

Life after Death Part 5

Christ Resurrection

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23 KJV)

The Scriptures teaches much about life after death. We had studied the body, the soul and the spirit of man. Now we will study further Scriptures to be aware of what would take place after death.

Christ on His death on the cross, His body was put to death, but He was made alive by the Spirit, *“18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.” (1 Peter 3:18-22 KJV)* Christ was put to death in body but His Spirit was alive. By that same Spirit He went previously and preached to the people that were present at the time of Noah. But since they did not listen to Christ’s Word that is why now they are in hell; who were disobedient to God and to His Word. ** Christ preached to them with His Spirit through the ministry of Noah, the preacher of righteousness who was preaching to them. This explanation supports that Christ in His Spirit was preaching to the people through the ministry of Noah. * The Spirit of Christ was in Noah, as the Scripture tells us that the Spirit of Christ was in the prophets as we read here, “10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” (1 Peter 1:10-11 KJV)*

Jesus when He was asked by the Jews to give them a sign before they will believe on Him, He gave them the sign of Jonah, *“38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Matthew 12:38-40 KJV)* Christ after His death was in the heart of the earth by His Spirit.

The story of Jesus in *Luke 16* may tell us what we can found in the heart of the earth: *“19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell*

from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” (Luke 16:19-31 KJV) We can see clearly here that while the rich man was in hell, opposite to him he saw the beggar in the bosom of Abraham, the place of bliss or the paradise, that the Old Testament saints were brought to. *Why the saints were kept in that place? Because it was not possible for the saints to be brought to God before Christ paid the price for our sins.* But after Jesus paid the price for our sins, He brought us near to God, *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18 KJV)* *From the story of Jesus about the rich man in Luke 16 we may conclude that this place of bliss, the paradise, was opposite to hell before Christ paid the price for our sins, for Abraham was there.*

This place of bliss which also called paradise, Jesus promised that place to the thief who repented and asked Jesus to remember him: *“42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43 KJV)*

The following are the possible meanings of ‘Paradise’ that Scripture support:

1. Paradise can be a garden as we read in the book of Genesis. *“8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.” (Genesis 2:8 KJV)*
2. Paradise can be the part of Hades as in the story of Jesus on *Luke 16*, which was thought by the later Jews to be the abode or the house of the souls of pious people until the resurrection time, but some understand this to be a Heavenly paradise.
3. Paradise can be Heaven.

This place of bliss or paradise which was in Hades, in the heart of the earth, which Jesus went with His Spirit after His death, was replaced after Jesus’ resurrection with the paradise in the third Heaven. Jesus after His resurrection went up to the right hand of God, *“22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.” (1 Peter 3:22 KJV)*

Paul wrote about paradise, describing the third Heaven and paradise as a same place as we read here: ***“2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” (2 Corinthians 12:2-4 KJV)*** The third Heaven and the paradise here are the same place.

The book of Revelation describes the tree of life being in the paradise of God: ***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7 KJV)*** That was similar to the tree of life that God planted in the garden eastward in Eden, ***“8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” (Genesis 2:8-9 KJV)*** The tree of life is further mentioned in the book of Revelation, ***“1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” (Revelation 22:1-2 KJV)***

Now let us go to the Scriptures to see what took place at the time of Jesus' death? ***“50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.” (Matthew 27:50-53 KJV)*** At the moment of Jesus death, Jesus yielded up the ghost, His Spirit, and there was earth quake that caused the rocks of earth to break and the graves to be opened. After Christ's resurrection on the third day, the bodies of those saints which slept, died before Christ, they arose and they saw them in Jerusalem and appeared to many people.

Therefore, following Christ resurrection, was the arising of the dead saints from the bliss, Hades, or paradise, who later on they followed, His ascension to the right hand of God the Father, to be in the paradise, the third Heaven, and to be there until His second coming.

Christ came down from Heaven, and after His death descended invading the lowest places in the earth reaching the Hades by His Spirit, and later on He ascended to the highest region, ***“8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)” (Ephesians 4:8-10 KJV)*** After His victory on the cross Jesus went down into the lower parts of the earth, and took up with him captives as he had the victory over his enemy: taking up with him the saints, those who were in the bliss, the paradise, to the new place of paradise in the third

Heaven. *So the paradise, that place of the saints after death, was changed after the death and the resurrection of Jesus from the heart of the earth to the third Heaven.*

Christ was the first resurrected from the death, then when He will come those who are dead in Christ, the saints who are in the third Heaven, their bodies to be resurrected after, then we who are still alive at His coming will be caught up with them in the clouds as we read here in these Scriptures: ***“20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.” (1 Corinthians 15:20-23 KJV)*** ***“13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV)***

My dear and beloved: So now we can concludes the following: *After death, those who are followers of Christ, their bodies will be buried in the earth, but their spirits will go to God, and their souls will ascend to the paradise of God in the third Heaven. While those who are wicked after their death, their bodies will be buried, their spirits will go back to God, but their souls will be brought to hell, which is in the heart of the earth, to be tormented. This situation and such arrangement will continue till the second coming of Christ.*

Therefore, let us be encouraged here with Christ resurrection, that when He will come we will be with Him. So now let us live our lives for Him for there is a great future waiting for us at His coming and the eternal life that we will enjoy living with Him in Heaven and forever.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that makes things clear to me about the resurrection and life after death.

Let us confess and renounce our sins, so that we will be ready when Christ will come to take us with Him to Heaven.

Lord forgive me the following sins _____.

Let us commit ourselves to live in holiness doing the whole will of God. Lord I commit myself to walk in the Spirit and follow your ways and your commands in my life, looking forward to be one day with you and forever. Lord till this moment that I am going to meet you, Lord preserve my mind and thoughts and direct me to do your will and whatever you ordain for me to do till you come and take me with you to Heaven.

Lord bless our Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you. Lord bless us as a church and lead us and open to us new doors to evangelize and making new disciples. Lord bless and fulfill the vision that you had given to us, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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