

Where Do The Saved Go When They Die?

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The entire theory that Christ emptied Paradise when He ascended to Heaven is based upon one scripture and that scripture does **not** say He emptied Paradise. In *Ephesians 4:8*, Paul said Christ led captivity captive when He ascended on high. What Paul said was that when Jesus Christ's material body was resurrected from the dead He took as His captive the thing that (up to that time) had us as its captive. What had us as its captive? DEATH. Jesus Christ had victory over death.

*"14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime **subject to bondage.**" Hebrews 2:14-15. (King James Version)*

*"⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,⁵² 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.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ 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.**⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 (King James Version)*

"⁸ He will swallow up **death in victory**; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it." Isaiah 25:8 (King James Version)

Until Jesus Christ's material body was resurrected, we had no hope of ever returning from the dead, never to die again.

In *John 14:1-4*, Jesus comforted His local Church in Jerusalem with the promise that He was going away to prepare a place for **them** and they would have a permanent home with Him on the New Earth for eternity when He came back after His Bride and for the rest of the Family of God.

"¹ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." *John 14:1-3* (The New King James Version)

"¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. ² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. " *Revelation 21:1-2* (The King James Version)

"²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it." *Revelation 21:24-26* (The New King James Version)

"²² But you have come to (1) Mount Zion, to (2) the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to (3) thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to (4) the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to (5) God, the Judge of all, to (6) the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to (7) Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to (8) the sprinkled blood that speaks a

better word than the blood of Abel." Hebrews 12:22-24 (The New International Version)

The permanent place where His Bride will spend eternity is the Holy City Jerusalem on the New Earth (*Revelation chapters 21 & 22*). We will only be in the Third Heaven for 7 years. No one except Jesus is in the Third Heaven now. The dead in Christ are in Paradise and it will not be emptied until that event that we call the Rapture.

1- If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, when will we be made in the likeness of Christ, that is, when will incorruption and immortality be given to us? David stated that He would not gaze at the face of Christ until he would arise in the image, likeness or similitude of Christ.

"¹⁵ As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness. " Psalm 17:15 (New King James Version)

*"²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." *Philippians 3:20-21 (New International Version 2011)**

"⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. ⁴³ It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one. ⁴⁵ So, too, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being," the last Adam a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one. ⁵⁰ This I declare, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For

the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ *For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.* ⁵⁴ *And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
1 Corinthians 15:42-57 (New American Bible)

According to 1 Corinthians 15:42-47 (printed above), David will not receive a body that is incorruptible and that has immortality until the catching up (the Rapture). In other words, David will not receive a heavenly, glorified body until the catching up (the Rapture). That means that David will not gaze at the face of the resurrected material body of Jesus Christ until Jesus Christ returns to gather the saved and we are caught up to the Third Heaven. If Jesus Christ had emptied Paradise and brought them up to heaven, wouldn't David be looking at the face of Jesus Christ right now? If Jesus Christ had emptied Paradise and brought them with Him, wouldn't David have seen the face of Jesus Christ when David left Paradise with the rest of the saved? But David stated that he would not see the face of Jesus Christ until he awoke in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

2- If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, why did Paul tell Timothy (at that point in time) Christ was the only one who had immortality and was the only one dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto? By the time Paul wrote his letters to Timothy, Jesus Christ had already ascended back to heaven. If Jesus Christ had brought the dead in Christ back to Heaven with Him, they would have also been "*dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto*"!!

¹³ *In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed*

and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ **who alone is immortal** and **who lives in unapproachable light**, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen." 1 Timothy 6:13-16 (The New International Version)

3- If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, why did Paul state that the Old Testament saints will not be made perfect (complete with **immortality** and **incorruption**) without us? ³⁶ *Others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about in skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. ³⁸ The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, in caves and in crevices in the earth. ³⁹ Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. ⁴⁰ God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect. Hebrews 11:36-40 (The New American Bible)*

4- Jesus ascended back to Heaven seven days before Pentecost (3 nights+40+7=50). Pentecost was always fifty days after Pentecost. If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, why did Peter state on the day of Pentecost that David had not ascended into the heavens? If Jesus emptied Paradise when he ascended to Heaven, did He leave David behind?

³⁴ *For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, ³⁵ Until I make thy foes thy footstool." Acts 2:34-35 (King James Version)*

5- If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, why did Christ tell the members of the church in Jerusalem that they would not go to the place He was preparing for them until He came back for them?

¹ *"Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are **many dwelling places**; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to **prepare** a place for you. ³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also." John 14:1-3 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)*

6- If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, why did Paul tell the Church at Thessalonica that the dead in Christ were still asleep in Christ and God would bring them with Christ when He RETURNED to the Third Heaven after coming back for the entire Family of God at that event we refer to as the Rapture? According to verse 14, we will all rise together at the same time and ever be with the Lord.

*"¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you **by the word of the Lord**, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (go before) them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (The King James Version)*

7- If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, why did Paul tell about visions (more than one) and revelations (more than one) when he spoke of visiting the Third Heaven and of visiting Paradise if they were not two different places when he visited them? Please remember that Jesus Christ had already ascended back to the Third Heaven before Paul was converted and, therefore, before Paul visited the Third Heaven and before Paul visited Paradise .

"¹ It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven (τρίτος οὐρανός-pronounced tree'tos oo-ran-os' in English). ³ And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- ⁴ how he was caught up into Paradise (παράδεισος-pronounced par-ad'-i-sos in English) and heard inexpressible

words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 (New King James Version)

8- Christ had ascended to Heaven before Paul was saved. If Paradise had already been emptied, how did Paul hear unspeakable words which it was not lawful for a man to utter? If Paradise had already been emptied, there should not have been anyone still there to utter any words for Paul to overhear.

² *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven.* ³ *And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows--* ⁴ *how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter*". 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (The New King James Version)

9- If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, why did God show Paradise to Paul if no one was there? ² *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven.* ³ *And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows--* ⁴ *how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter*". 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (The New King James Version)

10- If Paradise truly was a paradise, why would Christ empty it and negate its function after it had served its purpose successfully for so many centuries? Some might say that it was so that the saved could be with Him but since Christ was and is God, He is omnipresent and is everywhere at the same time. ⁷ *If you—all of you—knew me, you would fully know my Father also. From this time forward you know Him and have seen Him.* ⁸ *"Master," said Philip, "cause us to see the Father: that is all we need."* ⁹ *"Have I been so long among you," Jesus answered, "and yet you, Philip, do not know me? **He who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you ask me, 'Cause us to see the Father'?"* ¹⁰ *Do you not believe that **I am in the Father** and that **the Father is in me**? The things that I tell you all I do not speak on my own authority: but **the Father dwelling within me** carries on His*

own work. ¹¹ Believe me, all of you, that **I am in the Father and that the Father is in me**; or at any rate, believe me because of what I do." John 14:7-11 (Weymouth New Testament)

We know that Jesus Christ is in Heaven serving as our High Priest and yet He is also on this earth dwelling with His scriptural Churches and He is in Paradise dwelling with the dead in Christ.

" ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16 (The King James Version)

" ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And **surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age**." Matthew 28:18-20 (The New International Version)

If Jesus Christ is in Heaven serving as our High Priest and yet He is also on this earth dwelling with His scriptural Churches, why is it so difficult to understand how Christ could be in heaven serving as our High Priest and also be in Paradise with the dead in Christ at the same time?

" ¹ O Jehovah, thou hast searched me, and known me. ² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; Thou understandest my thought afar off. ³ Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, And art acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For there is not a word in my tongue, But, lo, O Jehovah, thou knowest it altogether. ⁵ Thou hast beset me behind and before, And laid thy hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain unto it. ⁷ **Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?** ⁸ **If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in Sheol (the place of the departed dead-saved and lost, Paradise and Tartarus), behold, thou art**

there. ⁹ *If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;* ¹⁰ *Even there shall thy hand lead me, And thy right hand shall hold me.* ¹¹ *If I say, Surely the darkness shall overwhelm me, And the light about me shall be night;* ¹² *Even the darkness hideth not from thee, But the night shineth as the day: The darkness and the light are both alike to thee.* ¹³ *For thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb.* ¹⁴ *I will give thanks unto thee; For I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Wonderful are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well.* ¹⁵ *My frame was not hidden from thee, When I was made in secret, And curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.* ¹⁶ *Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance; And in thy book they were all written,* *Even the days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was none of them.* ¹⁷ *How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!* ¹⁸ *If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: When I awake, I am still with thee.* ¹⁹ *Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: Depart from me therefore, ye bloodthirsty men.* ²⁰ *For they speak against thee wickedly, And thine enemies take thy name in vain.* ²¹ *Do not I hate them, O Jehovah, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?* ²² *I hate them with perfect hatred: They are become mine enemies.* ²³ *Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts;* ²⁴ *And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."*
Psalm 139:1-24 (American Standard Version)

11- If Paradise was emptied and the saved are in the Third Heaven now, why did Paul say in 2nd Corinthians 4:14 that we will all be presented in the Third Heaven at the same time after that event we call the catching up or the Rapture.

¹³ *It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak,* ¹⁴ *because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself."* 2 Corinthians 4:13-14 (The New International Version)

Please be careful that you do not repeat error that someone you highly respect shared with you because someone they highly respected shared it with

them because someone they highly respected shared it with them because someone they highly respected shared it with them because someone they highly respected shared it with them. Before, when we repeated what we had been told by someone we highly respected, we may have unknowingly repeated error. That would make it an unknown sin. But if we continue to repeat known error, it is a known sin. " ³⁶ *You disagree? And do you think that the knowledge of God's will begins and ends with you Corinthians? Well, you are mistaken!* ³⁷ *You who claim to have the gift of prophecy or any other special ability from the Holy Spirit should be the first to realize that what I am saying is a commandment from the Lord himself.* ³⁸ *But if anyone still disagrees—well, we will leave him in his ignorance..*" *1 Corinthians 14:36-38 (The Living Bible)*

It is important that we remember that Job planned to go to Sheol and abide there until the Lord called him out at the "catching up" or the Rapture. " ¹⁰ *But a man dies and fades away; he breathes his last—where is he?* ¹¹ *As water disappears from the sea and a river becomes parched and dry,* ¹² *so man lies down never to rise again. They will not wake up until the heavens are no more; they will not stir from their sleep.* ¹³ **If only You would hide me in Sheol and conceal me until Your anger passes.** *If only You would appoint a time for me and then remember me.* ¹⁴ **When a man dies, will he come back to life? If so, I would wait all the days of my struggle until my relief comes.** ¹⁵ **You would call, and I would answer You.** *You would long for the work of Your hands.* ¹⁶ *For then You would count my steps but would not take note of my sin.* ¹⁷ *My rebellion would be sealed up in a bag, and You would cover over my iniquity.* ¹⁸ *But as a mountain collapses and crumbles and a rock is dislodged from its place,* ¹⁹ *as water wears away stones and torrents wash away the soil from the land, so You destroy a man's hope.* ²⁰ *You completely overpower him, and he passes on; You change his appearance and send him away.* ²¹ *If his sons receive honor, he does not know it; if they become insignificant, he is unaware of it.* ²² *He feels only the pain of his own body and mourns only for himself."* *Job 14:10-22 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)*

Please remember what Paul wrote in his second letter to Timothy. ¹ *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;* ² *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* ³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;* ⁴ *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Timothy 4:1-4 (The King James Version)*

Jesus comforted His local Church in Jerusalem with the promise that He was going away to prepare a place for them and they would have a permanent home with Him there when He came back after His Bride and for the rest of the Family of God. The permanent place where His Bride will spend eternity is the Holy City Jerusalem on the New Earth.

¹ *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* ² *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared** as a bride adorned for her husband.* ³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."* 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."* ⁵ *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."* Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ *And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."* ⁷ *The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.* ⁸ *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."* Revelation 21:1-8 (English Standard Version)

"²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." Revelation 21:23-27 (New Revised Standard Version)

We will only be in the Third Heaven for 7 years. We have proven that no one except Jesus is in the Third Heaven now. The dead in Christ are in Paradise and it will not be emptied until we are caught up in that event many people call "the Rapture".

Please be careful that you do not repeat error that someone you highly respect shared with you because someone they highly respected shared it with them because someone they highly respected shared it with them because someone they highly respected shared it with them because someone they highly respected shared it with them.

"¹ I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Timothy 4:1-4 (The King James Version)