

State of the Dead

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Where do we go when we die?

Don't go running to get this answer from your preacher, teacher, friends, pastor, or priest. Just go back in the Bible to find out. It is where you should always go when you have questions. However if you do at times have to go to a person for answers, always verify it in the Word of God before making any final decisions! Don't trust me or any man! Go to God's Word for the final answer and you will never go wrong.

What did Jesus Call death?

[Joh 11:11](#) These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

[Joh 11:12](#) Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

[Joh 11:13](#) Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

[Joh 11:14](#) Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

[Mat 9:24](#) He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

How did Paul describe those who saw Jesus but are now dead?

[1Co 15:6](#) After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

What did Jeremiah call death?

[Jer 51:39](#) In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD.

What did the wicked consider death to be?

[2Pe 3:3](#) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

[2Pe 3:4](#) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

What did David call death?

[Psa 13:3](#) Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;

Note: The dead simply "sleep". If you are exhausted when you go to bed at night, and fall asleep quickly; you sleep soundly and awaken the next morning to the sound of the alarm clock, from the moment sleep came until the alarm rang it seemed but a fraction of a second. Death is exactly the same, 15 minutes or 1000 years will feel the same. We will not be conscious of any time passing by.

Where was Jesus after He died on the cross?

[Mat 12:40](#) 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.

Note: He was asleep in the grave, just as the Scriptures say, until His resurrection on Sunday morning. Jesus Himself said He would remain in the grave for 3 days until His resurrection.

Will the dead have dreams?

[Psa 146:4](#) His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

Note: When a man dies his thinking abilities cease to exist. Death will be a dreamless sleeping state. Just as a

person has no knowledge of anything prior to his birth, he will have no knowledge or consciousness of events after he is dead.

Do the dead know anything?

[Ecc 9:5](#) For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

[Isa 26:14](#) They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish.

Note: The dead have no ability to think. Because of this “the memory of them is forgotten.” They are not able to use their brain let alone remember anything of their previous life while they are sleeping.

What happens to their feelings?

[Ecc 9:6](#) Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

Note: The Bible teaches there will be no dead people coming as a ghost seeking revenge for their previous life. For “their hatred, and their envy, is now perished”. Nor does the Bible teach our dead family or friends can return as friendly spirits with the memory of our loving relationship we had on earth, for “their love...is now perished”, “the memory of them is forgotten”, and “his thoughts perish” they don’t even have memory of their life in this world.

Will we see God or other people while we are dead?

[Isa 38:10](#) I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

[Isa 38:11](#) I said, I shall not see the LORD, even the LORD, in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world.

You mean to tell me our loved ones are not looking down on us?

They don’t see us succeed or fail?

[Job 14:21](#) His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.

Note: Speaking of a dead man. He is dead and “His sons come to honor” his grave but “he knoweth it not” because the dead have no awareness of what happens on earth after they die. His sons “are brought low, but he perceiveth it not” or he doesn’t realize his sons came to honour his grave. After someone dies they are not aware of what the living are doing.

In the grave will you have knowledge?

[Ecc 9:10](#) Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Note: Imagine if a man got in an accident and damaged his head. He was taken to the doctors with a partially working mind. Next his heart stops and he dies. Then he comes back with an experience to share with people. A guy hurts his head, barely knows a thing, then dies, and all of a sudden he knows everything. Many people believe this. My Bible says “the dead know not anything” not everything. It is so important to make good choices today while we have the opportunity because when we die we won’t have a second chance.

What happened to David?

[1Ki 2:10](#) So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

[Act 13:36](#) For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

How did God regard David?

[Act 13:22](#) And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave

testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Note: God said David was a man after His own heart. Surely we will see David in heaven.

After David slept the “sleep of death” is he in heaven today?

Act_2:34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

Then where is David today?

[Act 2:29](#) Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

Note: No doubt we WILL see David in heaven. But the Bible says “David is not ascended into the heavens” rather “he is both dead and buried” sleeping “the sleep of death” in his sepulchre or burial tomb “with his fathers”.

Do the dead go somewhere when they die?

[Job 21:32](#) Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.

Did Jesus teach when we die we go straight to heaven?

[Joh 13:36](#) Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

Note: Jesus is going going to his “Father’s house” and right now we “canst not follow” Him. But after something we will be able to.

Where is Jesus’ Father at?

[Mat 7:21](#) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Note: Jesus told Peter he’s going to His Father which is in heaven and we cannot follow Jesus. We’re not able to go to heaven yet. But we can follow Christ afterwards.

After what event can we be where Jesus is?

Joh_14:2 In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh_14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Note: Christ went to heaven to build you a mansion. Christ said you cannot follow him. He says “I will come again” or I will come a second time. At this moment he says “where I am, there ye may be also.” It is at Christ second coming when we can go to heaven not directly after you die.

Don’t people go to hell or heaven at the moment of death?

[Mat 25:31](#) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

[Mat 25:32](#) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

[Mat 25:33](#) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Note: Jesus said He will separate the sheep and the goats when he comes. The sheep inherit the kingdom of heaven in verse 34. The goats go to hell verse 41. This happens at Christ’s second coming.

[Mat 13:49](#) So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

[Mat 16:27](#) For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Note: It is at the second coming when all people receive their rewards regarding everlasting life or everlasting death.

If you were in heaven would you be praising the Lord?

Psa_115:17 The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

Note: If when you died you went straight to heaven you would undoubtedly be praising God. But the Bible teaches the "The dead praise not the LORD". We know David will be in heaven but the Bible teaches "David is not ascended into the heavens". When we die we don't pass directly through into heaven. Rather we sleep and await the resurrection.

If you don't learn truth while you're alive will you have a second chance?

[Isa 38:18](#) For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

Note: Again when you die you are not in heaven praising the Lord because you will be asleep in your grave until you are raised. If you don't learn the truth today while you're alive then when you die you "cannot hope for thy truth."

There is no second chance, there is no changing decisions, or making the wrong choices right after we go into the grave. We need to use the precious living time we have today. You don't know if you will die tomorrow because tomorrow isn't promised. So let's keep studying.

Who can praise the Lord?

[Isa 38:19](#) The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

[Psa 146:2](#) While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Will you have any remembrance of God when you die?

[Psa 6:4](#) Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

[Psa_6:5](#) For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

What did the writer of Hebrews believe on this subject?

[Heb 11:32](#) And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

[Heb 11:33](#) Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

[Heb 11:34](#) Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

What promise were they looking forward to?

[Heb 11:35](#) Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

[Heb 11:36](#) And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

[Heb 11:37](#) They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

[Heb 11:38](#) (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Note: Speaking of the list given in verse 32, they went through many trials and persecutions and verse 35 says they were able to endure it all only because their faith in the promise "that they might obtain a better resurrection". These heroes of faith understood they would be resurrected at a latter time rather than passing directly into heaven at death.

Did they receive the promise?

[Heb 11:39](#) And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

Note: All of these people obtained "a good report" by God. Surely they will be in heaven.

What is the promise?

[Heb 9:15](#) And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of

the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

[Jas 1:12](#) Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

[Rev 2:10](#) Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Note: The promise they held on to by faith was “a better resurrection” “the promise of eternal inheritance” or “the crown of life”. They couldn’t be resurrected yet. They haven’t received the promise of eternal inheritance yet. They don’t have a crown of eternal life right now. They are waiting to receive this promise.

What are they waiting for?

[Heb 11:40](#) God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Note: All of these people obtained “a good report” by God. Surely they will be in heaven. They are waiting for us! Without us they cannot receive the promise of eternal life. We will soon learn all the saints receive the promise together! But until then, they have fallen into a deep sleep with an eternal hope of a resurrection. In the grave there is no concept of time. From the last time they close until the resurrection will seem as though a blink of an eye. Pay attention further down the study to what the very first sight they will see after they’re resurrected.

What words did Jesus say to sleeping Lazarus?

[Joh 11:43](#) And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

Note: This is how our Savior viewed death. Just before this He called death a sleep. Later, He stood by the burial tomb of His friend and cried out, “Lazarus, come forth!” He did not say, “Lazarus, come down.” Lazarus was not up in heaven, nor was he anywhere else, except inside the walls of his tomb. In response to the call of Jesus, he awoke from his “sleep of death” and walked out into the sunlight.

How long was Lazarus dead for?

[Joh 11:39](#) Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

Note: Many exaggerated tales have circulated about people who came back from the dead but this is the most authentic and inspired story on record. There is absolutely no doubt that Lazarus had been dead for four days. His sisters protested when Jesus ordered the stone to be rolled away from the door. Because they knew by then his body would be rotting and smell bad.

[Isa 1:18](#) “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD...”

Note: Most modern accounts of patients who come back from their heart stopping include dramatic “wonders and visions” of the glories of heaven. What did this righteous man have to say about his four days of death? Did he report celestial visions of heavenly reward? Not a word. He had been asleep, just as Jesus had indicated. It had been like a moment of oblivion. By the way, what kind of unspeakable punishment would it have been to bring Lazarus back into this dark world after being in the presence of God? Surely he would have begged not to return, had he truly been enjoying the rewards of the righteous. A resumption of earthly life would have been worse than the horror of hell in comparison to ninety-six hours in Paradise. Certainly our Lord would never have been guilty of playing such a trick on His friend Lazarus.

What question does Job ask?

[Job 14:10](#) But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

Note: This is the same question we are asking is it not? Let’s see if he believed we rose to heaven when we die.

[Job 14:12](#) So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

Note: He knew when we die we don’t instantly raise from the dead and pass into heaven. Again the Bible calls death

sleep. When we die we “riseth not: till the heavens be no more” that word “till” gives us an understand about how long we will remain in the grave sleeping.

How long would we remain sleeping?

[Job 14:13](#) O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

Note: Job says God will “appoint me a set time” for him to awake from his sleep. There’s a specific time to be resurrected. It will be sometime after “the heavens be no more” and after God’s “wrath be past”.

When will both these happen?

[2Pe 3:10](#) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

[Rev 6:14](#) And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

[Rev 6:15](#) And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

[Rev 6:16](#) And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

[Rev 6:17](#) For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Note: It will be when Christ returns will the sky or “heavens shall pass away” and the sky will depart as a scroll.

Did Job know he would wake when Christ returns?

[Job 19:25](#) For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

[Job 19:26](#) And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

[Job 19:27](#) Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Note: At death it will be as though you shut your eyes and in a moment you open them. The very next thing you will see is Christ’s returning.

Job said when he would die he will wait until what came?

[Job 14:14](#) If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Note: At this appointed time Job says he’s waiting until his change comes when he will raise from the dead.

Until this “change” comes where do the dead wait?

[Job 17:13](#) If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.

Note: What do you do in a bed? Sleep. It’s all over the Bible.

When will this change come?

[1Co 15:51](#) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

[1Co 15:52](#) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Note: We will be changed “at the last trump” when “the trumpet shall sound” then “the dead shall be raised”.

[1Co 15:53](#) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

[1Co 15:54](#) So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Note: This is when we receive immortality. Notice the Bible teaches THIS body will be changed. God hasn’t made a separate body awaiting us in heaven to endure the endless ages of eternity. This body will be changed “at the last trump” and “put on immortality” when “the dead shall be raised”.

[Mat 24:31](#) And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

During this change, what will our resurrected body be like?

[Php 3:21](#) Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

What sort of body did Jesus have after he was resurrected?

[Luk 24:36](#) And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

[Luk 24:37](#) But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

[Luk 24:38](#) And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

[Luk 24:39](#) Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Note: The glorious body like Christ' will be flesh and bones. After Jesus was resurrected when His disciples were together in the upper room He appeared to them. When they thought "they had seen a spirit" Jesus made it clear He was not a spirit by showing his wounds. He told them to touch Him and see He had a physical body of "flesh and bones". We too after we are resurrected will have "this body" "changed" into a physical body of "flesh and bones" that can endure eternity after "we put on immortality"

Does the bible want us to be confident about what happens after death?

[1Th 4:13](#) 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.

Note: God's word does not leave us ignorant about death. God doesn't want you to have any doubt of where you go when you die. I have heard people say we will never truly know until we actually die. In essence that is telling me I need "to be ignorant" about this important Bible truth until I die. This is simply a cheap excuse to avoid studying the topic for themselves or exercising sincere and humble consideration on the newly presented teaching. The Bible is so clear & abundant with scriptures on this subject that every honest individual need not "to be ignorant.. concerning them which are asleep".

At what major event does this resurrection take place?

[1Th 4:14](#) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Note: This context is speaking of those who "sleep in Jesus". This is not speaking of the lost, but of the Christians.

[1Th 4:15](#) 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.

Note: This is speaking of the second coming of Christ.

[1Th 4:16](#) 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:

[1Th 4:17](#) 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.

Note: "at the last trump" when "the trumpet shall sound" is when "the Lord himself shall descend...with the trump of God". It's at Christ second coming when the "dead in Christ shall rise first". Also the word "first" implies that there will be a second resurrection. The first resurrection happens at Jesus' second coming. During the first resurrection only the Christians who "are alive and remain" when Christ comes "shall be caught up" which some people call the rapture. At this time all God's people will go to heaven both dead and alive "and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

This is the first resurrection

[Luk 14:14](#) And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

Note: It makes little sense to expect when a person dies he goes to heaven or to hell and then climbs back into the grace to be resurrected. Would there even be a need for a resurrection of the dead if we went directly to an afterlife existence for eternity when we died? Never.

When “The Lord himself shall descend with a shout” who will hear His voice?

[Joh 5:25](#) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Note: When the dead hear the shouting voice of the Son of God, it will be so loud it's described as “the trump of God” which will cause the dead to be resurrected.

Where are the the dead at this time?

[Joh 5:28](#) Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

Note: It's important to notice the Bible says “all that are in the graves” while not making a distinction between the saved and lost. Therefore “they that have done evil” are not burning in hell right now rather they are “in the graves” likewise “they that have done good” are not in heaven praising God rather they are “in the graves”. Saved or lost they are “in the graves” awaiting their “appointed” resurrection.

What is the purpose of each resurrection?

[Joh 5:29](#) And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Note: The first resurrection is also referred to as “the resurrection of life” because when Christ comes again then “this mortal must put on immortality”, and we are “caught up...to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”. The reason for “the resurrection of life” is to receive eternal life. The reason for “the resurrection of damnation” is in the name. “They that have done evil” are resurrected in the second resurrection to receive damnation. They are only resurrected to receive their judgement and be destroyed in hell fire.

Before the unjust are resurrected which day are they being reserved until and for what purpose?

[2Pe 2:9](#) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Note: The only purpose for the second resurrection is “to be punished” and receive judgment.

Daniel understood there were two resurrections

[Dan 12:2](#) And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

What happens after the first resurrection?

[Rev 20:4](#) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Note: “The dead in Christ” are being described here. Those who have died in Christ we know will be resurrected at the second coming of Christ. They will live and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

When will the second resurrection take place?

[Rev 20:5](#) But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Note: The second resurrection otherwise known as “the resurrection of damnation” occurs when “the thousand years were finished”. Not at the beginning of the 1000 years, nor in the middle, or all throughout the 1000 years, but after the 1000 years are completely finished will the lost be resurrected.

Which resurrection suffers the second death?

[Rev 20:6](#) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Note: The “Blessed and holy” that are raised in “the first resurrection” during Christ second coming “reign with him a thousand years” and the “the second death hath no power” over them. Those in “the resurrection of life” receive eternal life and will never die twice. But those who are raised at the end of the thousand years receive damnation which is the second death. After the second death they won’t be raised again.

If there was no resurrection of the dead what would happen?

[1Co 15:13](#) But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

[1Co 15:14](#) And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

[1Co 15:15](#) Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

[1Co 15:16](#) For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

[1Co 15:17](#) And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Note: It is interesting to notice many preachers today will proclaim Christ is risen and because He overcame the grave we too will have eternal life. While this is true, these preachers completely skip over a very crucial element of the Gospel. If there is “no resurrection of the dead” in the first place then Christ couldn’t have risen, their preaching is vain, “your faith is also vain”, you have no Savior from your sins ([Matthew 1:21](#)), and you are still a guilty sinner with no hope of change according to the Bible! Do you see how important it is to understand “the resurrection of the dead”? This is why God would not have us “ignorant...concerning them which are asleep”. It’s important to KNOW where we go when we die. Satan would have us to be confused and doubtful. Paul makes it clear there’s no point teaching Christ is risen while neglecting to explain to the truth seeker the truth of the resurrection.

If there were no resurrection, what would happen to all who have fallen asleep?

[1Co 15:18](#) Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

[1Co 15:19](#) If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

When will the Christian be resurrected?

[1Co 15:23](#) But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.

Note: The dead in Christ will remain in their graves awaiting the order of the resurrection. What is that order you ask? Jesus is the “firstfruits of them that slept” afterward those that are believers in Jesus will “be made alive”. According to the Bible, they will be made alive in the order the Lord set up. Jesus, the “firstfruits” and then those that are His followers, “at His coming”.

Did the first resurrection begin with the saints which arose after Christ’s resurrection?

[Mat 27:50](#) Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

[Mat 27:51](#) 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;

[Mat 27:52](#) And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

[Mat 27:53](#) And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Does this event begin the first resurrection?

[2Ti 2:18](#) Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Note: It’s noted in the scriptures those who teach “the resurrection is past already” “have erred” and they “overthrow the faith of some”. The same error was being taught in Timothy’s day. We established clearly the first resurrection begins at Christ second coming.

The saints who were resurrected with Jesus were prophesied of by symbol when the sheaf of firstfruits were waved before the Lord found in [Leviticus 23:9-22](#).

Christ arose from the dead as the first fruits of those that slept. He was the antitype of the wave sheaf, and His resurrection took place on the very day when the wave sheaf was to be presented before the Lord. For more than a thousand years this symbolic ceremony had been performed. From the harvest fields the first heads of ripened grain were gathered, and when the people went up to Jerusalem to the Passover, the sheaf of first fruits was waved as a thank offering before the Lord. Not until this was presented could the sickle be put to the grain, and it be gathered into sheaves. The sheaf dedicated to God represented the harvest. So Christ the first fruits represented the great spiritual harvest to be gathered for the kingdom of God. His resurrection is the type and pledge of the resurrection of all the righteous dead. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." [1 Thessalonians 4:14](#). {DA 785.4} As Christ arose, He brought from the grave a multitude of captives. The earthquake at His death had rent open their graves, and when He arose, they came forth with Him. They were those who had been co-laborers with God, and who at the cost of their lives had borne testimony to the truth. Now they were to be witnesses for Him who had raised them from the dead. {DA 786.1}

Why did Jesus say some of you standing here will not taste death?

[Mar 9:1](#) And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Note: People quote half the verse and say some of them didn't taste death and went straight to heaven. But they don't continue to quote the verse. Some standing there when Jesus was speaking will not taste death UNTIL they see the kingdom of God come with power. The very next verse describes the fulfillment of Christ's promise.

[Mar 9:2](#) And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

[Mar 9:3](#) And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

[Mar 9:4](#) And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

Note: The verses directly after Jesus said some standing here "shall not taste death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power" continues to say only three out of the disciples and the people standing there when Christ spoke those words ([Mark 8:34](#)) were taken up to the mount of transfiguration. There Jesus' "face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light" [Matthew 17:2](#) At this moment they they saw "the kingdom of God come with power."

If we die and "remain in the tomb" how come Moses and Elijah appeared?

[2Ki 2:11](#) And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Note: We know "a chariot of fire" carried Elijah "into heaven". Therefore Elijah never died. Elijah and Enoch were the only individuals in the Bible who never had to die and were translated straight to heaven. Indeed Elijah is in heaven.

Did Moses die and go straight to heaven?

[Deu 34:5](#) So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

According to which word of the LORD?

[Deu 31:16](#) And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

Note: No Moses didn't die and pass straight into heaven. God's own voice said to Moses when you die you will "sleep with thy fathers". This shows not only Moses but his fathers or in other words anyone else that died before him were sleeping as well. The Bible is clear, when Moses died he was in a deep, dreamless, and unconscious sleep. Just like all people, Moses and us will "remain in the tomb" sleeping until they are resurrected.

Was Moses resurrected?

[Jud 1:9](#) Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Note: [Michael](#) and the devil are disputing over the dead body of Moses. Michael is trying to raise Moses from the dead. But the devil is bringing an accusation against Moses to keep him in the grave. Michael said “the Lord rebuke thee” to Satan and it was settled.

The Bible clearly says Moses is resurrected

[Luk 20:35](#) But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

[Luk 20:36](#) Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

[Luk 20:37](#) Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

Note: Whoever is accounted worthy will be resurrected, even Moses was accounted worthy and was raised from his sleep. Regardless of the accusations of Satan, when Michael and the Devil were fighting over the dead body of Moses, Michael said “the Lord rebuke thee” and now Moses is living in heaven after being resurrected.

Previous to his transfiguration, Jesus had told his disciples that there were some then with him who should not see death until they should see the kingdom of God come with power. In the transfiguration on the mount, this promise was fulfilled, for they there saw the kingdom of Christ in miniature. Jesus was clothed with the glory of Heaven, and proclaimed by the Father’s voice to be the Son of God. Moses was present, representing those who will be raised from the dead at the second coming of Christ; and Elijah, who was translated to Heaven without seeing death, represented those who will be living on earth at the time of Christ’s second appearing, and who will be changed from mortal to immortal, and be translated to Heaven without seeing death. {2SP 336.2}

How many stars of heaven were cast to the earth?

[Rev 12:3](#) And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

[Rev 12:4](#) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Who is the dragon and how much of the world is the Devil and his angels deceiving?

[Rev 12:9](#) And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Note: The Bible did not say the Devil and a third part of stars of heaven are deceiving some of the world or even most but the Bible teaches the whole world is being deceived by 1/3 of the stars that fell from heaven.

What do stars represent in the Bible?

[Rev 1:20](#) The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Note: Satan caused 1/3 of the angels of heaven to be cast down “to the earth”. Now they work to deceive “the whole world”.

How many angels are in heaven?

[Rev 5:11](#) And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Note: There are over 7 billion humans on this planet. There are more angels in heaven than there are humans on

earth. “ten thousand times ten thousand” alone is one hundred million angels. But John didn’t stop there, he continued by saying “and thousands and thousands”. This shows us there are one hundred million multiplied by “thousands of thousands” angels in heaven. Obviously that’s a number too massive to count. It’s also useful to recognize this number was given after 1/3 of the angels fell from heaven and became demons. A third part of a larger number than this became fallen angels. The fallen angels were cast down our earth. There are much more demons on earth than are people today. But don’t ever forget for every one evil angel there are two heavenly angels to strengthen you and protect you during trials.

Does the Bible speak of haunted houses or Ghost coming back to contact us?

[Job 7:9](#) As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.

[Job 7:10](#) He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

Yes it does. But the Bible says when one dies he stays in the grave. When you read this context you realize this is speaking about God’s servant Job. [Job 1:1](#) “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.” Job was a godly man. In this context when Christians die they will never visit their home again because they are sleeping in the grave. Saved or lost a dead person “shall return no more to his house”. If someone passed away, it’s not their spirit who is returning to their home, it’s something else.

While unknown to us who can angels appear to us as?

[Heb 13:2](#) Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Note: If good angels can appear as human beings it is safe to conclude evil angels too are capable to appear as people too especially those of whom we know.

Who is masquerading as spirits of the dead?

[Rev 16:14](#) For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Note: We read earlier, the fallen angels which became devils or demons are now working to “deceive the whole world”. From this verse we can begin to see a major way they plan to deceive the whole world by appearing as spirits and “working miracles”.

What does Satan transform himself into?

[2Co 11:14](#) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

What does Satan’s ministering spirits transform themselves into?

[2Co 11:15](#) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Note: Satan not only appears as an angel of light, but he appeared to Eve as a serpent in the Garden of Eden. It would be no difficult thing for Satan and his angels to take the form as someone you once knew. Consider this, these angels were around when your grandparent was born. They have seen him grow up, they were there when he began to walk. They know what your grandpa looks like, how he talks, the personal events that he’s experienced with you and along with your parents, friends, and more. It is no problem for them to transform themselves as a dead loved one to appear to you. The Bible says “seducing spirits” will come “in the latter days” and “the whole world” will be deceived. These demons can easily appear as someone we’ve known and they can easily tell you a conversation or a memory together that only your friend and you would remember. Be careful. [Heb 12:1](#) “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...” Clouds in the Bible represent angels([Psalms 104:3](#) [Psalms 68:17](#)). Therefore angels are compassed about you day by day. Both good and evil angels have seen everything you’ve ever done. The Bible says when your loved one dies “the memory of them is forgotten” they cannot come back to give you a message but angels are able to.

Why will people depart from the faith in the last days?

[1Ti 4:1](#) Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Note: We are warned in the last days many of God's people will be visited by "seducing spirits" and they will be teaching "doctrines of devils" because "they are the spirits of devils" who contact us and not dead relatives. Satan wants you to be confused on the state of the dead because it's "by the means of those miracles" he will be deceiving "the whole world". Paul said we don't need to be ignorant "concerning them that are asleep".

Will God show us any of His wonders, whether past, present or future, in the grave?

[Psa 88:10](#) Wilt thou shew wonders to the dead? shall the dead arise and praise thee? Selah.

[Psa 88:11](#) Shall thy lovingkindness be declared in the grave? or thy faithfulness in destruction?

[Psa 88:12](#) Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

Note: God is not going to give any heaven sent wonder or vision to someone who dies. When we die we have no opportunity to realize God's lovingkindness, His wonders, or His righteousness because death is "the land of forgetfulness". Not the land of glorious wonders that God wants us to remember so we can declare to everyone else what we have seen in the afterlife. Even if we died and came to life we would forget everything that happened. Yet many "spirits of devils" are appearing as the dead and sharing many messages contradicting clear and abundant scripture which casts doubt upon the Word of God leading men to accept a miraculous and great wonder rather than taking the Bible for how it reads.

How will the world be deceived into worshiping the beast or antichrist and receiving his mark?

[Rev 13:13](#) And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

[Rev 13:14](#) And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

This is also speaking of the Antichrist

[2Th 2:9](#) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

This is speaking of just before Christ returns

[Mat 24:23](#) Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

[Mat 24:24](#) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Note: Directly before Christ comes, the Devil and his angels will be labouring hard into deceiving millions by great signs, miracles, and wonders. Psalms 88 told us God will not show wonders to us in the grave. Many people who are confused on the state of the dead in the last days will be deceived by "seducing spirits" and people coming from the dead showing great wonders. They will be so convincing that IF possible, "they shall deceive the very elect." But the elect will be students of the Bible and not of popular traditions. The elect will know the truth and will be protected.

In the "Mother of Harlots" named Babylon is this doctrine widely used?

[Rev 18:2](#) And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Note: Those who believe the dead are alive, in any form, will most assuredly be deceived.

Consider, for instance, a hypothetical case. A girl who has been very close to her mother is deeply grieved at her mother's death. One night just as the girl is about to fall asleep, she sees her mother standing at the foot of her bed. She is overjoyed to know that her mother is not really dead. She listens intently what her mother has to say about the wonderful life after death.

As we have seen, the dead are unconscious and know nothing. Who, then, is masquerading as these dead people? We found Satan is an evil angel and he has many other evil angels on earth with him helping him to accomplish his purposes and deceptions. [Heb 13:2](#) They can imitate anyone perfectly and this is what they do when they appear as someone who has died. The girl in our example heard a voice exactly like her mother's voice, but it was not her mother's. Her mother is dead and the dead are sound asleep, without thoughts, consciousness, knowledge, emotions, or wisdom. This form was either Satan or one of his angels masquerading as her mother. Since the girl believes she is seeing and listening to her mother, she will believe what her "mother" tells her. She is wide open for Satan's lies and deceptions under these conditions. She is told that life after death is wonderful and she need not worry about anything.

Suppose before her death the girl's mother habitually lied, stole, and committed adultery and the girl knew about her wickedness. When the "mother" tells her how wonderful life after death is, the girl will believe that lying, stealing, and committing adultery are permissible regardless of what the Bible says about these things. After such an experience it is unlikely that the girl will ever understand the truth. Satan has essentially locked her in error by this deception.

Who did the heathens around ancient Israel worship with their sacrifices?

[Psa 106:28](#) They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.

Note: The Pagans believed when you die you don't really die but your spirit lives on for ever. All throughout history they would worship the leader of their nation as a god. When their king would die they believed his spirit went up into the sun. Under the basis of this false view of the dead is how all forms of sun worship began. This was always held very strongly among the Pagans and during the dark ages this belief crept into the Christian churches.

Though the Pagans believed they were sacrificing to dead gods who really received worship?

[Psa 106:37](#) Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,

[Psa 106:38](#) And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.

[Deu 32:17](#) They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

Note: The heathens or pagans which mean the same thing believed when they were worshiping the sun, they believed by doing so they were worshiping the spirit of their king who had died and gone to the sky. Sound familiar doesn't it? The Bible teaches although they believed they were giving offerings to the dead, they were really sacrificing to fallen angels that were pretending to be the dead which they worshiped as gods.

Does God want his people to be doing this today?

[1Co 10:20](#) But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

[1Co 10:21](#) Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

What was not to be found among God's people?

[Deu 18:10](#) There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

[Deu 18:11](#) Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

Note: A charmer is one who cast spells or uses charms. An observer of times is an astrologer. A sorcerer is one who claims to contact spirits of the dead. a consulter with familiar spirits is a medium or channeler of dead spirits. A user of divination is another name for a fortune teller. an enchanter is the same as a charmer. A necromancer is another name for sorcerer. A witch/wizard is a female/male psychic.

Anyone who does these things are a what?

[Deu 18:12](#) For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

The very name of witchcraft is now regarded as evil. The claim that men can communicate with evil spirits is regarded as a fable of the Dark Ages. But spiritualism, which has made its way into scientific circles, which has invaded churches, and has found favor in legislative bodies, and even in the courts of kings— this great deception is only a revival of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited in ancient times except in a new disguise.

Then where will the abominable go?

[Rev 21:8](#) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Should we trust the counsel of spirit manifestations or deceased loved ones?

[Isa 8:19](#) And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and

that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

[Isa 8:20](#) To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Note: Crystal balls, palm reading, leaf deciphering, astrology, and talking with the supposed spirits of the dead are not God's ways of communicating with people. God speaks to us "according to this word" that's the Word of God not by visitations of dead loved ones.

Did God give instruction to his people regarding the "spirits of the dead"?

[Lev 19:31](#) Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Note: Don't listen to them, don't believe them, don't seek for their help, and don't "be defiled by them" because the "I AM" is your God and He will manifest himself to you through His Word.

How serious was God about those who practice contacting the dead?

[Lev 20:27](#) A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

[Lev 20:6](#) And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

[Exo 22:18](#) Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

Note: Cut off means to be killed. Now why would God in the name of love forbid in his word to speak to the dead, if it really was your dear mother who passed away which would appear to you? Because it's not your sweet mom who would speak you, but fallen angels bent on deceiving people away from salvation.

Will those who regard "familiar spirits" and partake in modern witchcraft inherit the kingdom of God?

[Gal 5:19](#) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

[Gal 5:20](#) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

[Gal 5:21](#) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Will sorcerers which contact the dead be allowed into the pearly gates of heaven?

[Rev 22:14](#) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

[Rev 22:15](#) For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Note: They will be “without” the gates or outside of the gates of heaven.

How many nations are deceived by sorcery right now?

[Rev 18:23](#) And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Note: Sorcery is a supernatural agency that claims to receive its power and wisdom from the spirits of the dead. Not some nations, or most, but all nations are being deceived by sorcery. Take hollywood for instance, the media is one of the biggest propagators of this lie. How many nations watch TV? This isn't the only way Satan spreads this lie around but this is the one in particular how this author began to be confused on where we go when we die as a young child because I certainly didn't learn it from the Bible!

Spiritualism is one of the cornerstone teachings of the devil's kingdom. He has worked powerful miracles down through the ages through people who claim to receive their power from the spirits of the dead.

Examples:

Magicians of Egypt:

[Exo 7:11](#) Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

Women of Endor

Sorcerers

[Dan 2:2](#) Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

A certain damsel

[Act 16:16](#) And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

[Act 16:17](#) The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

[Act 16:18](#) And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Note: Just because “the dead” are speaking things about Christ and saying He is the way to salvation does not automatically mean it is a heavenly messenger. As you can see even evil spirits will often speak seemingly Christian words as means to deceive. Think about it. Wouldn't a professed Christian who is teaching “doctrines of devils”, and causing conflict amongst the people of God be more useful to Satan in deceiving God's people than and obviously erroneous sinner which every word out of his mouth is attacking God? Which person would you be more on guard around? Satan knows the answer.

Today Paradise

[Luk 23 z:42](#) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

[Luk 23:43](#) And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

What is in the middle of the paradise of God?

[Rev 2:7](#) 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.

Where is the tree of life?

[Rev 22:14](#) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

What city was John talking about and where is this city?

[Rev 21:1](#) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

[Rev 21:2](#) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Note: The tree of life "is in the midst of the paradise of God". The tree of life is in "the holy city, new Jerusalem". This city "comes down from God out of heaven". Therefore the paradise spoken by Jesus was in fact heaven and not a third holding place like Abrahams Bosom, Purgatory, etc. paradise is another name for heaven.

Four days after His death has Jesus ascended to his Father yet?

[Joh 20:15](#) Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

[Joh 20:16](#) Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

[Joh 20:17](#) Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Note: People try to use [Luke 23:43](#) as Jesus teaching the thief on the cross and Himself would be in Paradise together that same day. But this verse says Christ didn't even ascend to Paradise at least until 4 days after the cross.

Where is the throne of God located?

[Rev 22:1](#) 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.

[Rev 22:2](#) 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.

Note: Picture the imagery described in this verse. The river of life is flowing from the throne of God. There on both sides of the river is placed the tree of life. The tree of life most likely connects at the top above the river of life. But upstream from the tree of life sits the Father's throne. Again we learned the tree of life "is in the midst of the paradise of God". Since God's throne is next to the tree of life we can conclude where ever paradise is God's throne is too.

Where is the Father?

[Mat 23:9](#) And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Note: In the light of the whole Bible we see The throne of God is near the tree of life. The tree of life is "in the midst of the paradise of God." God is in heaven which means again paradise is another name for heaven. Also when 4 days after Jesus said "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" Christ also said He hasn't ascended to heaven yet to Mary after his resurrection.

When did Jesus ascend to Paradise?

[Act 1:9](#) And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

[Act 1:10](#) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

[Act 1:11](#) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Note: Verse 3 tells us Jesus it was 40 days after his resurrection before he was taken or caught up to God. [Act 1:3](#)

“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:”

Did the thieves on the cross even die that day?

[Joh 19:31](#) The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

[Joh 19:32](#) Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. NOTE: The Romans would break the legs of the hanging men because it would hasten their death. Sabbath was about to begin and the Jews wanted the thieves to be dead before Sabbath started. Keep in mind a Biblical day ends at Sundown and begins at Sundown. Gen_1:5 Lev_23:32 The very reason why the Soldiers needed to break the legs of the thieves on the cross was because it was Friday night and the thieves haven't died yet. The day ended before the thieves on the cross even died. So the thieves couldn't have been in paradise that very day.

Now the Bible seems to be contradicting itself what is going on?

The issue lies within the punctuation. What do you mean? You might ask. Let me give you two examples to illustrate how drastic a difference in meaning could be caused by punctuation.

Dear John,

I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind, and thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you. I have no feelings whatsoever when we are apart. I can be forever happy — will you let me be yours?

Susan

OR

Dear John,

I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind, and thoughtful people, who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me. For other men, I yearn. For you, I have no feelings whatsoever. When we are apart, I can be forever happy. Will you let me be?

Yours, Susan

AND

A woman: without her, man is nothing. OR A woman, without her man, is nothing.

What did Jesus really mean?

Keep in mind the original Greek manuscripts didn't have punctuation and commas. Those who translated the Bible into English added the commas and punctuation to be it easier to understand. These men weren't inspired so they are capable of making mistakes with commas, and punctuation.

[Luk 23:43](#) And Jesus said unto him Verily I say unto thee To day shalt thou be with me in paradise

The confusion disappears when you leave out the commas

There was a misplaced comma, the passage should read as this.

[Luk 23:43](#) And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee To day, shalt thou be with me in paradise

As if Jesus is saying: “Today, when all hope seems lost, while you and I are hanging here, when even my disciples have deserted me, I'm telling you today, that you will be will me in paradise.” Jesus isn't telling him this very day we'll be in paradise together. Jesus didn't go to heaven until 40 days after his ressuretion and the thief didn't even die the day Jesus told him that or the same day as Jesus.

According to the Bibles with the coma misplaced, Jesus said He and the thief would go to Heaven THAT DAY. Yet, Jesus died a day earlier didn't He? The misplaced coma allows for a multitude of errors and so called contradictions that Satan has convinced billions to view the Bible as an untrustworthy book. The devil has indeed been cunningly BUSY! That's why I love the Word of God so much! It so EASILY proves lies to be just that... LIES. When you use the preferred biblical method of the prophet Isaiah when defining doctrine in [Isaiah 28:10](#) where he says, [Isa 28:10](#) For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." Then you will never be confused. Letting the Bible define itself opens it up to a grand adventure into the Truth!

Here is another example of a misplaced comma

[Act 19:12](#) So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Note: Some people take this as saying Paul brought blessed and holy "sick handkerchiefs" that heal the sick and drive away evil spirits from people. Some have even sold on TV "sick handkerchiefs" for high prices claiming they are a special holy item that will perform miracles and always give you good dreams at night. But obviously the Bible isn't saying Paul was using sick handkerchiefs. There is a missing comma.

The Bible should read like this.

[Act 19:12](#) So that from his body were brought unto the sick, handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Note: He gave handkerchiefs to the sick. Not some magical item that wards off evil as some have tried to claim.

Without the comma it sounds as though those salesmen could be on to something but of course it was simply a missing comma.

Jesus said I'll never die

[Joh 11:23](#) Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

How long would have Lazarus slept the "sleep of death" if Christ didn't resurrect?

[Joh 11:24](#) Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Note: Martha, the sister of Lazarus understood the biblical truth of the state of the dead. She knew Lazarus wasn't going to awaken until the last day when Jesus splits the sky during His second coming.

[Joh 11:25](#) Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

[Joh 11:26](#) And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

The Bible says everyone is appointed to die once

[Heb 9:27](#) And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

When will we receive everlasting life?

[Joh 6:40](#) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

[Joh 6:54](#) Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

What death was Jesus speaking of since we all are appointed once to die?

[Rev 2:11](#) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Note: When Jesus said if we believe on him we will never die he was speaking of the second death. In the very same chapter Jesus refers to death in a sleep like condition.