

Two Paradises (What Happens At Death?).

Bible study for consideration. By Pete McGregor.

Job says,

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.

Job seems to be saying here that he knows that he has a redeemer, (his saviour), and he is confident that he will be raised up in his physical body **from death** sometime after his body has rotted away, in the latter day. That is in the future when his redeemer stands on the earth.

This redeemer had to be Jesus, but Job could not be saved, it seems until he had heard the “gospel of salvation” through his redeemer or at least heard it from someone in the future after the crucifixion of Jesus, as Jesus couldn’t be Job’s Saviour until after he had become the sacrificed “Lamb of God”for **all** of mankind including Jews.

Peter says,

1Pe 4:5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the **dead**.

1Pe 4:6 For for this cause was **the gospel** preached **also** to them that are **dead**, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

The above verses might well be referring to preaching the gospel to un-quickened souls that were alive (living dead) at the time of Peter but would also refer to any souls that had never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ before they died up until the time of Christ.

One has to ask, why would Jesus need to preach to the dead? ... Look at Peters following verse.....

Peter says to fellow Jews,

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in **ANY OTHER**: for there is none other name **under heaven** given among men, whereby **we** must be saved.

Jesus states,

Joh 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man** cometh unto the Father, **but by me**.

So we now have to look at when it was possible for Job to receive the “Gospel of Jesus” (salvation).

It looks like there was only one possible time that Job, who was now long dead before the Gospel was revealed could hear the Gospel and that would be when he was in Sheol/Hell/Hades, (but not to be confused with “The Grave” (dust) where the flesh of saved or unsaved souls goes to until their resurrection time.

It seems Sheol/Hell/Hades is a place where God keeps all souls found righteous or unrighteous in His sight before the time of Jesus, at least. This was where the rich man is contained in a torturous state and also Abraham and Lazarus are, but in a much better environment as illustrated in... **Luke 16:23** **And in hell he** (the rich man) **lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.....**As we can see the rich man is in a terrible place but we know he can still communicate with Abraham across a great fixed gulf which has to be another part of Sheol called “Paradise” the same place where Jesus and the thief went to on crucifixion day. The Paradise here, **Luke 23:43** **is not** to be taken as the same paradise as mentioned in **2 Cor 12:4** or **Revelation 2:7**.

As Jesus died **for all** (**Acts 4:12**) on the cross including souls before the time of His crucifixion and contained in Sheol/Hell/Hades , the only likely scenario for the dead to receive the gospel was when Jesus was in the heart of the earth for three days and nights (as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and three nights) starting immediately after his death. This is where the thief on the cross beside Jesus would also have gone to (paradise) on the same day. This paradise must be part of Sheol/Hell/Hades. “The Gospel” would have been preached to the dead by Jesus at that time.

The other part of Sheol/Hell/Hades is across a great fixed gulf, and a place of torment that was not possible to cross over from one part to the other but Jesus may have preached there as well....

1Pe 3:19 By which also he went and preached unto **the spirits in prison**;
A place of enforced incarceration.

Note; “The Lake of Fire” is yet another place that the “Grave” and “Sheol/Hell/Hades” are thrown into after the end of the millennium period, and after the “Great White Throne Judgment”. Ref...**Rev 20:14**

The New Testament Saints, the “**Body of Christ**” are treated differently to all others when they die. They go to be with Jesus but their body still goes to “The Grave” (dust) until the Rapture unless they are alive at the time of the rapture event. Ref...**1Th 4:17**

Souls in our present dispensation of time, (“time of the gentiles”) without salvation through belief in the gospel as given by Paul seem to go to the same place as the rich man, the torment part of Sheol/Hell/Hades to await the Great White Throne Judgment. Any Jews that believe on the Pauline gospel of salvation (**Romans 10:9-10 etc**) through our dispensation of time will most likely be treated by God as “New Testament” saints.

The Old Testament also indicates that people **before** the time Jesus was crucified, (mostly Israelites) were going to be raised from the dead at a time in the future to life (**Ezekiel 37:11**..bones joined in the valley). Those people would be the people of the promised seed of Abraham. However they were going to sleep with their fathers in Shoel until a future time or event after they died and physically resurrected as the bible says. This would mean there would still be a “Paradise”, a pleasant containment place as well as the “Torments” part in Sheol at the present time waiting for their eventual resurrection time....

For example.... Daniel and King David among many other people listed in 1 Kings, 2Kings and 2Chronicles.

Dan 12:13 But go thou thy way till the end *be*: for thou **shalt rest**, and stand in thy lot at the **end of the days**.

1Ki 2:10 So David **slept with his fathers**, and was buried in the city of David.

1Ki 11:43 And Solomon **slept with his fathers**, and was buried in the city of David his father:

Psa 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall **rest** in hope.

Psa 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul **in hell**; neither wilt thou suffer thine **Holy One** to see **corruption**.

It seems the Psalmist is saying he won't be left in hell forever, and also saying Jesus won't be kept in hell to see corruption.

Jesus says

Rev 2:7 **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches**; (basically Christians)**To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God**..... Indicates “Paradise **of God**” is in Heaven.

This must mean there is a different “Paradise” in Sheol/Hell/Hades for souls found righteous by God. The souls in this paradise will probably be raised at the end of the millenium period to **Eze 37:10, 14**.... (Future Promise to Israel.....verses below).

Scripture indicates Jews are promised a Kingdom on The New Earth and **no promise of going to Heaven**. The Tabernacle of God will come down to them. Ref... **Rev 21:1-4.... Luke 11:2.**

Paradise is a Persian word indicating a pleasant walled or contained park. The Garden of Eden could have been yet another “Paradise” where God communicated with Adam and the tree of life is mentioned as being there as well.

Note; People such as Enoch, Moses and Elijah may have been exceptions to the rule if God saw fit to resurrect them to Heaven in separate events, but be careful, scripture says NO MAN can claim salvation or Heaven except through the gospel of Jesus the Christ.

Future Promise to Israel.

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

Eze 37:11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are **the whole house of Israel**: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

Eze 37:12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Eze 37:13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, **when I have opened your graves**, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

Eze 37:14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and **I shall place you in your own land**: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

Extra verses for consideration...

Heb 10:4 For *it is* **not possible** that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Gal 3:24 Wherefore **the law was** our schoolmaster **to bring us** unto **Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.

Above verses indicate Jewish sacrificial religious system in and of itself can't save souls but points to future sacrifice of Jesus the Christ. We all need to accept the shed blood of Jesus to satisfy God. God sees His Son's blood, like the blood on the lintels and door posts at the “Passover” night (in Egypt). All men need the covering of Jesus shed blood so God will pass over, not seeing our sins but the righteous blood of his Son. That's why they (souls that don't believe the “Gospel of Jesus” in their hearts) seem to all **stand naked** at the “White Throne Judgment” of God. They don't have robes of righteousness. Ref..**Rev 3:17, 18.**

1Pe 3:18 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:

1Pe 3:19 By which also he went and preached unto **the spirits in prison**;

1Pe 3:20 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.

1Pe 3:21 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: **(Note that the baptism mentioned above is with the Holy Spirit not water).**

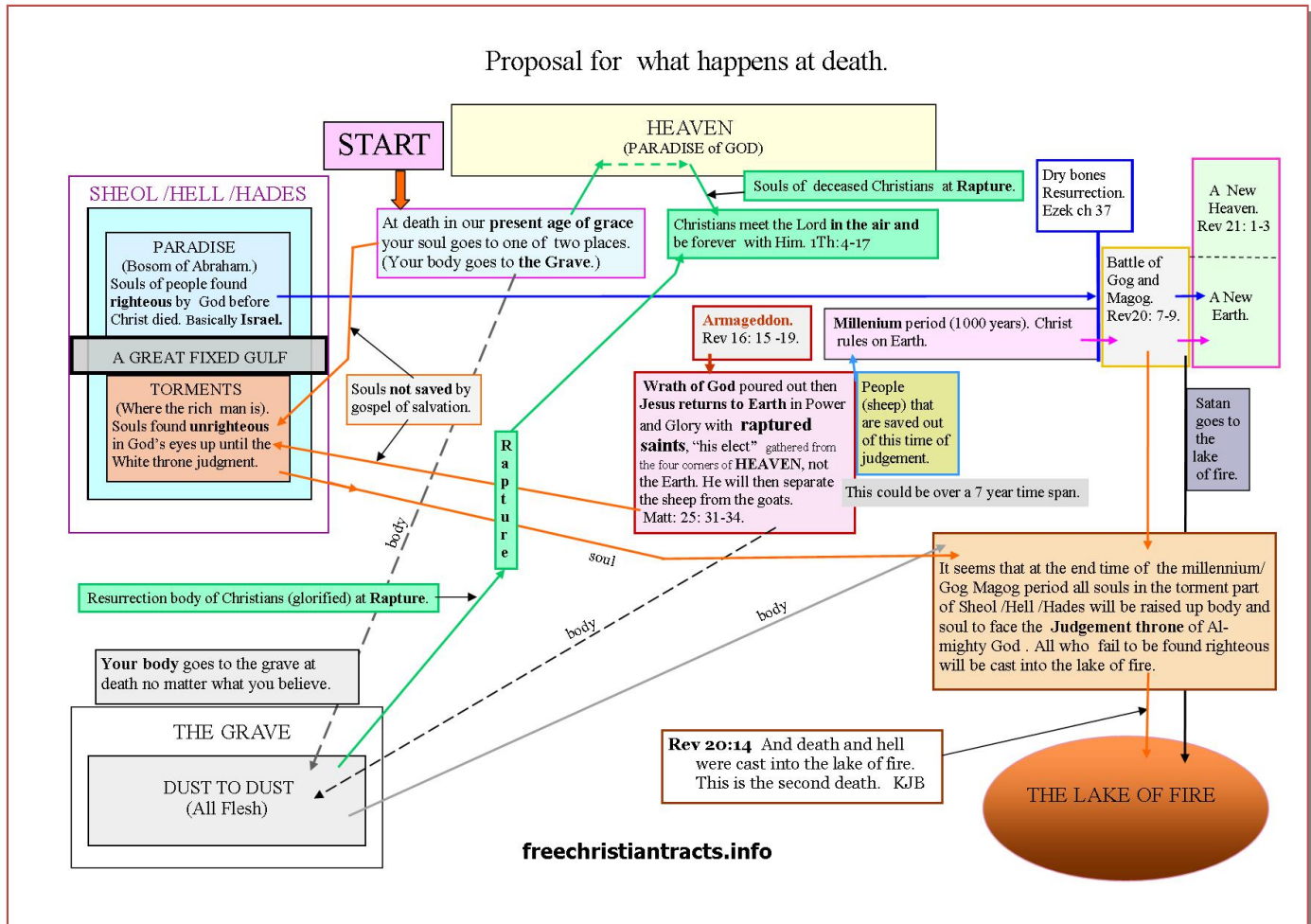
1Pe 3:22 Who is **gone into heaven**, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us **(Christians)** is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led **captivity captive**, and gave gifts unto men.

Above two verses indicates Paul is telling Christians about Jesus taking the bondage of law away (works) and giving spiritual gifts to souls who believe on the gospel of salvation through Jesus.

Rev 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*



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