

## Nephesh

- Nephesh is possessed by animals (Gen 1:20, 21, 24, 30; etc.); Lev 24:18;
- The nephesh was viewed as “life” itself – Gen 9:4-5, where it is equated with blood; the logic here is that experience taught people that the loss of blood was linked to life and death
- Nephesh as “life” see also Gen 12:13; 19:19; 35:18 (I wouldn’t take this as “part” of the immaterial nature of the person without evidence from some other passage that the immaterial nature of a person HAS parts; I see it as “her life was departing” – she was dying); see Exod 4:19; Job 11:20; 33:22, 28, 30
- Can mean “people” or “person” – a whole entity possessing life, personalized; a “human life form”; i.e., a synonym for “people” – Gen 12:5; 46:18, 22, 25-26; Lev 2:1; 4:2, 27; 5:1; Num 31:35, 40, 46; persons – Ezek 18:4
  - Subset of the above:
  - Nephesh can mean something like “me” or “I” – Gen 27:4 or “you” (Gen 27:19); yourselves – Lev 11:43-44
- Nephesh can mean human volition / act of will / desire – Gen 23:8; Gen 27:4(?);
- Nephesh can speak of or describe emotions or “inner yearning” / feelings associated with the inner life – Gen 34:3, 8; Gen 42:21; Exod 15:19; 23:19; Num 21:4; 1 Sam 1:10, 15; 2 Sam 5:8; 17:8; 2 Kings 4:27; Job 14:22; Psa 6:3; 13:2; Psa 23:3; 35:25; 42:1-2;
  - or, it can be the seat or source of emotions – Lev 26:15; 26:30, 43; Jer 13:17; 14:19; Lam 3:17
  - or, an inner disposition – Lev 26:16; Judges 16:16; 1 Sam 2:33; Psa 42:6; 107:26
  - inner appetite (inner desires) – Deut 14:26; 21:14; 23:24; 1 Sam 23:20; Prov 19:2
  - appetite as in hunger – Job 6:7; 33:20; Prov 6:30; Isa 56:11 (animals)
  - the “inner you” – Deut 4:29; 6:5; 10:12; 11:13; 11:18 (many)
  - making choices or decisions – 2 Kings 9:15; thinking – Prov 23:7
- Nephesh can refer to the DEAD – Lev 19:28 (check this one); Lev 21:1; 21:11; 22:4; Num 5:2; 6:6, 11; 9:6-7, 10
  - A corpse: Num 19:13 (i.e., a BODY)
- Set in parallel (or in distinction?) to “heart” – 1 Sam 3:25; 1 Chron 28:9; Psa 13:2 (and the reverse – 1 Kings 8:48; 2 Chron 1:11);

Can references to the nephesh in sheol refer to only the immaterial part? Not is Sheol is also the grave; the point is one’s body or one’s life – see Psa 16:10; 30:3; Psa 56:13;

References to “soul and body” together – Psa 31:9; Isa 10:18

Nephesh as “neck” – Psa 105:18