

Life after Death-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 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 at the time of Noah. But since they did not listen to Christ 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 other possible explanation is that Christ after His death went by His Spirit to Hades and announced His victory over death to those who were disobedient to Him and who refused to repent.

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.

The story in *Luke 16* may tell us what we can found in the heart of the earth. *“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.” (Luke 16:22-26 KJV) While the rich man was in hell, opposite to him he saw the beggar in the bosom of Abraham, the place of bliss, that the Old Testament saints were brought to. For it was not possible for the saints to be brought to God before Christ paid the price for our sins. But after he paid the price 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 was opposite to hell before Christ paid the price for our sins, for Abraham was there.

This place of bliss it could be also called paradise. Jesus promised that 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 is the possible meaning of ‘Paradise’ that Scripture support:

1. A garden. *“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. The part of Hades which was thought by the later Jews to be the abode of the souls of pious until the resurrection: but some understand this to be a Heavenly paradise.
3. Heaven.

This place of bliss which was in Hades was replaced after Jesus’ death and 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, *“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 book of revelation describes the tree of life is 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 garden east of Eden, where God planted, *“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, there was earth quake that caused the graves of the saints to be opened. The bodies of the dead saints resurrected from the grave after the resurrection of Christ. Their resurrection was with spiritual bodies to follow the resurrection of Christ. That was another divine sign that followed Christ death and resurrection. Christ was the first resurrected from the death, then those who are dead in Christ to be resurrected, then we who are still alive at His second coming. ***“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)***

That resurrection of the dead saints from the bliss, followed Christ resurrection, later on followed His ascent ion to the right hand of God the Father, to be in the paradise.

Christ came down from heaven and descended invading the lowest places in the earth 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 has a victory over his enemy: taking up with him the saints, those who were in the bliss to paradise in the third heaven.

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 earth, but their spirit will go to God, and their soul 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 spirit will go back to God, but their soul will be brought to hell to be tormented. This situation and such arrangement will continue till the second coming of Christ.

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 and made me understand your Word. 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 thought 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 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.*