

REINCARNATION AND THE BIBLE

Hebrew 9:27, “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*”

This subject was not considered interesting a few years ago, but counted as vague and unimportant. Today it is in the spotlight.

Reincarnation is not something new. In India you very possibly would meet someone walking down the street holding something over their mouth keep from swallowing an insect, least it might be on of their ancestors. The British government seeks to exterminate disease-spreading rats, but a country that would rather die of sickness spread by rats than the possibility of kill a relative.

In this day and age, this lie of Satan is sweeping our land with weird stories of people in hypnotic trances supposedly taken back to some personality they had in a previous life. Bernstein claims to have “*hypnotized*” a man back to his previous life as an American Indian, and he, supposedly, spoke with their dialect.

Television carried the experience of a man who said to have been taken back 280 years. He claimed to have lived in German, and spoke that language.

The Chicago Daily News tells of a man in England who claims to successfully hypnotized over 1,300 people back to previous lives. One man, for instance, was afraid of elevators. Hypothetically it was claimed that he was a Chinese Army officer four hundred years ago and died by falling off a cliff, so he still carried that fear of falling.

I could go on and on, telling of dozens of supposed stories that are being passed around today over the various medias, but you have heard some of them and know what I mean.

What does it all mean? How can the Bible believer give an answer to these weird happenings? When publications and the television bring these stories into our homes, it is time we opened our Bible to see what God says about it all!

First, **Reincarnation is directly opposite the teaching of the Word of God**

I seems strange to me that one would try aligning reincarnation with Bible. We can be sure reincarnation is not true, because it is against God's Word.

How can I say that?

(A) The teaching of reincarnation does away with God's dealing with *individuals*.

The Bible teaches that “*Everyone shall give an account of himself before God.*” This mean, of course, the each person is ***one*** human being, not one who has been several different persons, who must give an account of himself to God.

The Bible teaches, “*Prepare to meet **THY** God.*” This judgment will be a personal interview with Almighty God!

(B) The teaching of reincarnation does away with the need of being saved *immediately*.

The Bible is plain, *“Now accepted time, today is the day of salvation!”*
Reincarnation teaches that if you don’t get right with God in this life, you will have an opportunity in some other life.

- (C) The teaching of reincarnation does away with teaching of passing immediately into heaven or hell after physical death

Jesus lifts the lid off of the scene in hell and shows a man in real torments, real pain and thirst, in a real hell (Luke 16).

Paul assures the Christian of immediately passing into the presence of Lord after physical death – Philippians 1:21-23, *“For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor, yet what I shall choose I know not. For I am in a strait between two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better.”*

2 Corinthians 5:8 is clear, *“Absent in the body, present with the Lord!”*

Second, **Reincarnation is in line with the methods of Satan**

Some say that all experiments of reincarnation are hoaxes or frauds, and none of them are true. I'm not so sure of that! Turn to the Old Testament, 1 Samuel 28 and watch King Saul as he is faced with a staggering problem, and he turns to, what Scripture calls, *“familiar spirit.”* Saul heard alright – he heard Satan's demons.

According to one hypnotist when a subject answers, *“He takes on a personality of the individual who lived previously.”* He continues explaining, *“I am not talking to the subject at all, but to a personality who lived years ago, something, someone, within the persons who is answering me, rather than the person himself.”*

With this in mind, turn to Luke 8:28-31 and read, *“When he (the maniac) saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, ‘What have I to do with thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God most high? I beseech Thee torment me not.’ - (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him; and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) - And Jesus asked him, saying, ‘What is thy name?’ And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought Him that He would not command them to go out into the deep.”*

It was not the maniac who answered Jesus, but rather, it was the *“evil spirit”* within the maniac.

Note another method Satan uses. In Isaiah 14:13-14, God is speaking of Satan, who was once an angel in Heaven, God says, *“For thou hast said in thine heart, ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the most High.’”*

Satan desires to be like God. His ambition is to copy the Most High God. This character of Satan is shown in:

1. The claim of a previous existence. Reincarnation claims, “*We existed before our earthly birth.*” Jesus Christ is the only One Who lived before His birth on earth. Reincarnation says, “*What if Christ is eternal, everyone is!*”
2. Reincarnation teaches the incarnation of ALL men.

Philippians 2:6-8 teaches that only Christ was incarnate, when it states, “*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*”

3. Another peculiarity of reincarnation brought out by hypnotist is “*the ability of the subject to speak language of the country they claim to have lived in.*” Satan said, “***I will be like*** (copy) ***God.***” Speaking in tongues, supernaturally, by the power of the Holy Spirit is something God promised the believer. Satan attempts to copy this precious gift that God has given.

Third, **Reincarnation presents a wrong issue to man**

Reincarnation is not only contrary to the Bible, employs the methods Satan uses, but it, also, presents the wrong issues to man.

The doctrine of reincarnation turns man's mind from the real issue to issues that do not exist. It teaches falsehoods. Our great concern should not be “*reincarnation*” – but Christ's ***IN-carnation*** (God becoming man).

Pilate asked, “*What shall I do with Jesus which is called the Christ?*” The question needs to settle. The answer settles our eternal destiny! The question is not, “*Was I been born before?*” – but, rather, “*Have I been **born again**?*”

I’m not looking forward to a time of being born into another human body – that’s hampered with sin and sickness, but rather, I’m looking forward to the time, “*When Christ shall change our vile bodies to be fashioned like unto His glorious body.*”

Fourth, **The Word of God teaches that we have one physical body – and one physical death – that will appear before one judgment.**

I have pointed out the errors of reincarnation and the dangerous effects of believing this teaching. Reincarnation teaches “*a way of salvation*” that is contrary to the Bible. If you die without Christ, only *hell* awaits you, not some other life.