

# WHERE CHRISTIANS GO WHEN THEY DIE Pt.1: SHEOL, ABRAHAM'S BOSOM, PARADISE, DEATH, HELL, THE GRAVE, HEAVEN

I was asked a question a few years ago and I'm finally going to do a teaching on it.

Hi pastor Cherie. I am doing my very best to just trust in the Lord with these questions that I am having. I came up with another question: Who are the dead in Christ? Does that mean that the soul is in a sleep-state until the second coming of Christ and he wakes us up or are our spirit bodies consciously in heaven with the Lord, and at the second coming, the physical bodies here in the ground are resurrected and rejoined with the spirit bodies in heaven?

The Old Testament saints who obeyed God and those that have died since the time of Christ – they are all considered the righteous dead – they are the dead in Christ. The way to be righteous in the Old Testament was to obey God's Word and bring the proper sacrifices year after year.

The soul does not go into a sleep-state. There is no such thing as soul sleep.

**Luke 16:19-31** - There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into

this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

So we see an unbeliever died and he was on the side of torment and Lazarus died and was carried by angels to Abraham's bosom.

Let's take a look at the definition of sheol because it will help us to better understand things that will be referenced throughout this teaching:

**Sheol** - being the place of the dead, it is also synonymous with death or the grave especially in The Old Testament. The New Testament (Luke 16:19-31) gives us a new name for Sheol and that is Abraham's Bosom. Sheol – the region of departed spirits of the lost (but including the blessed dead in periods preceding the ascension of Christ). Sheol is referred to as "All receiving." We will take a look at the theology that teaches that the righteous dead are no longer in sheol. All souls, the righteous and the wicked went to Sheol, that is what is meant by all receiving. There is a side for the righteous saints and there is a side for the damned. These two sides are separated by a chasm in between them.

The righteous are on one side and the damned are on the other side. They are fully awake and aware of their surroundings and aware of others there with them and of those that are across the chasm that separates the righteous and the damned. They can see each other but they cannot cross from one side to the other.

A few years ago, Jim asked what happens when we die. He was wondering because he was hearing so many churches saying that Jesus went to hell. I have a separate teaching that I will get to in God's timing, about that theory.

These are great questions and I want to take the time to cover this so that we can learn from these questions.

First I want to preface this teaching by saying that, this is not going to be a popular teaching. You probably aren't going to like it. In fact satan's false

ministers have done an excellent job of teaching just the opposite of what I am going to teach here. Remember I used to listen to those false teachers and God woke me up and showed me the truth about them and now He has me exposing them and their false teachings. This is not going to be easy and you are not going to like to hear it but God did not call me to do “easy.”

There are things in the Bible that are still not clear to us today. God teaches and reveals to each one of us in His own timing. What is made crystal clear in God’s Word is how to be saved and live a righteous life. As we stay busy living a righteous life, gradually God unfolds more and more of His Word to us.

When something is hidden from us it is because God chooses to keep it that way.

**Deut.29:29** - The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHRISTIAN DIES**

Most pastors here in America, and seems like all of satan’s false ministers on tv, teach that when you die you go straight to heaven. I used to believe that too. So here’s the curve ball right up front, that is not what I believe any more.



This is Pastor Erustus Museve who heads up our outreach ministry in Africa. He is my spiritual father in the faith just as Apostle Paul was to Timothy and Titus and so many others. He has always given solid Biblical teaching and counsel. We were talking about this subject a few years ago and I was surprised to hear what he had to say: The body goes back to earth but the spirit which lived in the body goes to Sheol with live consciousness to pay or be blessed on how one lived while in the body here on earth.

This blew my mind. And after we talked for a long time about it I could see where Pastor Erustus was coming from. I told him what is taught here and what I had believed all this time about going instantly to heaven upon death for Christians. Initially, I told Pastor that I believed the righteous were in heaven awaiting their glorified bodies and he said: I don't think they are already in heaven. That is why death and life after death is a mystery. After much discussion we agreed that The Holy Spirit will help us to unlearn wrong things and learn new and correct revelations.

Pastor went on: If there is one thing that God has hidden from man it is death and what happens after that. That for those in Christ we know we will live again and share joy in His everlasting kingdom. Have always wondered, some people nearing the point of death they start seeing a different world.

It took me some time to let this sink in and for The Holy Spirit to help me unlearn what I had wrongly believed and been conditioned to believe. I know The Holy Spirit will minister to you as this teaching goes along. I was floored to learn that there were ministers out there that did not believe we went straight to heaven upon death but not anymore.

I'm going to lay it out plain and show you what happens for a Christian who is truly saved that dies this side of the rapture. I'm fully aware of the scripture that says "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" and we are going to talk about that too.

Where a sinner goes is plain. They go to hell and then at the end of the millennial reign at the Great White Throne Judgment they will be thrown into the lake of

fire. Even death and hell (sheol/hades) will then be done away with forever and thrown into the lake of fire. **(Rev.20:14-15)**

Hell (gehenna) is the torment side of Sheol. All sinners are there now awaiting their judgment. They already know their fate but there are different levels or degrees of punishment and they will still stand before Christ and be judged.

**(Matt.10:15, Matt.11:20-24)**

I have always believed that dying in Christ we leave our bodies instantly and our spirit goes to be with the Lord.

**2 Cor. 5:8** - We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

While we are in these earthly bodies we cannot see God and we go by faith in Him and not by sight. The Geneva Bible says we would rather remove from these bodies and dwell with the Lord.

Sometimes we get spiritual matters wrong and when we do God will correct us. This is the main passage the false teachers quote to back up their stand point that we go to heaven instantly upon death.


They also say that Christ took the Old Testament saints with Him when He ascended to heaven. They pair the “absent from the body” passage with this next passage to teach that there are no saints in Sheol or that is, in Abraham’s bosom any longer. The side of Sheol where the righteous Old Testament saints went after death is called, Abraham’s bosom in The New Testament.

**Eph.4:8-13** - Wherefore He (God) saith, When He (Jesus) ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in

the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

There are some that teach when Jesus ascended the saints were in His train or wake as He ascended up and they are basing that on the passage we just read.

Yes, in Christian theology, Jesus's ascension is understood to include taking the souls of the Old Testament saints from paradise to heaven. This interpretation is based on the passage in [Ephesians 4:8](#), [source: Bible.com](#), which quotes Psalm 68:18: "**When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives and gave gifts to his people**".



- **"Led a host of captives":** This is understood to refer to the righteous who had died before Jesus's resurrection and were in a state of waiting in a place called paradise or Hades.
- **Victory and triumph:** Jesus's ascension is seen as a victory over sin, death, and Satan. By securing salvation on the cross, He was then able to bring these redeemed souls to their permanent home in heaven.
- **"Gave gifts to his people":** This refers to the gifts that Christ gives to believers, most notably the Holy Spirit, which enabled the early church to function and grow.

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**\*\*This is not in my Bible, KJ does not say Jesus led a host of captives. They really took liberties with this interpretation. We must study to show ourselves approved to God and be able to rightly divide His Word and so we won't have to**



be ashamed. Search out the Scriptures to see if these things are so like the Bereans did.\*\*

Victory and triumph: Jesus' ascension is seen as a victory over sin, death, and satan. By securing salvation on the cross, He was then able to bring these redeemed souls to their permanent home in heaven.


Nowhere in Scripture does it say Jesus took any souls with Him into heaven.

"Gave gifts to His people": This refers to the gifts that Christ gives to believers, most notable the Holy Spirit, which enabled the early church to function and grow.

This particular passage of Scripture is talking about the gifts Christ gave to the church which are Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and teachers and not so much focused on The Holy Spirit which is a gift from God to all believers.

So this ai generated information wants us to believe that souls went with Jesus into heaven but that is adding to God's Word which we are warned against.

Here's another take on that passage of Scripture:

According to Christian belief, the souls with Jesus in heaven include the spirits of departed believers, angels, and the Holy Spirit. This also includes specific figures like Enoch and Elijah, who were taken to heaven without dying, and the spirits of those martyred during the tribulation, who are mentioned in the Book of Revelation as being in heaven. 




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Scripture doesn't say anything about the spirits of departed believers being in heaven with Jesus already. We know angels are there, we know The Holy Spirit is

there. We know the stories of Enoch and Elijah and I will address that later in this teaching series. The tribulation hasn't even happened yet so the tribulation martyrs are not in heaven yet either.

This interpretation continues...

### Souls of believers

- The Bible indicates that the spirits of those who have died in Christ are in heaven with him.
- The story of the thief on the cross is often cited as an example, with Jesus telling him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).
- Some interpretations suggest that those who have died in faith are currently in a spiritual form, awaiting the resurrection of their bodies. 

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
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The story of the thief on the cross is often cited as an example, with Jesus telling him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise." (Luke 23:43) \*\*I'm going to get to the thief on the cross in just a little while.\*\*


Some interpretations suggest that those who have died in faith are currently in a spiritual form, awaiting the resurrection of their bodies. \*\*This last part matches up with Chris' question about if our souls are in heaven waiting on our bodies to resurrect one day and then for the two to be united. – This is non-sense but it is what the false teachers teach.\*\*



## Figures taken to heaven

- **Enoch and Elijah:** These two figures are mentioned as having been taken to heaven without dying.
- **The resurrected saints:** According to Matthew 27:50-53, after Jesus' resurrection, some saints were raised from the dead and ascended to heaven. 

## Saints under the altar

- The Book of Revelation mentions "the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God" being "under the altar" in heaven.
- These souls are described as crying out for God to avenge their deaths. 

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
These souls are described as crying out for God to avenge their deaths.

\*\*This is true but these are tribulation saints, martyred during the tribulation. The tribulation has not happened yet and so they are not in heaven.\*\*

## CLOSING

They end with – What to remember

### What to remember

- It is important to remember that interpretations vary among different Christian denominations.
- Some people believe that other figures, such as Mary, are in heaven, although this is not as universally agreed upon. 

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So clearly there are many different interpretations floating around out there. They give an example that is probably the Catholic Church believing Mary is in heaven but state it is not universally agreed on. If all Christians who died after Jesus ascended go straight to heaven then Mary should be there. So we can see already that the theory that we go to heaven upon death is not universally agreed on.

### **PRAYER**