THE BIBLE AND THE SOUL

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT SOULS, SPIRITS, HEARTS, MINDS, LIVERS, BODIES, HEAVEN AND OTHER THINGS (INCLUDING THE INTERMEDIATE STATE)

BILL WILDER
Monism or Dualism?

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Old Testament anthropology is typically synthetic and holistic.

The conception of Sheol in the Old Testament is evidence for existence (if not exactly life) after death.

Where’s Life?

A variety of positions are evident in the Intertestamental literature.

The New Testament is dominated by the resurrection of Jesus and its implications for his people.

In accord with much Intertestamental literature, the New Testament also teaches an intermediate state between death and resurrection.
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Acts 4:1-2  While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead.

Acts 23:6  Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.” And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.
Luke 23:42-43  42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."  43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:46  46 Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 8.55  And her spirit returned, and she got up at once.

Luke 24.37  But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.

Luke 24.39  See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.
Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, for they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."
1 Pet 1:3  Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . .

1 Pet 1:13  Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 1:21  who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1 Pet 3:15  but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1 Pet 1:8-9  You do not see him now but you believe in him, 9 because you are attaining the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls.
1 Peter 3:18-20  

18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in/by the flesh, but made alive in/by the spirit/Spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

1 Pet 4:4-6  

4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh according to humans (as humans see fit), they might live in the spirit/Spirit according to God (as God sees fit).
John W. Cooper
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