

# WHEN CHRISTIANS DIE Pt.4: SHEOL, ABRAHAM'S BOSOM, GLORIFIED BODIES, RAPTURE, NOT PERFECTED WITHOUT US

## **SHEOL, ABRAHAM'S BOSOM**

In order to place saints in heaven right now, Sheol - Abraham's Bosom has to be dealt with. Sheol is the realm of the dead.

**1 Sam.28:15** – And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

Samuel was brought up – Old Testament saints were in sheol beneath. The false teachers don't seem to have a problem agreeing that Old Testament saints were in Sheol, their problem is with the idea that everyone is in Sheol even now, the righteous and the damned.

This next passage of Scripture is about the time when Jacob's sons had lied to him and caused him to believe that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.

**Gen.37:35** – And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

Jacob going to Joseph (he thought) meant to the grave which was Sheol. The Old Testament saints did not have as full a grasp about some of the mysteries of eternal life as we do today being on this side of Jesus walking on the earth and being crucified and resurrected we have a better understanding about some of the supernatural things that will occur. They mostly only thought of Sheol as the grave beneath. We know they did believe in life after death because Job spoke of it and King David prophesied about it. (**Job 19:25-27, Psalm 15:10**)

When Lazarus died he was carried by angels to Sheol. Jesus told the story of Lazarus and the rich man and it took place before Christ was crucified. Sheol was definitely still receiving souls at the time of Christ.

**Eph. 4:7-16** – But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, When He 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: That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

False teachers use “When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive,” to prop up their teaching that Christ cleaned out Sheol and took all the dead saints with Him. They say that the righteous dead were in His train as He ascended up. But that’s not what we read earlier in this teaching series, Christ ascended visibly up in the clouds in a physical body and no one else was with Him. Never mind that it says He led captivity captive. The righteous dead are not captive. The usage of the word captive speaks of a victor taking the enemy or the ones He conquered captive.

**1 Cor.15:20-23** – But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made

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

Outside the special miracle God did with Enoch and Elijah, Jesus is the first one to ascend to God. The rest of us will ascend when Christ comes for us at the rapture. Corinthians was certainly written after Jesus had resurrected and ascended and it is speaking of the righteous being gathered to Him when He returns for His bride. Jesus returning for His bride is also called the Day of Christ and Paul comforted the Thessalonians who were worried that He had already come and they were left behind in 2 Thess. Chapter 2. False teachers have always been around and always will be.

**John 5:25-29** – 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. For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, 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.

The damned will not be raised at the rapture. Those that preach there is only a general resurrection are leaving off some of the strongest Scriptures regarding the rapture in 1 Thess. Chapter 4 which only speaks of the righteous being raised to meet Jesus in the air.

**Prov.30:4** – Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* His name, and what *is* His son's name, if thou canst tell?

These are rhetorical questions about God the Father and Jesus. It does not allude to the idea that all dead righteous people have ascended into heaven at all.

## **GLORIFIED BODIES**

**1 Cor. 15:51-57** – Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 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. O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone in the body of Christ, the obedient Old Testament saints and those who have died in Christ as well as every real Christian that is alive on The Day of Christ at the rapture – will all meet The Lord in the air. When that happens we will have new glorified bodies or you could say supernatural bodies. We will not feel pain, we will not experience death anymore and none of us will be going into a grave any more. This is where the culmination of what Jesus did for us will be finally realized.

**Phi.3:20-21** – For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 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.

**1 John 3:2** - Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

These passages reassure us that we will have bodies like Jesus, we will be like Him. We will have a body that can go through a wall as He did in the upper room, **(John 20:19)** a body that can materialize or disappear and that feels no pain.

**Colossians 3:4** – When Christ, *Who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.

THEN we will appear with Christ, as in caught up to Him in His glory and we will share in His glory as His followers and have bodies like Him.

**1 Thess.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.

Those asleep “God will bring with Him.” This is our assurance of the resurrection and of having a glorified body like Christ.

### **RAPTURE TAUGHT BY PAUL**

Pastor Erustus believes that maybe God waited until after Jesus had resurrected so that the people had seen Jesus and now understood what resurrection was and that it was real and so now the rapture could have a greater impact on them because they could understand how it could happen.

He shared: I think by that time they didn't know anything about the rapture. They thought once one dies that is the end and even if there was life after death they could not figure how it would be.

So I think Jesus talked of a last day to let them know that a final day will come when all the righteous dead and living at that time when Jesus comes will ascended to meet The Master and be together eternally.

That is why Jesus went to preach to the spirits of OT saints for 3 days **(1 Peter 3:18-20)** before His resurrection to make us one in His NT blood covenant.

**1 Peter 3:18-20**– 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: By which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 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.

Christ preached to the disobedient. Why? And who were they? There is much debate about that passage of Scripture. Pastor Erustus believes Jesus was preaching to the righteous Old Testament saints to bring all of us under His blood

in the new covenant. At any rate whoever Jesus preached to it doesn't say they then ascended with Him into heaven.

The false teachers like to teach that the Old Testament saints went to heaven when Jesus ascended. I dealt with that in parts 1 and 2. But the Bible doesn't say that. Just for fun, let's say that was true, then who are the dead in Christ who will rise when Christ comes for His bride? If Sheol is cleaned out that doesn't leave any dead to rise from the grave. God is not concerned with these physical bodies, that passage is focused on the soul and tells us the direction it will come from which is beneath. The soul is what will be judged. The false teachers make up their own teachings and mesmerize or bewitch people with them. In order to clear out Sheol they teach that the souls are in heaven while the body is in the grave. So the dead righteous are floating around in heaven as a spirit awaiting the day their body will rise from the grave. Then the two will meet in the air and then they will be like Jesus. What non-sense.

### **THEY ARE NOT PERFECTED WITHOUT US**

This next passage of scripture is in Hebrews chapter 11 which is referred to as the hall of faith chapter. Many Old Testament saints and their struggles and their faith are discussed just ahead of the verses I want to read now.

**Hebrews 11:39-40** - And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

God has many promises all through His Word. In this same chapter, verse 13 says all these died in faith, not having received the promises. Promises – plural. Just a few promises that they died not having received are: the Messiah, the city whose builder and maker is God, meaning heaven, the place of their eternal rest. Heaven is the true promised land, theirs and ours. Heaven is our real home and place of eternal rest and they have not received their glorified bodies in the resurrection of the rapture either. They could not be made perfect or complete without us. Jesus had been promised and the Holy Spirit. DEAD in CHRIST are raised first!

**Rev.11:18** – And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

\*Instead of “and should destroy them which destroy the earth The 1611 says and should destroy them who corrupt the earth.\*

This is what is called the Bema or Judgement Seat of Christ. This is the time when believers will be judged according to the works they did and rewarded accordingly. This will be a ceremony similar to our modern day Olympics, we will all be there to see and witness the rewards and be part of the ceremony. This idea that each believer goes to heaven and floats around as a soul doesn't make sense because that scenario means they are there without being judged and have not received any of their rewards. This is why Scripture says they are not perfected without us, we are all going to enter in together and experience heaven and what God has for us together at the same time.

There is a problem with believing the righteous dead go instantly to heaven. So if we entertain that scenario, then when are they judged? Have they already gotten their rewards, their crown or crowns, their mansion etc. Have they already seen the mysteries of God ahead of us? I don't think so.

Let's hear what Jesus told the apostles at the last supper:

**Matt.26:29** – But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom. We will all drink it TOGETHER. We will arrive at the same time. The saints who died before us are not just floating around in heaven without bodies. We will attend a judgement and receive our rewards.

Jesus told them He would not drink of the fruit of the vine until He drank it with them in heaven. Each of them died at different times and ways. This is a great passage to think about. It gives us the sense that we will all enjoy this celebration together at the same time. Just as we will enter into heaven and enjoy it together at the same time.

They and we are told we will be like Christ when we see Him and He was not a spirit going up in heaven, He had a body and so will we.

## **CLOSING**

Kennedy was recovering from oral surgery when I gave part one of this series and wasn't going to be able to be in the church that day. So before I gave the sermon I told her what it was about. She said, what does it matter where we are as long as we know we will be with God for all of eternity. She nailed it. That's it in a nutshell. When we die and go to Sheol even though it is a resting place before we inherit heaven it is still going to be wonderful.

Remember what Abraham said to the rich man:

**Luke 16:25** - 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.

Lazarus lived a miserable life full of pain and hardship and had nothing and that is what is meant by he received evil things.

There in Abraham's bosom, Sheol, Lazarus was not in pain anymore, he was in fellowship with the righteous and he was being consoled and comforted. God shows Himself faithful to those who will endure hardships, trials and testing and yet still keep the faith.

## **PRAYER**