

## Reincarnation Exposed

Nearly one-third of Americans now believe in Reincarnation. Reincarnation, in its purest form, comes to us from the Hindu religion. Today it also embraced by most Wiccan groups, New Agers, and others. Reincarnation teaches a birth-death-rebirth cycle based on a person's Karma. A bad person will come back as a lower form. A good person will be reborn to a higher station in life. If perfection is ever achieved, one may escape this treadmill-like existence and either merge with the divine or melt into the universe.

God's Word reveals that reincarnation is a deception which contradicts both the biblical doctrine of the Resurrection and the observable evidence. Here are some of the many problems with Reincarnation:

- 1) If Reincarnation is true, mankind should be progressing. Human nature and conduct should be improving. However, the truth is, moral depravity is worsening as the Bible anticipates (Matthew 24:12; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; etc.).
- 2) The vast majority of the population has no memory of their prior lives. If we're all a product of previous life-cycles, why don't we remember our previous lives? How can we work off bad karma if we don't recognize our prior mistakes?
- 3) Though there are some who claim to recall past lives, the Bible reveals that demons have existed for millennia. These demons are able to place thoughts in a person's mind in order to deceive (1 Chronicles 21:1; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; Revelation 12:9; 16:14; etc.).
- 4) If we are all being recycled, where are all the new babies coming from? There were an estimated 100 million souls a few thousand years ago, but today we're approaching 7 billion people. Reincarnation denies a Creator God, so where are all these souls coming from?
- 5) India is the cradle of Reincarnation, yet India is one of the world's most woeful nations. Though the people are intelligent and industrious, and natural resources abound, cows and rats eat their fill while many humans starve. Countless city streets are awash with filth, lined with starving beggars, and suffering is everywhere. With thousands of years to perfect Reincarnation, and countless gurus and holy men, why isn't India the shining star of human progress and spiritual evolution?
- 6) Gandhi stated that Reincarnation is a burden too great to bear. He saw the fruits of this practice around his country. All abroad was hopelessness and despair.
- 7) To break free from Reincarnation, one must live a harmless life. You can't even kill a microbe. Yet our immune system kills millions each day. This means there is no hope of ever escaping the wheel of Karma.
- 8) If you see a beggar wallowing in the gutter don't you dare help him! He is working off bad Karma. If you help him now, he will just have to come back in another lifetime to

work off his bad karma all over again. This is why India had no hospitals or charitable institutions until the coming of Christian missionaries.

The truth is Reincarnation offers no hope, provides no answers, ignores the clear evidence, and contradicts our God-given conscience. It is a demonically inspired philosophy intended to keep its adherents slaves to sin and death.

But what does the Bible teach? God's Word does teach that "Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). There are repercussions to sin – both in this life and the next. So a believer in Christ can use the notion of bad karma as a springboard to explain that the penalty for sin is death and then share the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Bible completely refutes the theory of Reincarnation. Hebrews 9:27 states "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." Notice, we only die once and then we stand before God to be judged. And Paul writes "To be absent from the body [is] to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). Once we die, we go to be with the Lord – we are not reincarnated and sent back to earth.

Scripture also affirms that once believers die, we then rise "and thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Furthermore, remember that during Jesus' transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared as Moses and Elijah (Mark 9:1-5). Though they had lived many centuries earlier, they were still Moses and Elijah – not different persons.

In addition, when Jesus ascended to heaven the angels standing by said "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). In other words, Jesus will return as Jesus not a different incarnation.

Scripture also explains that Jesus died once – never to die again (Romans 6:9).

Throughout God's Word, the resurrection is taught – which directly refutes Reincarnation (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; etc.). Jesus' resurrection is testified to by Old Testament prophets and many New Testament witnesses. The historical and eye witness testimony for Jesus' resurrection is extensive and irrefutable. In fact, after His resurrection, Jesus was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6). Refer to our article on the Resurrection for more evidence.

Finally, the resurrection not only agrees with the evidence, but it offers true hope. Jesus promises all who will trust and follow Him: "Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:19).

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25).