

Ruach as it pertains to humans

Ruach (“breath”) in animals – Gen 6:17; 7:15

Only place you have נְשִׁמַת־רוּחַ is Gen 7:22 (all life)

Only place where you have נְשִׁמַת חַיִּים is Gen 2:7 (humans)

Taking the above two together, ruach is parallel to chayyim (life) – and so ruach = life principle there; **nephesh** is also used this way – life principle

נְשִׁמַת as “life” / “breath” (physical function often) – Deut 20:16; Josh 10:40;

Josh 11:11; 1 Kings 15:29; 1 Kings 17:17; Isa 42:5 (also has **ruach**); Isa 57:16 (also has **ruach**)

נְשִׁמַת of Gen 2:7 used to parallel ruach – Job 32:8 (and God does not

have lungs and doesn’t need to breathe; so this נְשִׁמַת = life source)

Ruach- elohim in parallel with nishmat Shadday = Job 33:4

“life” principle; maybe just breath – Gen 45:27; **Zech 12:1** (hearkens back to Gen 2:7); Job 12:10 (also has **nephesh**); 1 Kings 10:5; Ezek 37:5-6, 8 (reading the whole narrative, seems like “wind” is the point); **Psa 135:17** (here ruach is clearly breath); **Job 7:7** (life is equated with breathing – death, the lack thereof); **Eccl 3:19** – animals and humans all have the same ruach (life/breath); Eccl 8:8;

Emotions – Numb 5:14; 5:30; Eccl 10:4; 2 Chron 18:22; Gen 26:35 (idiom); 1 Sam 1:15 (parallels **nephesh** here as well); Job 7:11 (also has **nephesh**); Isa 54:6; 57:15; Prov 14:29;

Enthusiasm / will / decision capacity / attitude / humility – Isa 19:3; Isa 57:15; Isa 61:3; Jer 51:11; Hagg 1:14; Psa 76:13; Job 32:18; Prov 18:14; Ezra 1:1; Exod 6:9; Num 14:24; Josh 2:11; Josh 5:1; Isa 26:9 (also has **nephesh**); Isa 29:24; Ezek 11:19; 18:31; Ezek 21:12; 36:26; Psa 34:19; 51:19; Prov 15:13; 16:19; 17:22; 17:27; 29:23; Eccl 7:8;

Abilities / “know-how” – Exod 28:3 (providential enabling or “a spirit” inhabiting?); **Jer 10:14**; **51:17** (idols lack this; contrasted with stupidity; see also Hab 2:19); Dan 5:12; 6:4; 1 Chron 28:12;

Divine enabling (temporary) or divine prompting – Deut 34:9; Isa 11:2; Isa 28:6; Numb 11:17; 27:18

Evil influence – Hos 5:4; Zech 13:2

Disembodied “soul” – Eccl 3:21; Eccl 12:7 (because it “goes” somewhere after death);

Metaphorical and little use: Isa 42:1; God doesn't have a soul (which is created) like we do. We wouldn't want to suggest his is his essence in a literal way, since that sounds Gnostic – God gives us his essence as our spirit (spark of divinity idea).

God is spirit – disembodied immaterial essence – Isa 31:3

Rather “my soul” = inner life