the Sons of God were definitely not angels as confirmed in Hebrews 1:5 where Paul states in two different ways that no angel was ever thought to be a "son":

**"For, unto which of the angels said he at any time,
'You are my Son, this day have I begotten you?'**

**And again, [unto which of the angels said he at any time]
'I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?'"**

The answers to the two rhetorical questions are "not one" and "never." **Not one** angel was ever called a "son," and **never** did God ever apply the word "Father" to His relationship toward any angel.

²³ The elders are mentioned in Revelation 4:4, 10, 5:5–6, 8, 11, 14, **7**:11, 13, 11:16, 14:3, 19:4. The four beasts are in several of the same texts as the elders.

This passage applies to dead human beings, yet spirits who died under physical conditions may not have been buried in normal fashion. That does not matter.

The heavens, all three levels: the atmosphere, outer space, and the heavens where God resides — all three have populations of non-physical spirit beings. Many of these spirits wish you well, others hate you and want you dead, which is why we are not to interact with them.

It seems that the heavenly hosts were created at the same time before the foundation of the world and before Adam: **“By the word of YHWH were the heavens made; and all the host of them [the heavens] by the breath [Hebrew, “spirit”] of his mouth”** (Psalm 33:6). That likely occurred before the foundation of the earth was laid, because the **“morning stars”** and the **“sons of God”** are different sets of beings, in my opinion. They were present at that event and they shouted for joy (Job 38:7).

All members of the heavenly hosts and spirit beings will be reconciled to YHWH through Christ. That includes every human being and every intelligent spirit being.²⁴ Everything that dies — including all the non-human beings will be reconciled back to God. For that to be the case, if they die, God will provide a means for them to live again and they will be reconciled to Him. All of these supernatural spirit beings that directly serve God will be reconciled to God, if they need to be. They will not be children of God, nor will they be superior to you or any other glorified human being. God will do His will toward them the same as He will act toward human beings:

“But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:23**

The next verses describe the scope of the submission of all creation beyond just humans.

“Then comes the end [Greek *telos*, completion], when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and [all] power. For he must reign, till he has put all enemies [human enemies and spirit enemies] under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:24–26**

When all are in subjection to Christ and death ceases, God our Father and Christ our elder brother will have a reconciled relationship with their creation. This includes every human being and every intelligent being. All will be included in the Kingdom of God, under the sovereignty of Christ. Paul concludes:

“For he has put all things under his feet. But when he says all things are put under him, it is manifest that he [God the Father, YHWH] is excepted, which did put all things under him [Christ]. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:27–28**

It is clear the subjection was not limited to just human beings, nor was death limited to human beings. In the first chapter of Colossians we have another declaration of God's sovereignty and the extent of God's salvation under Christ that will be accomplished in the future:

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which has made us meet [or qualified] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

- **In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**
- **Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:**

²⁴ YHWH determines what is intelligent and what is not. Perhaps even the spirit horses Christ and His angels will ride when He returns to earth (Revelation 19:11–14) will be intelligent beings, who knows? We will meet them all. Each one will have their own story to tell us, as we will tell ours to them.

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him[!]: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

• *Colossians 1:12–17*

It is safe to say that Paul is being as inclusive as language can express, to communicate the truth that everything and everyone — all creation and all created beings — are meant to be included. Paul then focuses on the *ekklesia* and how they relate to and are an important object of God’s creation.

“And he is the head of the body, the church [*ekklesia*]: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”

• *Colossians 1:18–20*

Paul continued, and this verse applies to any being alienated from God and Christ:

“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.”

• *Colossians 1:21*

Christ was a spirit being who became embodied as a human being in the flesh. He can and will reconcile every creature even if they have been alienated and are enemies of God and committed wicked works. This includes Satan who was a liar and a murderer from his beginning (John 8:44). God’s goal is to on one hand reconcile every intelligent being back to Himself and also subject all to Christ and to Himself.

“Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

• *Philippians 2:9–11*

The last enemy, even for spirits, will be destroyed:

“Then comes the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. ...

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

• *1 Corinthians 15:24–26, 28*

In the meantime, remember that evil spirits have an agenda:

“Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils [demons];

[Those who depart begin by ...] **Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God has created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”**

• *1 Timothy 4:1–3*

Human beings are told: **“the wages [ration] of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal [eonian] life through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (Romans 6:23). Sinning spirits will die. They get the same wages as humans.

“For I think that God has set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle [Greek, *theatron*, theater] unto the world, and to angels, and to men.”

• **1 Corinthians 4:9**

All Creation Is Suffering

It is good to keep in mind that it is not just human beings in the physical realm who suffer, but all creation suffers also, including every spirit being alive and that ever lived (and died). That number of beings may be many billions, perhaps multiples billions more than the 7.3 billion people alive on earth at the present time. Who knows? God has not told us yet. All were created for the eventual purpose to serve the glory of God:

“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the CREATION waits for the manifestation of the sons of God [!!!]

For the CREATION was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected the same in hope, Because the CREATION itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For we know that the whole CREATION groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also [groan], which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

• **Romans 8:16–23**

When Paul writes about the whole creation, he is not referring to the rocks and trees. That part of creation will be redone by God when the old heavens and earth are eliminated, and the New Heavens and New Earth are created and God dwells on the New Earth.

By **“whole creation”** Paul means the intelligent beings that communicate to one another. That is the “creation” that [1] **“waits,”** [2] is **“subject to vanity,”** [3] suffers **“bondage of corruption,”** and [4] **“groans and travails in pain.”** All are waiting for God to complete his plan of salvation in us, in mankind, even if they are not yet reconciled to God and Christ. We of the Mystery will go out to the heavens and assist Christ to reconcile the spirit beings, the heavenly beings, that comprise creation outside earth and outside the Heaven where God resides. (See Dr. Martin’s 1999 article **“[The Geography of Heaven](#).”**)

Truly, in our own way each of us is the object of creation. All spirit beings benefit from our future glorification as children of God through Christ.

Conclusion, Spirits Can Die

Christ emptied Himself of His divinity, His spirit died at His crucifixion and His spirit was quickened, and God the Father made Jesus live again at His resurrection. God through Christ will do the same for everyone who dies. The spirit of every human dies when the body dies and the soul dissolves, then a resurrection.

Some spirit beings can die, perhaps most if most sin. Sons of God, high ranking members of God’s divine council, were sentenced to **“die like men,”** like *adam* (Psalm 82:7). Their spirits died **“like men.”**

Fighting and even war go on in the heavens; prisoners are taken. Is there no death in spirit-to-spirit combat? In the future Isaiah chapter 34, YHWH uses His sword to strike at some of the heavenly host. Metaphors of death are used in the narrative. In Ezekiel, Moloch (or the King) of Tyre is sentenced by God to burn alive to ash in a fire. It is God’s judgment for his encouraging humans to burn their children. His death is still future. It appears that Moloch’s spirit will die. Yes, spirits can die, are dying, and will die. But each will be reconciled to their Creator and our Heavenly Father. Some of us will participate (Colossians 1:20)..

David Sielaff, July 2020