

Introduction: This lesson is designed to refute the concept or doctrine of ‘Reincarnation’ which is a popular concept in many cultures. It underlies names like *Babatunde, Nnanna, Ibao, Ekaete*, etc which suggest that the new child was his/her own grandparent who has returned! Those who profess belief in it assert that human beings return to earth after death to live again with same or a lower life form and standard of living based on how good they have been before and upon attaining perfection would cease the *transmigration cycle* by becoming god-like. Some even purport to have biblical support by alluding to some passages, some of which we shall examine. Communication within or with the dead is another distinct topic and not our focus.

Hinduism says we come into this new world burdened with "karma" -- the just punishment of an old, past life. Here on earth we must pay for the sins and mistakes we made in forgotten lives long ago. At death we leave our bodies to be reincarnated into another body to live another life, repeating the process hundreds of times. Hindus teach that the repetition continues until we purify ourselves to perfection -- thus obliterating the personality. Then we get off the wheel of life and go to "Nirvana" -- the **nothingness of total annihilation**.

We affirm that the theory is false for several reasons:

1. Man was created by Jehovah God and did not evolve by chance or caprice – “*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*” [Gen 1:26-28]
2. At death, the spirit separates from the human body [Jms 2:26a], to return to God’s custody [Eccl 3:19-21; 12:7] in hades while the flesh ultimately decompose to dust/ash [Gen 3:15]. The souls held in partitioned hades could not return to normal life in this world [Lk 16:22-31]. (*If the righteous are no longer in hades then they would be with Christ since His resurrection -Mt 27:50-53, Eph 4:8/Jn 20:17-27; Phil 1:21-23*)
3. Human lives are short in this world - Job 14:1-2, we are all pilgrims passing through - I Chronicles 29:15, Heb 11:10-16. Life is just a short breath - Psalm 39:5, as vapour or mist - James 4:14. Acknowledging this changes our outlook on life - Psalm 39:4; 90:11-12, Eccl 9:10..
4. The finality of death is real; “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” - Hebrews 9:27, 2 Sam 12:21-23 tells of David’s dead baby and Acts 2:29 of David’s graves.
5. No one can give concrete details of how, where or how many times a person has reincarnated. It is all based on speculation as seen in Jn 9:1-3 when Jesus debunked the notion of reincarnation.
6. Even Jesus was thought of by the people to be a reincarnated prophet or John the Baptist which was absurd given their age difference of six months –Mt 16:13-14, Mk 6:15-16
7. John was assumed by some to be reincarnated Elijah but Jesus clarified it was the nature of their office and manner that was similar, not that it was the same person re-appearing. John had probably just been executed when Moses and Elijah appeared at the transfiguration of Jesus, did apostles did not mix them up. Elijah did not die but was taken up so this does not fit with reincarnation theory itself!

Malachi 4:5-6 *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

Luke 1:13-17 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Matthew 11:7-14 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

8. If Reincarnation were true, the world human population would either be constant if same people are returning upon death or vary wildly per generation since lower live forms (e.g. insects, microbes, amoral animals) which cant be termed evil should evolve to human life-form. This contrasts with well known values and scientific reasons underlying population growth rates per country.
9. If Reincarnation were true, there will be no final judgment as the cycle of rebirths will never end since in every generation both bad and good people abound and there is no sign of evil abating.
10. In times of revelation and redemptive scheme, the Bible records real manifestation of the dead as per Moses in Mt 17, purported claims by necromancers (1 Sam 28) and temporary resurrection of the dead to elongate a lifetime (e.g. Lazarus in Jn 11.)

Conclusion: You have only one life to live, make the most of it as there is no second chance. Being born again is spiritual; there is no being physically born multiple times! When Jesus went to the cross, He died as a **substitute**. He was sinless, but He died in **your** place; taking the punishment **you** deserved. He did it so that God could take your "bad Karma" and put it on Him, and so Jesus could pay for it once and for all. –Heb 9:28.

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” - Rev 14:13

When the day of judgment arrives, the living and the dead will be gathered before the great white throne. Everyone will give an account of his deeds, whether good or bad. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'" (Matthew 25:34).

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." -2 Cor 5:10.