

Yes! Was Christ in Paradise that day?

- Friday, Jesus died and was laid in the tomb.
- Sunday morning Jesus appeared to Mary and she wanted to touch and worship Him but He restrained her because He had **not yet** ascended to His Father in heaven. *John 20:17*
- The Bible also says that the thief was not in Paradise on Friday either. *See: John 19:31-33* The two thieves had their legs broken so that they couldn't escape over Sabbath, but Jesus was already dead and His legs were not broken.
- Neither Christ or the thief were in Paradise on Friday!

Soon Shall the Trump of God

1. *Soon shall the trump of God Give out the welcome sound,
That shakes death's silent chamber walls,
And breaks the turf-sealed ground.*
2. *You dwellers in the dust, Awake, come forth, and sing;
Sharp has your frost of winter been, But bright shall be your
spring.*
3. *'Twas sown in weakness here; 'Twill then be raised in
power; That which was sown an earthly seed Shall rise a
heavenly flower.*

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY SPEAKS

WHAT BIBLE PROPHECY SAYS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

LESSON #14

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?

Jesus was challenged for the source of His authority for cleansing the Temple of the money-changers. His response was, "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*" John 2:18,19. This "Sign" or reference to His Resurrection he spoke of repeatedly! The Resurrection is the driving power of the early Christian church. Pagan inscriptions in the catacombs say, "*Goodbye forever*". However, Christian inscriptions read, "*Goodnight until the morning!*"

The Apostle Paul said if there is no resurrection then there is no future for the Christian. *See: I Corinthians 15:16-18*. That is why it is imperative that we understand what the Bible teaches about death.

At creation, God never intended that anyone would ever die. In the account of the fall on man, *Genesis 3:4* says that Eve claimed that the serpent told her, "*You shall not surely die.*" This is the first lie recorded in the Bible about death! Death came upon man because he was separated from God, the source of life and the Tree of Life. *See: Genesis 3:18,19*. Here is "the key" to what death is all about! The Biblical **formula** for the creation of man and the process of death. Here is the formula:

- Body + Breath = A **Living** Soul. See: *Genesis 2:7*
- Body – Breath = Corpse / a **dead** soul. See: *Eccl. 12:7*

Notice that the “Breathe” of God is in the nostrils! The Bible says that when a man dies, he has no conscience or memory:

- Ps. 146:3,4. “...in that very day his thoughts perish.”
- Eccl. 9:5,6 “...but the dead know nothing..”
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The dead are not now praising God in heaven! See: *Ps.15:17*, “*The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence.*”

Job 14:10,12-15 says the same thing, “*So man lies down and does not rise, till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep.*”

God’s own Word says that man lies down in the grave and does not rise until the resurrection day. “*If I wait, the grave is mine house.*” Job 17:13 Notice, that Job used the term “sleep” in talking about death. David says the same thing in Psalm 13:3 The sleep of death!

Daniel 12:2 tells about the dead who will be raised just before the Coming of Christ. One of the most **comforting** truths in God’s Word is that when a person dies they rest quietly, undisturbed by the problems of life until the call of the Lifegiver. That is why the Bible likens death to sleep. See: *II Samuel 7:12*

Jesus Himself called death a sleep! See: *John 11:11-15* But Jesus didn’t leave Martha without HOPE! See: *John 11:23,24*

However, Jesus gave her, and the people a dramatic preview of that event that was the greatest of the miracles that attested to His Messiahship! Jesus called out, “Lazarus..come forth”, otherwise **every** grave on Planet Earth would have opened!

Until the Resurrection at the end of time, *I Thess.4:13-16* is the promise of God’s comfort to the Christian. Paul describes in detail the events that will occur when Jesus comes. See: *I Cor.15:51,55; John 5:28,29*

THINK! If people went to heaven or hell at death, why would there be any need for the resurrection? Why does Jesus make this statement as He comes back the 2nd time? “*And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*” Rev.22:12 He is coming to be reunited with all those who have accepted His sacrifice in their behalf, His faithful followers. See: *I Thess.4:17*

But what about the Thief on the Cross in Luke 23:42,43? Jesus actually said, “*I give you **assurance** today, that you will be with Me in paradise*”. You see, the punctuation marks in the Bible are not inspired, and have no part in the original Greek. They were “added” to the text by translators in the 16th Century. Grammatically, **the comma** is in the wrong place! Otherwise we make Jesus contradict the rest of scripture. Can we prove this ?