

Heaven Or Hell



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This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word, and not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on heaven or hell. The churches teach that when we die, we go to heaven or hell; thereby having immortality after the death of our body. This teaching is not scriptural, in the beginning man was told what the consequence for disobedience was.

Genesis 2:16, 17

Verse 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Verse 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

This statement from God would be untrue if in fact we had immortality through an eternal spirit. Consider the words of the apostle Paul to the Thessalonians.

I Thessalonians 4:15-17

Verse 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.

Verse 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:

Verse 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.

Although this is somewhat abbreviated it shows us that the dead are raised at the coming of Jesus. Then the resurrected righteous along with the living righteous are caught up together to meet our Lord in the air. Let us compare this with Jesus' own account in Matthew

Matthew 24:29-31

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Matthew 24:29-31

Verse 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Verse 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Verse 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Verse 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Clearly the scriptures say that both wicked and righteous will be raised in the end time for judgment. Nowhere does it imply that anybody has been in heavenly bliss or hellish torment awaiting the coming of Jesus. All are dead, unconscious of all things until the day of the Lord.

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Verse 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.

Verse 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Verse 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.

Verse 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The testimony by Paul in these two readings is to preach that we ascend into heaven at death is to make void the testimony of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. To make the point of why it is against the true resurrection of Jesus is found in John.

John 20:17

Verse 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.

This statement by Jesus tells us that he had not gone to heaven; but that he had been dead now for three days and then was resurrected. Jesus says "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father". He was only going to ascend to our heavenly Father after his resurrection. He also teaches that both living and dead are changed at resurrection; which discredits the teaching of men who say we ascend into heaven at death and that there is no change until the resurrection. Finally let us look at what the last book of the Bible has to say.

Revelations 20:11-15

Verse 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

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Revelations 20:11-15

Verse 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Verse 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Verse 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Verse 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.

Paul's account is fully supported by what our Lord Jesus told us of those last days. He would be coming on a cloud and the saints are gathered from all over the world to meet Jesus. We will now look for other scriptures to support this. The first message the Apostle Peter gave to the New Testament church is that David was still in his grave and that his testimony was of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

Acts 2:25-31

Verse 25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

Verse 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

Verse 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Verse 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Verse 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.

Verse 30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his

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throne;

Verse 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

If David is still in the grave at the time of Jesus, then we can know for a certainty that he is waiting for the resurrection as Paul told us. We also have Job for a testimony of this same doctrine. Job 14:13-15

Verse 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.

Verse 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!

Verse 14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Verse 15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Job 19:25,26

Verse 25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

Verse 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Job gives us a few important points on this matter. Firstly, that he will be in his grave until an appointed time. Secondly, in his question "*if a man die, shall he live again?*" the appointed time that Job speaks of here is the time in the grave. We will all wait for the same call that Job is waiting for and it is the call that Paul spoke of earlier in Thessalonians. Thirdly, we are told by Job that he knows his redeemer lives and that even after his body is consumed in the earth, he will see God in his flesh. Let us compare this with Paul's message to the Corinthians. I Corinthians 15:13-24

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Verse 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

Verse 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

Verse 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.

Verse 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

Verse 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Verse 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

Verse 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Verse 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Verse 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

Verse 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Verse 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Verse 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

I Corinthians 15:49-55

Verse 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Verse 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Verse 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

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