

BIOLOGY 201

The Hebrew word for spirit is ruach and the Greek word is pneuma. We will begin by listing six different categories of **spirit** in the Bible.

- Theology (study of God) “God is a spirit.” (John 4:24) and Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12:4-6)
- Meteorology (study of weather) “God caused a wind to pass over the earth . . .” (Gen.8:1)
- Zoology (study of animal life) “They all have the breath.” (Eccl.3:19-20)
- Demonology (study of demons) “He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison.” (1 Pet.3:19)
- Anthropology (study of mankind) “The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” (Mark 14:38)
- Biology (study of human life) “For just as the body without the spirit is dead.” (James 2:26)

We have been studying the category of Biology taken from Genesis 2:7 – “Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being.”

In biology 101, we learned four important divine truths about the breath of life establish in Gen.2: 7.

- The breath of life comes from God and not from man.
- The breath of life is self-existing life of mankind.
- The breath of life comes through the nostrils and not the genitals.
- The breath of God was the same after the fall of Adam as before it.

Three different sources for a human body were used with the first family but the same breath of life produced living beings (dust [Adam], rib [Eve], and womb [Cain, Abel, Seth, YOU]).

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” (Ps.150:6)

Today’s lesson will study Five aspects of Biology 201 (The study of trichotomous man)
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1. In the phrase breath of life (neshamah chayyim), neshamah refers to self-existing life that comes from God. Chayyim is plural (im) and should be translated breath of lives.

The Hebrew’s thought of man as one or unison rather than as three or trichotomous. They certainly understood that man consisted of body, soul, and spirit – “Remember Him before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed; then the **dust (body)** will return to the earth as it was, and the **spirit** will return to God who gave it.” (Eccl.12:6-7)

Jesus explained the Hebrew belief about the **soul** – “Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.” (Luke 16:22-23) “And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both the soul and body in hell.” (Matt.10:28)

2. The breath of God is the life principle of the human body, soul, and spirit.

“For as long as life is in me, and the breath of God is in my nostrils.” (Job 27:3) “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” (Job 33:4)

“The Lord who **forms the spirit** of man within him.” (Zech.12:1)

“God the Lord who gives breath (neshamah) to the people on it and **spirit** (ruach) to those who walk in it.” (Isa.42:5)

“But they fell on their faces, and said, “O God, Thou **God of the spirits of all flesh**, when one sins, wilt Thou be angry with the entire congregation.” (Num.16:22; 27:16)

“Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respect them; shall we not much rather be subject to the **Father of spirits**, and live?” (Heb.12:9)

3. Since the human spirit is involved with the breath of life, it is also an issue with death.

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

“Thou dost take away their **spirit**. They expire and return to their dust.” (Ps.104:29) “His **spirit** departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” (Ps.146:4)

“If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath all flesh would perish together and man would return to dust.” (Job 34:14-15; Gen.6: 17; 7:21-22) “all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died”.

General doctrinal principle – “The body without the spirit is dead.” (James 2:26) Death is the separation of the spirit and soul from the body (John 19:30) [Jesus].

4. At death, the human spirit returns to God who gave it.

“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.” (Eccl.12:7)

“The spirit may be recognized as the life principle bestowed on man by God, the soul as the resulting life constituted in the individual, the body being the material organism animated by soul and spirit.” (Vine’s Expository dictionary of biblical Words, pg.589)

“And **Jesus**, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Thine hands I commit my spirit.’ And having said this, He breathed His last.” (Luke 23:46; Ps.31: 5; Acts 7:59) “For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.”(Ps.16: 10; Acts 2:31-33; 13:34-37)

The Greek’s had a special word for the soul departing (ekpsuchos) “Breathed his / her last.” (Acts 5:5) Ananias, (Acts 5:10) Sapphira; (Acts 12:23) Herod; (2 Cor.5: 6-8) Church Age Believers.