
What Does the Bible Say About Heaven? (#1): The Moment We Die

BEFORE: Believers Before the Death & Resurrection of Jesus

Two Views:

View #1: No different than now (Paradise has not moved)

View #2: Believers went to a temporary Paradise near the unsaved

Luke 16:19-24a – ¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ "But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ "desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "So it was that the beggar died, and **was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom**. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and **saw** Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ "Then he cried and **said**, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me,

- They could see each other
- They could speak to each other
- If the rich man / Abraham could do both, and it's not a different place, then the spiritual realm must remove physical restrictions of distance and limitations of sound and sight properties.

Eph 4:7-11 – ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "**When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.**" ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"-- what does it mean but that He also first **descended into the lower parts of the earth**? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

- "Led" is past tense (what of believers after this point?)
- Captives ("captivity") are taken with Him (to heaven) – Not true of Satan, death, sin, or the curse.

Luke 23:43 – And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

- Could indicate either that they would meet in temporary Paradise or permanent.
- Regardless of where Paradise was then, it was immediate: "Today..."

NOW: Believers After the Death & Resurrection of Jesus

1. **Paradise Is Located in Heaven**

2 Cor 12:4 – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Rev 2:7 – "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – September 14, 2014

2. **When Believers Die, They Are Immediately in the Presence of the Lord**

2 Cor 5:1-10 – For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, ³ if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ⁴ For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ **We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.** ⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. ¹² For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, *it is* for God; or if we are of sound mind, *it is* for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. ¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Phil 1:19-30 – For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, **which is far better.** ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

3. **When Given This Truth, We Are Always Called to Obedience**