

22-1204a Transcript

22-1204a - *The Trip to the Afterlife, Part 1*, Scott Reynolds

Bible Readers: Kevin Woosley and Roger Raines

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The Trip to the Afterlife, Part 1

Transcript (0:04 - 30:08)

Scripture Readings

1st Reader: Kevin Woosley

Genesis 1:26-27

(0:03) Good morning. (0:05) We're reading out of the book of Genesis, chapter 1, verses 26 and 27. (0:14) That's Genesis, chapter 1, 26 and 27. (0:20) Then God said, (0:21) Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. (0:38) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God. He created him male and female. He created them. (0:45)

2nd Reader: Roger Raines

John 1:1-4

(0:50) Good morning. (0:52) I'm going to read from the book of John, chapter 1, verses 1 through 4. (0:59) John 1, first four verses. (1:03) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. (1:12) All things that came into being through him, and apart from him, nothing came into being that has come into being. (1:24) In him was light, and the light was the light of man. (1:29) This concludes this reading. (1:30)

Transcript

Preacher: Scott Reynolds

(1:35) Good morning. (1:37) I'd like to share with you a sermon from Douglas Hamilton, a preacher at the Junction City Church of Christ in Junction City, Kansas. (1:50) Hollywood loves to talk about the afterlife.

(1:55) They've made hundreds of movies that address the afterlife. (1:59) It's a huge topic behind love and violence. (2:02) A lot of times they have love and violence together.

(2:06) Everybody always likes to talk about the afterlife. (2:09) Like, all dogs go to heaven. (2:12) Or remember, Oh God, with George Burns? (2:17) They chose him because he was like the oldest man

alive at the time.

(2:22) Remember Beetlejuice? That was all about the afterlife. (2:26) It's a wonderful life. (2:28) How about The Sixth Sense? (2:30) At the end you found out, hey, this whole thing is about the afterlife.

(2:35) Then you had to piece together all this Hollywood stuff. (2:39) How about Field of Dreams? (2:42) They celebrated that game. (2:45) And that was about the afterlife.

(2:48) Where do you go? (2:49) Out into a cornfield in Iowa and you play baseball. (2:54) Heaven can wait with Warren Beatty. (2:57) Apparently you get a sweatsuit in heaven.

(3:01) What about ghosts? (3:02) That's like the biggest one. (3:05) These are just ones that I'm familiar with. (3:08) Hollywood is still in discussions on the afterlife.

(3:13) And the sad part is, we can choose to be spiritual imbeciles (3:18) and let that feed into what we believe about the eternal life and not even be close. (3:26) The media wants to talk about the afterlife, but they don't want to use the scriptures. (3:31) They just make the stuff up as they go.

(3:34) And Douglass says, as a minister I've gotten so many questions about the afterlife (3:39) which are anchored in a movie and not in the scriptures. (3:44) And I always ask them, do you want the biblical answer or do you want the Hollywood answer? (3:51) Well, I want the Bible answer. (3:53) Will you accept what the Bible has to say? (3:57) Because Christians use the Bible.

(4:00) So let's get going. (4:01) This is a four-part series. (4:03) We will do part one this morning, part two this evening.

(4:07) It will be called this evening, The Transformation. (4:13) You want to come back to that. (4:15) And we'll conclude with parts three and four on January 1st, (4:20) which is the next time that I'll be speaking a full Sunday, Sunday morning and evening, (4:25) the first Sunday of January.

(4:27) Where we start in the series, the trip to the afterlife, part one, (4:32) we're going to start with this premise found in Genesis 126 that Roger read, (4:39) and it's a foundational understanding. (4:44) We are made in the likeness and image of God. (4:49) This is a powerful statement in the Bible.

(4:52) But unless we calculate it into the equation, (4:55) you can't even begin to understand what it takes to digest this. (5:01) And since we are made in the likeness and image of God, we might ask, well, how are we like God? (5:08) Does God have a body, eyes, ears, a nose? (5:12) Let's investigate how we are made in his likeness and image by looking at the nature of God. (5:19) Beginning in the beginning with Genesis 126, notice the pronouns used.

(5:27) In today's world, there's a big emphasis on preferred pronouns. (5:35) Let's see what God's preferred pronouns are. (5:39) Genesis 126, God said, let us, pronoun, make man in our, pronoun, image, according to our likeness.

(5:56) In the Bible, pronouns have meaning. (5:59) Notice the call of God is in the plurality. (6:03) God uses plural pronouns.

(6:07) The word for God in this text is Elohim, which is plural. (6:13) His name in this text is a plural form of the word, Elohim. (6:19) We have a triune God, tri, consisting of three, un, and one, three and one, (6:27) being God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

(6:31) And they are one God with three components. (6:34) The Father is the planter, the Son the builder, and the Holy Spirit is the completer of all that's in the universe. (6:43) They always work in concert with each other.

(6:47) And we see this throughout the Bible, in creation, in information, and in salvation. (6:53) And we see God planting, Jesus building, and the Holy Spirit finishing. (7:02) For example, in the creation, God planned the creation.

(7:08) He's the architect. (7:10) Jeremiah 10, 12 states, (7:13) He established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding he stretched out the heavens. (7:20) God questions Job in Job 38, 4, (7:23) Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? (7:26) Tell me if you have understanding.

(7:30) Jesus built in the creation. (7:32) He's the actual builder. (7:35) So when you see, in Genesis 1, saying, God said, that's Jesus speaking.

(7:42) We'll see that in a moment. (7:44) John 1, 3, All things come into being through him, and apart from him, that's Jesus, (7:51) nothing came into being that has come into being. (7:54) Colossians 1, 15 and 16.

(7:57) Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (8:03) For by him, by Jesus, all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, (8:11) whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, even the authorities. (8:17) All things were created through him and for him.

(8:21) Hebrews 1, 2. (8:24) God has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, (8:29) through whom he, God the Father, created the world. (8:34) So God the Father created the world through his Son. (8:38) There you have the architect and the builder working together.

(8:43) The Holy Spirit finished the creation. (8:46) Genesis 1, 2. (8:48) The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, (8:52) and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. (8:59) Job 26, 13.

(9:02) By his Spirit he has garnished the heavens. (9:05) He's the finisher. (9:09) I love this building metaphor.

(9:12) We used it to see that God builds his house the same way. (9:16) God's the architect. He designs it.

(9:19) Jesus is the builder. He puts it together. (9:21) And you know, if you've ever had something built, (9:25) you know that after the builder comes in and does his work, (9:28) there's a finisher that comes in and does all the finish work.

(9:35) And so the Holy Spirit is the finisher. (9:43) The same thing with the Word. (9:45) God planned the words.

(9:47) John 14, 10. (9:49) The words that I say to you, Jesus is speaking here, (9:52) I do not speak on my own initiative, (9:55) but the Father abiding in me does his work. (9:59) John 14, 24.

(10:02) The word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's who sent me. (10:07) So the Father provided the words, the information that he's given us. (10:12) Jesus spoke the words.

(10:15) John 1, 1 and 2. (10:16) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, (10:20) and the Word was with God. (10:22) And he was in the beginning with God. (10:25) John 1, 14.

(10:28) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (10:31) And we saw his glory. (10:34) Glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(10:39) So Jesus is the one who spoke the information, the words. (10:43) And that's why we can say that when God said, (10:47) let there be light, that God, person of the Godhead that was saying that, (10:52) is Jesus, let there be light. (10:54) He brought everything into being as it tested him.

(10:58) The Holy Spirit completed the words. (11:00) Mark 16, verse 20. (11:02) They went out and preached everywhere, (11:04) while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by the signs of followers.

(11:09) What did the Holy Spirit have to do with it? (11:11) He backed it up. (11:12) He confirmed the inspired writings that we have in our hands. (11:17) Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 1, 5. (11:20) For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, (11:27) and in the Holy Spirit, and with full conviction.

(11:31) 1 Corinthians 1, 6. (11:32) Even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you. (11:38) The Holy Spirit confirmed the word for us. (11:41) So we have this pattern established.

(11:45) God planned, Jesus is the builder, and the Holy Spirit the completer. (11:50) The same thing goes for the actual plan of salvation. (11:56) God planned salvation.

(11:58) Ephesians 1, 4. (11:59) He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, (12:05) that we would be holy and blameless before him. (12:08) We are not an afterthought. (12:12) We are not an accident.

(12:15) God planned this. (12:18) Jesus built salvation. (12:20) John 14, 6. (12:22) Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, (12:26) and no one comes to the Father but through me.

(12:29) Jesus is the one who blazes the trail for us. (12:33) The Holy Spirit completes salvation. (12:36) Romans 8, 11.

(12:37) But if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, (12:44) he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies (12:50) through his Spirit who dwells in you. (12:54) All three, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one. (12:59) Before time, during time, and after time.

(13:03) They are working together. (13:04) The Scriptures make a clear connection of the three. (13:09) They are in concert with each other, functioning as a triune being.

(13:15) Matthew 28, 19. (13:17) Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations. (13:21) Well, how do you do that? (13:22) Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

(13:28) There they are in our salvation. (13:31) In our very existence in the Church, 2 Corinthians 13, 14. (13:36) The grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God, (13:40) and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(13:45) God is triune. (13:47) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God. (13:51) Three persons,

three components.

(13:54) They are triune. (13:55) They are always going to be triune. (13:57) The only time was when God turned his back on Jesus and the sky went dark (14:03) as the sins of the world were being put on that cross.

(14:08) It went dark. (14:09) That's the only time. (14:11) That's not happening again because that was paid for once for all.

(14:16) And so God is triune. (14:19) Don't think of God in the Hollywood way as an old guy with a beard (14:23) and a lightning bolt in his hand ready to throw from heaven (14:27) patterned after Zeus, the god of Greek mythology. (14:33) God's not like that.

(14:35) God is triune. (14:37) When you're thinking God, think also of the Son and Holy Spirit (14:40) because these three are one package. (14:44) They are different parts, have different purposes, but God is triune.

(14:49) But, you know, we are made in the likeness and image of God. (14:58) Why? (14:59) Because we also are triune. (15:05) Did you know that? (15:08) Being body, soul, and spirit.

(15:11) And this is confirmed through the scriptures captured in the following three verses. (15:17) Matthew 10, 28. (15:33) So we know we have a body and we have a soul.

(15:37) Hebrews 4, 12. (15:52) You know, you see those Japanese knives just slicing stuff. (16:01) The Spirit of God, the Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword (16:08) and it's able to divide the soul and spirit.

(16:16) They're not the same thing. (16:18) Soul and spirit are two different things (16:21) and the Word of God can split them apart (16:24) of both joints and marrow (16:26) and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (16:31) We have a soul and a spirit.

(16:35) Paul comes out and names all three and defining us in 1 Thessalonians 5, 23. (16:42) Now, may the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely. (16:48) That is, in your entirety.

(16:52) That's all of you. (16:55) And may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete in its entirety. (17:01) You might say.

(17:03) Without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (17:08) We are three parts. (17:10) Just like God.

(17:13) We are body, soul and spirit. (17:15) Equally triune. (17:17) And this way we are made in the likeness and image of our triune God.

(17:22) We are different from other creatures. (17:25) We are truly different. (17:27) We're not just, as the biologists like to say, an animal.

(17:32) We're not just like any other animal. (17:36) We have parts that make us triune like God. (17:43) Why is it important to understand this at the beginning of our study? (17:48) It's because we cannot understand the trip to the afterlife (17:52) without knowing the components that make us up.

(17:57) What's the best way to deal with potential misunderstandings of Scripture? (18:02) It's to make sure the foundation is strong. (18:08) If we don't understand that we are made in the likeness and image of God, (18:13) that we are triune body, soul and spirit, (18:16) then we will not understand what the Bible wants us to understand from the Scriptures. (18:22) For example, let's look at the three dimensions of man.

(18:28) First, you have a body. (18:32) If you have a body, raise your hand. (18:38) Good.

(18:39) You couldn't raise your hand if you didn't have a body. (18:42) Okay, it's a simple point, (18:44) but you have to go further than that to understand what the Bible says. (18:49) What Hollywood does is they want to base everything on the physical body.

(18:55) We're going to look the same. (18:56) We're going to have a sweatsuit. (18:59) We're going to whatever.

(19:00) They base everything on the physical earth. (19:06) Our body is the part of man for which we are most familiar with. (19:15) It is what we know of every person, (19:18) for it was designed for our presence in this realm, the physical realm.

(19:23) We have a body built for this realm, but only for this realm. (19:30) Additionally, it's the portion of man which will perish. (19:35) It's temporary.

(19:37) The physical realm is temporary. (19:40) It's finite. (19:42) It has an incoming.

(19:46) Psalm 103, 15 and 16. (19:49) As for man, his days are like grass, as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. (19:56) But when the wind has passed over, it is no more, and its place acknowledges it no longer.

(20:06) Hebrews 9, 27. (20:08) It is appointed unto men once to die. (20:12) What if Jesus comes back? (20:14) Okay, we'll chew on that later.

(20:17) Philippians 3, 21. (20:20) Refer to the body that we have right now, (20:23) or refers to the body that we have right now as the body of our humble estate. (20:30) What he's talking about is that this body is going away, (20:34) and the older I get, the happier I am that I don't have to get stuck with this.

(20:43) Douglas said, I had somebody in hospice one time ask me a question. (20:49) They're almost at the point of death, and they said, (20:53) Do you think we'll kind of pick up where we're at? (20:58) I let them process it. (21:00) What do you think? (21:02) And they said, No, because it wouldn't be heaven if I was in this dilapidated condition.

(21:10) And that's right. (21:11) This body is for this realm. (21:15) Number two, but then we have the soul.

(21:19) That's the real person. (21:21) That's the one you need to be concerned about. (21:24) Our soul is our inner being, encompassing everything about us, our sexuality.

(21:32) Isn't that biological? (21:34) Yeah, but it's driven by your soul. (21:38) Personal differences, intentions, knowledge, memories, all these, they're all part of you. (21:44) What make you you is your soul.

(21:47) That's your soul. (21:50) If we desire to have a stake, if it's what you're craving, (21:56) it's because our soul desires to eat flesh. (22:00) Deuteronomy 12.

(22:01) When we long for God, it is our soul which thirsts for him. (22:08) Psalm 331. (22:13) The knowledge of being fearfully and wonderfully made is captured in the soul.

(22:18) Psalm 139-14. (22:21) When you remember someone who has passed, it is your soul who remembers. (22:26) Lamentations 320.

(22:28) Our soul is the real version of ourselves, being our inner man. (22:36) Ephesians 316. (22:38) We have an outer man, we have an inner man.

(22:42) And though our outward body is temporary, our soul is eternal. (22:51) Long after we pass from this life, what remains of you is your soul. (22:57) The soul will continue into the afterlife.

(23:00) 2 Corinthians 416. (23:03) Though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (23:12) Now the spirit.

(23:14) Our third part. (23:16) Let's digest the word spirit for just a moment. (23:20) Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5.23 that we have a spirit, soul, and body.

(23:26) But what is the spirit of which he speaks? (23:31) What is he referring to? (23:34) The word spirit can mean many things. (23:37) Like wind in Hebrews 1.7. (23:41) He who makes his angels wind. (23:44) You could say spirits there too.

(23:46) He who makes his angels spirits. (23:49) Or breath. (23:51) 2 Thessalonians 2.8. (23:53) The spirit or breath of his mouth.

(23:56) A resurrected soul. (23:58) 1 Corinthians 15.45. (24:01) The last Adam became a life-giving soul. (24:07) A personal sentiment.

(24:09) Matthew 5.3. (24:11) Blessed of the poor in spirit. (24:14) Our intentions. (24:15) Philippians 1.27. (24:16) Standing firm in one spirit.

(24:19) Or Holy Spirit. (24:20) Acts 2.38. (24:22) And Peter said to them, you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (24:27) But none of these fit the context of our composition.

(24:31) Yet there is one definition which does apply. (24:35) That being the spirit of life. (24:39) The spirit of life is what God breathed into Adam and made him a living soul.

(24:46) Genesis 2.7. (24:47) And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of spirit of life. (24:55) And man became a living soul. (24:59) The spirit of life is what was driven from those who were drowned in the great flood.

(25:05) Genesis 7.22. (25:08) And whose nostrils were the breath of the spirit of life died. (25:14) We have the spirit of life within us. (25:17) It is the life force which energizes the body and the soul of man.

(25:24) The body cannot live without the spirit of life. (25:27) Neither could the soul. (25:29) But the spirit of life never leaves the soul.

(25:33) The soul leaves the body. (25:35) And that's why the body dies. (25:37) We'll cover that more in detail in the next lesson, the transition, tonight.

(25:42) The spirit of life is that mysterious life force which powers the being for which science cannot dismiss nor explain. (25:52) Psalm 104.29. (25:55) Thou dost take away their spirit. (25:58) They expire and return to dust.

(26:02) Job 33.4. (26:04) The breath of the Almighty gives me life. (26:08) Job 34.14 and 15. (26:11) And this one I shudder at.

(26:14) Think about this. (26:15) Job 34.14 and 15. (26:18) If he should determine to do so.

(26:22) If God just thought that, you know, maybe I'll do this. (26:26) He should gather to himself his spirit and his breath. (26:30) All flesh would perish together.

(26:33) And man would return to dust. (26:37) The body cannot live without the spirit of life. (26:40) Neither can the soul.

(26:42) According to the scriptures, when our physical body dies, the soul disassociates from the body, taking the spirit of life with it. (26:54) It is the spirit of life that keeps the soul alive, eternally alive. (27:00) For it was what made man a living soul.

(27:03) The spirit of life that God had connected to our souls makes it possible to continue to eternal life or eternal damnation. (27:14) There's a song that we sing. (27:17) To Canaan's land I'm on my way.

(27:20) Where, what? (27:22) The soul of man never dies. (27:25) My darkest night will turn to day. (27:29) When the soul of man never dies.

(27:32) Dear friends, there'll be no sad farewells. (27:35) There'll be no tears and dies. (27:37) Where all is peace and joy and love.

(27:41) And the soul of man never dies. (27:45) So you see, in conclusion, we are made in God's likeness and image. (27:52) And not only is this going to help us understand our trip to the afterlife.

(27:56) But it is also the very reason why we treat others like we are made in the likeness and image of the living God. (28:09) Because we are. (28:11) What sex is a soul? (28:15) There's no sex.

(28:16) There's no marriage in heaven, we were told. (28:22) What color is a soul? (28:24) How rich is a soul? (28:30) You know what happens when you're dying? (28:32) What happens to your possessions? (28:36) How rich is a soul? (28:39) And this way, when somebody is baptized into Christ. (28:44) They are neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.

(28:48) For we are all one in Christ. (28:52) How? (28:53) Because a soul comes up from the water. (28:56) You may have sown a body.

(29:00) But God saw a soul committed to Jesus. (29:03) And that soul, understanding the triune quality of humans. (29:08) That they are made in the likeness and image of God.

(29:11) Is what makes it possible for us to value another human being. (29:16) We are commanded to love our neighbor. (29:19) We're also commanded to love our enemies.

(29:23) We're commanded to love those made in the likeness and image of God. (29:28) And every human being is made in the likeness and image of God. (29:34) And that soul is going to keep on going.

(29:38) They'll be in a new body. (29:41) And we'll talk about that later on. (29:44) But the soul with the spirit of life is not going to die.

(29:49) Your soul is not going to die. (29:53) The question is, where is your soul going? (30:01) We're extending the invitation now to anyone who is subject to it. (30:06) Come, while we stand and sing.