

The video, “Do Animals Have a Soul?” was posted on YouTube by Dennis Priebe Ministries on 7/26/24 and he didn’t permit any comments on his video. If you wish to watch it, go here:

<https://youtu.be/ZvABVRYcGR4?si=k-RORqvynFVWbDIK>

The video starts with the question, “Do animals have a soul?” Dennis says, “no.” He says, “Terminology is extremely important. Words and definitions matter. I have heard Adventists casually say that humans have a soul.”

I agree that “words and definitions matter” but Seventh-day Adventists that say humans have a soul, are fully supported in their belief by Scripture.

“And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni: but his father called him Benjamin.” Genesis 35:17-18 (KJV).

If she didn’t have a soul it couldn’t have departed when “she died.”

“And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.” 1 Kings 17:20-23 (KJV).

If the child didn’t have a soul before he died, his soul couldn’t have “come into him again.”

Dennis, who I very much doubt is anywhere close to fluent in Hebrew, apparently believes you have to know Hebrew to understand the ENGLISH Bible. He says, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Genesis 2 verse seven. Notice that when God breathed the breath of life into an inanimate body, it gained life and became a soul. The Hebrew word translated soul here is *nephesh*. We find this word used repeatedly throughout the Old Testament referring to human beings. The Bible does not teach that man has an immortal soul independent of a physical body. Rather the God given breath of life gives us the temporary existence of being a soul.”

I have a *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. I looked up “soul” in my concordance as related to Genesis 2:7 and it says to go to Hebrew word number 5315. Here is the complete definition of *nephesh* as far as I could reproduce it. I had no way to reproduce the Hebrew characters so they’re omitted.

5315 **nephesh**, *neh’-fesh*; from 5314; prop. a *breathing* creature, i.e. *animal* or (abstr.) *vitality*; used very widely in a lit., accommodated or fig. sense (bodily or mental):-any, appetite, beast,

body, breath, creature, X dead (-ly), desire, X [dis-] contented, X fish, ghost, + greedy, he, heart (-y), (hath, X jeopardy of) life (X in jeopardy), lust, man, me, mind, mortality, one, own, person, pleasure, (her-, him-, my-, thy-) self, them (your) -selves, + slay, soul, + tablet, they, thing, (X she) will, X would have it.

Do you understand all of that? To imply that soul simply means “human beings” is false because that word obviously can mean more than that and, what do you know, some of the possible meanings include “mind” and “mental.” The mind and mental process of a person are obviously a part of a person. Let’s try an English dictionary; specifically, the *Oxford English Reference Dictionary* (revised second edition). Once again, there were a few symbols at the beginning of the definition I had no way to reproduce.

soul *n.* **1** the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being often regarded as immortal. **2** the moral or emotional or intellectual nature of a person. **3** the personification or pattern of something (*the very soul of discretion*). **4** an individual (*not a soul in sight*). **5 a** a person regarded with familiarity or pity etc. (*the poor soul was utterly confused*). **b** a person regarded as embodying moral or intellectual qualities (*left that to meaner souls*). **6** a person regarded as the animating or essential part of something (*the life and soul of the party*). **7** emotional or intellectual energy or intensity, esp. as revealed in a work of art (*pictures that lack soul*). **8** black American culture or music etc. (see SOUL MUSIC).

Which definition is easiest to understand? THIS ISN’T HARD!!! Depending on the context in which it’s used, “soul” as in Genesis 2:7 does mean a living person but in other contexts it can mean “the moral or emotional or intellectual nature of a person.”

What the Bible does teach is that each living person has a physical body and an intangible element we could call intellectual or mental processes or that person’s soul. When a person’s physical body dies, that person’s soul is sleeping but is not considered dead by God until destroyed by God in the lake of fire also known as hell. The soul of a righteous person’s body never dies but it sleeps until Christ’s second coming at which time it’s restored in a conscious state to a new body.

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28 (KJV).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.” John 8:51 (KJV).

“For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” Colossians 3:3-4 (KJV).

“Man may kill the body but can’t touch the life hid with Christ in God.” *Signs of the Times* 6/3/1897.

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and

their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 (KJV).

At 1:59 Dennis says something I’ve heard many Seventh-day Adventist expositors of Scripture say who try to teach Hebrew and Greek when they don’t understand what the Bible says in ENGLISH which in most cases is their native language. He says, “Man does not have a soul, he is a soul.” Yes, a man can be called a soul that that man also has a soul.

At 2:21 Dennis says something I can mostly agree with. He says, “That means that God has a memory bank of every human being who has ever lived and will recreate his faithful out of his memory of their *nephesh*.” When Colossians 3:3 says “your life is hid with Christ in God” it means that God keeps a memory of all that constituted your body and your intellectual processes, or soul, and recreates you with a body and conscious mental processes at your resurrection. In that sense the soul or mental processes of a righteous person never dies but it sleeps until the resurrection. *Nephesh* is not helpful at all in understanding this.

Getting back to Dennis’ first question, “Do animals have a soul?”

“In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.” Job 12:10 (KJV).

Apparently they do.

www.SatanIsDead.com

www.InfallibleBible.com

www.DeathConfusion.com

www.AdventistsToday.com

www.SabbathSchoolGuide.com