

FAQ

FROM THE MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS ARCHIVES (2000-2018)

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MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

Frequently Asked Questions

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Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as TWOT for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

- ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
Ara: Aramaic
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)
CJB: *Complete Jewish Bible* (1998)
CJSB: *Complete Jewish Study Bible* (2016)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*
ESV: *English Standard Version* (2001)
Ger: German
GNT: *Greek New Testament*
Grk: Greek
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: *Holman Christian Standard Bible* (2004)
Heb: Hebrew
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
JBK: *New Jerusalem Bible-Koren* (2000)
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
KJV: *King James Version*
Lattimore: *The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore* (1996)
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
LXX: *Septuagint*
m. Mishnah
MT: *Masoretic Text*
NASB: *New American Standard Bible* (1977)
NASU: *New American Standard Update* (1995)
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
NEB: *New English Bible* (1970)
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
NETS: *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (2007)
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
NIV: *New International Version* (1984)
NJB: *New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic* (1985)
NJSB: *Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (1999)
NKJV: *New King James Version* (1982)
NRSV: *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)
NLT: *New Living Translation* (1996)
NT: *New Testament*
OT: *Old Testament*
REB: *Revised English Bible* (1989)
RSV: *Revised Standard Version* (1952)
t. Tosefta
Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
TLV: *Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version* (2014)
TNIV: *Today's New International Version* (2005)
TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
UBSHNT: *United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition*
v(s). *verse(s)*
Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
Vul: *Latin Vulgate*
YLT: *Young's Literal Translation* (1862/1898)
WMB: *World Messianic Bible* (2020)

Psychopannychy, growing in adherence

Why does it seem that a concept like psychopannychy is growing in adherence in various Bible teachers?

In today's evangelical Protestantism, belief in psychopannychy is growing because of a steady influence of liberal theological streams, and with some Bible teachers wanting a naturalistic explanation for almost everything they read in Scripture. There are Left-leaning evangelical theologians who want to keep open a dialogue with their Leftist liberal counterparts—and are highly influenced by them—sometimes with an affirmation of the literal resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), or salvation only/principally coming from Him, as what makes them really different.

One such psychopannychist, Joel B. Green, states very clearly what the two sources of inspiration for his belief are. He cites the Twentieth Century German theologian Ruldolf Bultmann, who once said, “Man does not have a soma; he is soma.”¹ This means that a human being is just a body, and nothing more. He also references “Darwin and evolutionary biology, which has located *Homo sapiens* within the animal kingdom with a genetic make-up that strongly resembles the creatures around us.”² Having referenced a liberal theologian whose main claim to fame was “de-mythologizing” the New Testament, and the father of evolutionary science via his *Origin of the Species*, it should be no surprise to see conclusions more rooted in looking at people as advanced animals largely subject to divergences of diverse biochemical reactions, rather than those who possess a unique, immaterial and multi-dimensional supernatural component.³

The growth of psychopannychy or “soul sleep” in the independent Hebrew/Hebraic Roots movement, has less to do with liberal theological influences or Charles Darwin. Those in Hebrew Roots who believe that there is no conscious, disembodied intermediate state, tend to be those who simply hate any kind of “Christian doctrine.” A strong-willed teacher insisting that going to Heaven at death was an apparent lie of Christianity, is likely to get a hearing and a following, among other false ideas to be promoted.

From both angles it is to be observed that there is a general weakening and erosion of orthodox Biblical doctrines in both the Synagogue and Church. Psychopannychy is only one of a selection of false teachings which has had a steady influence in the past half-century. If anyone claims that this is some concept that the Father is somehow “restoring” to His people, then they have not taken a good, sober look at where its ideological support is to be found.

Many of those who promote psychopannychy think that they are restoring a forgotten emphasis on the resurrection of the body. They are right to point out how for many Believers, salvation is exclusively about “going to Heaven,” and the resurrection of the dead is some distant afterthought. This does need to be corrected, so not all of the intentions of today's psychopannychists are dishonorable. They go too far, though, in responding to those who think that endless disembodiment in the clouds is the final condition of the redeemed. Psychopannychists reduce the human person to being an entirely material creature: flesh, blood, bones, tissue, and chemicals. Such

¹ Joel B. Green, *Body, Soul, and Human Life: The Nature of Humanity in the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008), 4.

² *Ibid.*, 3.

³ Cf. John W. Cooper, *Body, Soul & Life Everlasting: Biblical Anthropology and the Monism-Dualism Debate* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989), “The Scientific Challenge to Dualism,” pp 22-24.

an exclusively materialistic or naturalistic perspective on the composition of a human being **causes many people to then seriously doubt that we possess a unique supernatural component** imprinted upon us by our Creator.

In the end, the problem with psychopannychy—whether taught by liberal leaning theologians, or those who hate any form of Christian doctrine—is that it frequently causes people to steadily question and doubt supernatural things altogether. *Are miracles real? Is God real? Or is there a materialistic explanation for all this?* People start to wonder whether or not the Bible is just the collective writings or rantings of some mentally disturbed individuals, who may have just hallucinated some crazy things because they drank too much wine or failed to eat properly. It is difficult to deny how psychopannychy can possibly lay some of the early first stepping stones for people to ultimately apostasize and deny God, because human beings are, after all, thought to just be advanced animals—with no afterlife or future existence to be anticipated.