

Words of Truth

Exposing Buddhism (Part 3)

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Have you ever heard someone say something like, “In my next life I want to be a bird”? Likely, you have heard some statement like this at some point in your life. The doctrine behind that statement is the false doctrine of Reincarnation. Reincarnation is the concept of: “a person or animal in whom a particular soul is believed to have been reborn” (New Oxford American Dictionary). It will be our goal to see what the Buddhists teach about this false doctrine and then we will expose it as error using the word of God.

The Buddhist’s Doctrine Of Reincarnation

“Buddhism offers the most satisfactory explanation of where beings come from and where they are going. When we die, the mind, with all the tendencies, preferences, abilities and characteristics that have been developed and conditioned in this life, re-establishes itself in a fertilized egg. Thus the individual grows, is re-born and develops a personality conditioned both by the mental characteristics that have been carried over. And by the new environment, the personality will change and be modified by conscious effort ;and conditioning factors like education, parental influence and society and once again at death, re-establishing itself in a new fertilized egg. This process of dying and being reborn will continue until the conditions that cause it, craving and ignorance, cease. When they do, instead of being reborn, the mind attains a state called Nirvana and this is the ultimate goal of Buddhism and the purpose of life” (<http://www.buddhanet.net/ans25.htm>).

“Is one always reborn as a human being? No, there are several realms in which one can be reborn. Some people are reborn in heaven, some are reborn in hell, some are reborn as hungry ghosts and so on. Heaven is not a place but a state of existence where one has a subtle body and where the mind experiences mainly pleasure. Some religions strive very hard to be reborn in a heavenly existence mistakenly believing it to be a permanent state. But it is not. Like all conditioned states, heaven is impermanent and when one’s life span there is finished, one could well be reborn again as a human. Hell, likewise, is not a place but a state of existence where one has a subtle body and where the mind experiences mainly anxiety and distress. Being a hungry ghost, again, is a state of existence where the body is subtle and where the mind is continually plagued by longing and dissatisfaction. So heavenly beings experience mainly pleasure, hell beings and ghosts experience mainly pain and human beings experience usually a mixture of both. So the main difference between the human realm and other realms is the body type and the quality of experience” (<http://www.buddhanet.net/ans27.htm>).

“How does the mind go from one body to another? Think of it being like radio waves. The radio waves, which are not made up of words and music but energy at different frequencies, are transmitted, travel through space, and attracted to and picked up by the receiver from where they are broadcast as words and music. It is the same with the mind. At death, mental energy travels through space, is attracted

to and picked up by the fertilized egg. As the embryo grows, it centers itself in the brain from where it later broadcasts itself as the new personality” (<http://www.buddhanet.net/ans26.htm>).

Mr./Mrs. Buddhists, You Will Not Have A Second Life To Get It Right!

When you die and find yourself in paradise or torment. There is no passing to or fro, sending messages from the grave, etc. (Luke 16:19-31). When Christ returns, there will be a Judgment Day with eternal punishment or reward given (Matthew 25:31-46 and John 5:28-29). The Lord Jesus Christ will Judge. Everyone will give an account of the things done in his body, not his bodies (II Corinthians 5:10).

The word of God states: “*And as it is appointed unto men **once to die**, but after this the judgment*” (Hebrews 9:27). We die once, not many times over. God told Adam that, because Adam and Eve brought sin into the world, man would die a physical death. That physical death would not result in a rebirth, but in man’s body returning to the dust of the earth (Genesis 3:19) with man’s spirit returning to the power of God (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Man’s spirit will not be put into another form or float in a lost state. Man’s spirit shall remain in paradise or torment (as noted above – Luke 16:19-31) until the Resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21-57).

Here are a few Scriptures to further solidify the truth and expose the error of Reincarnation: “*For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him... What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah... For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth... Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also*” (II Samuel 14:14, Psalms 89:48, Ecclesiastes 3:19-21, Ecclesiastes 9:10, and James 2:26).

Jesus is the “firstborn from the dead” (Colossians 1:18) so, we can learn about what happens when we die by looking at Him. When Jesus died, His physical body was put in a sepulchre (Luke 23:50-56). The Spirit of our Lord went to Paradise (Luke 23:39-46), which is in Hades (Acts 2:22-27). Jesus’ spirit was then rejoined with His body as He was resurrected (Acts 2:29-32, John 20:1-29, and I Corinthians 15:1-8). Like Christ, we shall follow that same path when we die and then when we are resurrected (I Corinthians 15:20).

Conclusion

We’ll never be hungry ghosts or humans reborn in a life to come. You’ll not find yourself in a “new fertilized egg”. The concept of Nirvana is clearly false. There are many more errors in Buddhism [a.k.a. Hinduism] we could spend time exposing such as their Eightfold Path. Since that would take longer than I would like to write about, this is going to be the final article on Buddhism. We have about five more articles on this series of false religions before we end the series. Therefore, I want to cover a few more false religions rather than spending more time “beating a dead horse”. Next, we shall focus a short time exposing the Lutheran Church.