
FAQ

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
www.messianicapologetics.net

Psychopannychy, term

J.K. McKee revised 13 August, 2019

What does the term “psychopannychy” mean?

The most common term that one hears to describe the concept of deceased persons experiencing complete unconsciousness before the resurrection is **soul sleep**. A far more technical term that one may hear is **psychopannychy**. John Calvin helped to coin this term in a publication he wrote entitled *Psychopannychia* during the Reformation. The term itself is a combination of the Greek words *psuchē* (ψυχή), most commonly rendered “soul,” and *pannychios* (παννύχιος), meaning “*lasting all the night*” (LS).¹

The problem with the concept of “soul sleep” is that in theological practice it is not a period of unconsciousness between death and resurrection, but actually one of individual extinction and re-creation—as it is predicated on the notion that the physical human body makes up the entire person. This should cause considerable doubt whether or not the person re-created at the resurrection is actually the same person who had authentically lived on Earth before, or a close facsimile.

¹ LS, 590.