

THREE ANGELS AND YOU



Aunt Ida's Strange Activities





Aunt Ida's Strange Activities

Connie and her cousin Mattie were pulling garden weeds in the hot summer sun. Connie had gone to the house for a drink of water, where she'd run into their Aunt Ida. Returning to the garden, Connie mentioned some of the strange activities their Aunt Ida had become involved in.

"Yes," Mattie agreed. "Aunt Ida says she can call up spirits and talk to the dead!"

Connie was shocked. "Are you serious?" she asked.

"Yes, I'm serious," Mattie replied. "One time Aunt Ida claimed that a spirit told her some kind of treasure was buried in the cellar. She spent a whole week digging up the cellar floor!"

"What did she find?" Connie asked, a little frightened.

"Not a thing!" Mattie responded.

Connie breathed a sigh of relief. The two girls talked some more, but Connie was happier than usual when her father showed up to take her home. Being around Aunt Ida

Over the Edge

Jesus once ordered some evil spirits (demons) to get out of a man's life. It was quite the scene. The Bible tells what happened next:

“Now there was a herd of many pigs feeding at a distance from them. And the demons begged Him, saying, ‘If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of pigs.’ And He said to them, ‘Go!’ And they came out and went into the pigs; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters” (Matthew 8:30-32).

We may not understand a lot about the world of evil spirits, but we can know enough to stay away from it!

The idea that souls don't really die is taught in many churches today around the world. But it's a lie, or “maddening wine,” as the second angel puts it. It's a falsehood pushed by Satan and his evil forces. Those forces are real and want to steer you toward eternal destruction. Now is the time to stand for Bible truth and share it before it's too late.

made her uneasy, especially after learning she claimed to speak with dead people! *Aunt Ida may think it's just harmless fun, but I don't!* Connie thought. *What if Aunt Ida had shown me how to seek out and listen to the voices of strange spirits?* That night Connie made a decision to never get involved in such a dangerous “game.”*



So, what about it? Why couldn't Aunt Ida have been talking to a dead person? After all, when a person dies, don't they go *somewhere*? Why else would a pastor say something such as “Uncle John is now in heaven, looking down on us”? That depends on what a pastor and the dead person's loved ones actually believe. Sadly, too many Christians have fallen for the lie that dead people don't really die. Oh, their body may get buried, but their “soul” goes to either heaven or hell or somewhere in-between. But is that really what the Bible teaches? And if it doesn't teach that, are there other things that Christians may have gotten wrong?





The Second Angel Speaks Up

In Revelation 14, a mysterious message is delivered by another angel. Solve the rebus puzzle to discover the message. Write your answers on the blank lines beneath the puzzle.

A second  followed & 

 !  is


5356124
1=L
2=O
3=A
4=N
5=B
6=Y

 the


Great, which made all

the

Netherlands
Albania
Tunisia
India
Oman
Norway
Switzerland

 of the

Hint: first letters

maddening  of her adulteries

_____ (Revelation 14:8).

You may remember that the first angel called for God's followers to rely on Jesus for our salvation and to honor the true Creator God. That same angel also announced that the Cosmic Time of Justice had begun. But what is this second angel talking about? Like much of Revelation, this message is written in a kind of code. That means we need to figure out the real meaning behind the words. Thankfully, the Bible itself holds the keys to help us make sense of the message.

At one time in history, Babylon was a real and very wicked city. Later on in the Bible, the word "Babylon" came to represent mixed-up or even made-up spiritual ideas. Breaking the "code" of Revelation 14:8 involves connecting the proper Bible verses. Some of these verses include Genesis 11:3, 4, Isaiah 14:3, 4, and 12, Revelation 17:5 and 18:2-4. With these verses and others in mind, the main idea behind the second angel's message becomes clear:

The end-time force behind these wrong spiritual ideas has collapsed upon itself.

So just who makes up this "end-time force"? A religious group that's become so powerful that people around the world ("nations") have followed its teachings instead of what the Bible really says. As the second angel puts it, Babylon's followers have become spiritually "drunk" ("maddening" means "drunk" in this verse) on the "wine" of these wrong teachings. This led to an impure relationship with God. (In Revelation 14:8 "adulteries" means "impurities"). Let's take a look at two of these popular but wrong teachings that so many people follow.



A Matter of Life and Death

In the story “Aunt Ida’s Strange Activities,” Aunt Ida believed she could talk to dead people. What does the Bible really say about dead people? Read the Bible verses and write what you think they mean on the headstone.

Ecclesiastes 9:5, Psalm 6:5



Today, many people are taught that dead peoples’ bodies go into the ground, but that their “souls” keep on living. They claim the soul is “immortal,” meaning that it doesn’t die. Read Genesis 3:2-4. Who told the first lie about people never dying? _____

Now read 1 Timothy 6:13-16. According to these Bible verses, Who alone is immortal? _____

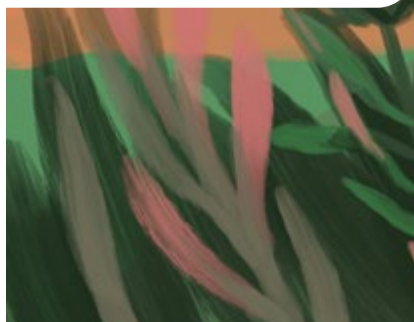
Death is Creation in Reverse

Genesis 2:7 tells how God created the first human being: “Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

The formulas for life and death look something like this:

LIFE	DEATH	AT RESURRECTION
Dust (material)	Life (human soul)	Dust (material)
+ God's breath	– God's breath	+ God's breath
Life	Dust	Eternal life

Death is creation in reverse. A person's “soul” doesn't go to heaven when they die. So if you're at a funeral and you hear someone say the dead person has “gone to a better place,” just remember what the Bible really teaches!





The Real Battle

SETI is on a mission. No, “SETI” is not the name of some kind of robot or digital device. It stands for Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. It’s a network of people and organizations trying to discover whether or not other intelligent life forms exist elsewhere in the universe.

The Bible says they do, although they may not show up on any device used by SETI researchers. While we may not know about every being that exists outside our own solar system, Scripture mentions at least two kinds: good and evil angels. Good angels are God’s messengers and work on our behalf (Hebrews 1:14). The goal of evil angels is to push us into Satan’s camp. This battle often takes place behind the scenes of our lives and human history. The apostle Paul sheds important light on the subject:

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:1).

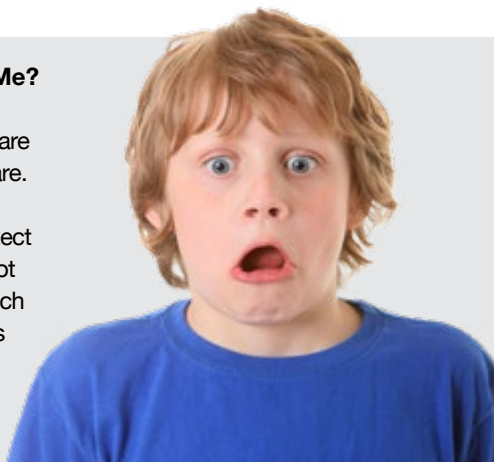
In today’s world, many people don’t believe in supernatural beings. Others simply don’t take them seriously. In fact, evil forces sometimes become the subject of pop culture and media entertainment. Can you think of some examples?

By now you can see the problem with believing that a “soul” never dies: it makes people such as Aunt Ida think they really are talking to a dead person! Read Revelation 12:9. Who are people such as Aunt Ida really talking to?



Will Evil Angels “Get” Me?

“Those who follow Christ are ever safe under His watchcare. Angels that excel in strength are sent from heaven to protect them. The wicked one cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about His people” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 517).



The Bible makes a pretty big deal about staying away from evil spirits. Here’s an example:

“Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery . . . engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord” (Deuteronomy 18:11, 12).

In case you aren’t sure what “detestable” means, here are a few synonyms:

- dishonorable
- nasty
- wretched
- low-down
- vile

Get the idea? So why does God want us to stay away from evil spirits, sometimes called the occult? One reason is found in 1 Timothy 4:1. Write the word from the verse that best completes the sentence:

Evil spirits work on _____ people instead of telling them God’s truth.

There’s just no good reason to mess around with the dark side. It will lead you somewhere you don’t want to go.

NOTES

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Answers: The Second Angel Speaks Up: Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries; A Matter of Life and Death: Satan (the serpent), God; Evil spirits work on **deceiving** people.



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