

Some people claim that after you die, you sleep. Your soul does not go to Hell, but rather it just sleeps. Job 14:10-12 shows a man not waking up, but rather being asleep. Ecclesiastes 9:5 shows the dead not being conscious of anything. Ezekiel 18:20 shows that a soul dies, not stay alive. Genesis 3:19 shows that we will all return to dust, not stay conscious. These are the verses that they will use to “prove” that there is no such place as an afterlife for the soul after death. It dies, and it will stay asleep until the Great White Throne of Judgment. This doctrine is known as “Soul Sleep.” These religious individuals reject the idea that a soul immediately leaves the body after death. As soon as a human is deceased, there is no Hell for one to burn, and there is no Heaven for one to enter. However, the Bible gives a different side to their contrary view of the soul.

1) For Job 14:10-12, notice the text says, “dieth,” “wasteth away,” “decayeth,” and “drieth up”; this text is talking about the body, not the soul. For Ecclesiastes 9:5, it is obvious that a dead person is not conscious of anything, but not the soul; also, if Jehovah’s Witnesses are insistent that this verse is referring to an unconscious soul, then they will have to admit that they will “neither have they any more a reward.” For Ezekiel 18:20, the soul faces the death of burning in Hell, not physical death (Revelation 20:14; 21:8). For Genesis 3:19, it is true that we will turn to dust, but never does it say the soul will turn to dust; if you look at dead bodies today, they all decay and turn to dust.

2) In John 11:11-14, Jesus explained that being asleep is a metaphor for death.

3) In Genesis 35:18, Rachel’s soul was departing when she died.

4) In 1 Kings 17:17, 22, the soul of the child was gone from the body and returned to the body after he died.

5) In Philippians 1:23-24, Paul has “a desire to depart, and to be with Christ” “nevertheless, to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.” He did not believe that his soul would sleep, but that it can depart from the body and go to Heaven with Jesus.

(This info about “Soul Sleep” and much more can be studied in Pastor Mike Schreib's tract “Soul Sleep”)

