

4 • A Spirit That Will Return to God

“What does it mean to be a human being?”

How does God answer that question? What do his answers tell us about ourselves? Each other? Where we came from? Why we’re here? Where we’re going?

The last answer to our questions in this short series: **You have a _____ that will return to God.** In **Ecclesiastes 12**, young people are encouraged to remember their Creator “in the days of your youth” (12:1). For a few verses, what it’s like to grow old is described (12:2-6), and then:

...the _____ returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

What does that mean? In order to understand, we have to go back nearly to the beginning. Notice how the creation of Adam is described in **Genesis 2:7**:

...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the _____ and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Zechariah 12:1 says the same sort of thing:

Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and _____ the spirit of man within him...

We’ve been blessed by our Creator with bodies. But you are **MORE** than a body. You were created in God’s own image. You have a “spirit” within you, given to you by God.

Death isn’t always easy to talk about, but notice how the Holy Spirit leads James to describe physical death:

For as the body _____ from the spirit is dead... (James 2:26)

What is death? Death is the separation of our bodies from our spirits. What happens when we experience physical death? “The dust returns to the earth as it was.” But is that our end? **Not at all.** Even as the dust returns to the earth as it was, “the spirit returns to God who gave it.”

God has an amazing plan for our lives. **Let’s talk about it...**



FOUNDATION STONES



“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth”

(Ecclesiastes 12:1). What does that **mean**? Why do even very young people need to remember their Creator?

“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature” (Genesis 2:7). Can **YOU** do that sort of thing? What does this tell us about our amazing Creator?

In [Luke 16:19-22](#), Jesus is telling a story about a rich man and a very poor man named Lazarus. What happened when Lazarus died?

Can you think of some examples of people we read about in the Bible whose “spirits have returned to God”? What can we learn from that?

NEXT Wednesday:

We’ll kick off a new Wednesday series for the month of October, exploring “**What is Wisdom?**” In Part 1, we’ll study from [James 3:13-18](#) about “the wisdom that comes down from above.”