

Do Good People Go To Heaven When They Die?

John 3:13 No one has ascended into Heaven except He Who descended from Heaven, the Son of Man.

Php 3:20 But our **citizenship is in Heaven** (“*Jerusalem above*”- Gal 4:26), and from it we await a **Savior**, the **Lord Jesus Christ**, (*Notice: Paul didn't say, “our citizenship is in Heaven and when we die we will go there”.*)

Rom 5:2 Through **Him (Jesus)** we have also obtained access (*Gk.4318- admission*) by faith (*Gk.4102- especially reliance upon Christ for salvation*) into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice **in hope** of the glory of **God**.

- hope- *Gk.1680*- (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation or confidence.

If we cannot say, without question or doubt, we are sure of what the Bible says concerning life, death, the resurrection, Heaven, Hell and a host of other scriptural truths, we need to reexamine this concept of our own personal hope.

I have said it before and it bears repeating. I look forward to the day when I lose my faith and hope! These two are temporal (“*now abideth*” -1 Cor 13:13) but love is eternal! Just as **God** has existed and will always exist, so has, and will, **His** love.

Rom 8:24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Why would we hope to receive something we've already received? Lk 16 explains where the faithful go and by what means and Heb 1:14 backs it up; the faithful go to Paradise to await the resurrection and are ushered there by the angels. But what exactly is Paradise as it relates to the church?

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her **Husband**.

- Coming is a verb that indicates a continual transmission, just as “we receiving a kingdom” (*Heb 12:28*) indicates a continual reception of something being received from above. This is speaking of the “great multitude that no one could number” of Rev 7:9 since the number of the faithful are continually being added to the church (*Acts 2:47*). Faithful **Christians**, who make up the bride, constitute her citizenry once we have received (*not that we can't lose it*) “the guarantee of our inheritance” (*Eph 1:14; 1 Jn 1:7*). Only after **Jesus** ascended did the place **He** went to prepare (*the kingdom/church- Jn 14:2-3*) come on “the day of Pentecost” (*Act 2:1*). That place came down out of Heaven in the form of holy city, New Jerusalem.

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and **prepare** (*Gk.2090- to prepare:- make ready*) a **place** (*Gk.5117- spot*) for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.

Rev 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

Rev 12:5 She gave birth to a male Child, One Who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her Child was caught up to God and to His throne, (*speaking of Christ's ascension back to Heaven- Act 1:9*) 6 and the woman fled into the wilderness (*Heb 11:37-40*), where she has a **place prepared** by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. (*She did not flee to Heaven. She came to earth [wilderness] on Pentecost in the form of the church, Christ's bride who He said He was coming back for.*)

Heb 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

- Jesus said He would go (*back to Heaven in order to “prepare a place”; Gk.5117- a spot [limited by occupancy], His bride [Rev 12] which He sent on Pentecost*), would come back (*to earth to receive her after the figurative 1,000-year reign of the saints is completed- Rev 20:7-15*), receive the faithful (*the kingdom, His bride the church via the resurrection*) and take such back to Heaven with Him.

The Coming of the Lord

1Th 3:13 so that He (*Jesus*) may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints (*Gk.40- sacred*).

Mat 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

If Jesus said He would be coming for His bride, including those who have died faithful in the realm of Paradise, why do some think He is bringing them with Him?

1Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring (*Gk.71- to lead*) with Him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

John 14:3

- prepared- *Gk.2090- to prepare: -make ready*. Again, Rev 12:6. It is a prepared place for a prepared people (*Jn 14:3*): Rom 7:4; 2 Cor 11:2.
- The city, existing in both realms (*Paradise and earth*), is presently being prepared on earth for the Lamb (*Husband*) via the Gospel (*those in Paradise awaiting our*

preparation) so that He can present His bride (which includes both realms since Paradise will be part of the resurrection), the church, to Himself (Eph 5:27) after the judgment and then “when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father”. (1 Cor 15:24-28)

Rev 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed **from death to life**.

- Faithful Christians do not die! This was a message of comfort, in this context, to the persecuted saints under Roman rule beginning in the first century and from there on. Their tribulation past, even knowing there would be those they would leave behind, this is speaking to “**the one who conquers**” (v. 7) in the eternal realm of the church (Paradise -4:6; 15:2) where they/we will no longer have to fear death (Heb 2:15). Loved ones will not come to mind but will be thought of in a different, spiritual understanding. Even their physical loss will not affect our future spiritual gain.

“When we have passed from this life, we will have a much sharper view of sin and the hideous nature of rebelling against God. Those of our loved ones who find themselves lost will not appear to us in the same sympathetic light as we saw them through the limitations of fleshly examination.”

Wayne Jackson- The Christian Courier/Will There Be Personal Recognition in Heaven

Rev 21:9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

- In contrast to his pouring out God's wrath on Rome (Rev 16), this angel shows John another site. She is first called the bride (Gk.3565-young married woman/ as veiled, betrothed, by impl. A son's wife. This is her present distinction.) **in anticipation** (Rom 7:4) and wife (Gk.1135) **in realization** (her future distinction). That will be her title at the great marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev 19:9).

2Co 11:2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one Husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

- the Lamb- (5:6) the One Who paid the bride's (church's) dowry (ransom) that she might be His.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in [spirit] to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of Heaven from God,

- mountain- authority. The mountain (Dan 2:45) shows the authority from which the city came, i.e., the kingdom/church (“stone was cut from a mountain”). Again, the city's origin is Heaven. The pilgrimage (1 Pet 2:11) of the earthly kingdom is the church (Col 1:13).

Rev 21:27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- In order to be written in the Lamb's book of life a person has to be “qualified... to share in the inheritance of the saints of light” and be “transferred” **into** “the kingdom of [God's] beloved Son” (*Col 1:13*) (*which is the church*) and be “devoted... to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (*Act 2:42*). So in order to be “qualified” a person needs to be found “in Christ” having “put [Him] on” by being “baptized into [Him]” (*Gal 3:26-27*). Being covered with the “Lamb without blemish or spot” (*1 Pet 1:19*) is accomplishing spiritually what God did with Adam and Eve in covering their shame in *Gen 3:21*. We cannot stand before a Holy God with the stain of sin having a guilty conscience, and baptism is what cleanses the conscience before God. As Peter said “baptism... now saves you” “as an appeal to God for a good conscience” (*1 Pet 3:21*). Anyone who has not been washed of their sin is unclean and cannot enter the kingdom/church described here in spiritual detail. The great commission explains the invitation.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. *19* Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *20* teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Act 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. *42* And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

As the apostle Paul once asked “Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?”

Charli Yana- July 19, 2019

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