THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION



(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV) **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 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 AMP) **13** Now we do not want you to be uninformed, believers, about those who are asleep [in death], so that you will not grieve [for them] as the others do who have no hope [beyond this present life]. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again [as in fact He did], even so God [in this same way—by raising them from the dead] will bring with Him those [believers] who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
15 For we say this to you by the Lord's [own] word, that we who are still alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will in no way precede [into His presence] those [believers] who have fallen asleep [in death]. **16** For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the [blast of the] trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 Then we who are alive and remain [on the earth] will simultaneously be caught up (raptured) together with them [the resurrected ones] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord! **18** Therefore comfort and encourage one another with these words [concerning our reunion with believers who have died].

❖ PARADISE AND HELL (SLEEP AND DEATH)

1. **(Luke 16:22-26 KJV)** **22** 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; **23** And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. **24** 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. **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. **26** 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. **27** Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: **28** For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
   a. What was the difference between the rich man and Lazarus when they died?
   b. What was the difference between hell and Abraham's bosom?
   c. What did the rich man want Lazarus to do?

2. **(Luke 23:39-43 KJV)** **39** And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.
40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? **41** And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.
42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.
43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

a. What were the differences between the thieves on the cross?
b. What were the similarities of the thieves?
c. Why do you believe Christ only said to one thief that he would be with him in paradise?
d. What made a thief qualified for paradise?

3. **(2 Corinthians 5:1-8 KJV)** **1** For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: **3** If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. **4** For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. …**8** We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 5:1-4 NLT) **1** For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. **2** We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. **3** For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. **4** While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. ….**8** Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.

a. Discuss and compare versions of **2 Cor 5:1-8**
b. Discuss the following:
(Romans 7:24-25 AMP) **24** Wretched and miserable man that I am! Who will [rescue me and] set me free from this body of death [this corrupt, mortal existence]? **25** Thanks be to God [for my deliverance] through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind serve the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh [my human nature, my worldliness, my sinful capacity—I serve] the law of sin.

4. **(2 Corinthians 12:2-4 KJV)** **2** I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. **3** And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) **4** How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

(Acts 14:19-20 KJV) **19** And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. **20** Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

a. Where does a person go when they leave their body; according to the Apostle Paul?
b. Does this apply to believers and unbelievers?
c. Some believe that after Paul was stoned in **Acts 14:19-20,** he experienced what is stated in **2 Cor 12:2-4.**
   - What happened in **Acts 14:19-20?**
   - What happened in **Acts 14:12-18?**
d. What did Paul see in the third heaven?

5. **(Revelation 2:7 KJV)** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
   a. Discuss the following:
      - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith. To him that overcometh.
   a. What tree is located in the paradise of God?
   b. Where else is this tree mentioned?
   c. What is the purpose of this tree?
   d. Discuss the 2 deaths mentioned in the Bible:
   (Rev 20:14-15 KJV) **14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.



❖ **THE CROSS**

6. **(Matthew 27 KJV)** **42** He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. **45** Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. **46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? **47** Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. **48** And straightway one of them ran, and took a spunge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. **50** Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. **51** And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

a. Discuss the statement. He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross.
   - **(Matthew 26 KJV)** **53** Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? **54** But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? **55** In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. **56** But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.
   - **(Hebrews 12:2 KJV)** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
   - **(Hebrews 5:8 KJV)** Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

b. What kept Jesus on the cross?

c. Discuss the statement. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
   - **(Psalm 22:1 KJV)** My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?
   - **(Galatians 3:13 KJV)** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
   - **(Isaiah 53:5 AMP)** But He was wounded for our transgressions,
     He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing];
     The punishment [required] for our well-being fell on Him, And by His stripes (wounds) we are healed.

d. Did Christ die for all the sins of the world? Did all sin fall upon Christ on the cross?
   - **(John 3:16-17 KJV)** **16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
   - **(1 John 2:2 AMP)** And He [that same Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins [the atoning sacrifice that holds back the wrath of God that would otherwise be directed at us because of our sinful nature—our worldliness, our lifestyle]; and not for ours alone, but also for [the sins of all believers throughout] the whole world.
   - Approximately 108 billion people have lived on Earth. Currently, ~ 8.2 billion people are alive. - Google

❖ THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE

7. **(Leviticus 16:2 KJV)** And the Lord said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

(Leviticus 16:2 AMP) The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother that he must not enter at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil (the Holy of Holies), before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die, for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

a. Who was Aaron?
b. Why couldn't he always enter the Most Holy place? What were the consequences if he did?
c. Who appeared in the cloud over the mercy seat?

8. The veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent**.**

a. The veil that separated the Most Holy Place in the temple/tabernacle (dwelling place of God's presence upon the Ark of the Covenant with the Mercy Seat on top).
b. Only the High Priest could enter once a year on the Day of Atonement (**Exodus 30:10; Hebrews 9:7**) with the blood of a sin offering for himself and for the people
c. Jewish tradition believes the veil was 60 feet (40 cubits) high, 30 feet (20 cubits) wide, and about 4 inches thick in Herod's temple.
d. How was the veil torn? Who tore the veil?
e. What is the importance of a torn veil?
   - **(Hebrews 9:11-14 KJV)** **11** But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; **12** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. **13** For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: **14** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
   - **(Hebrews 4:16 KJV)** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

❖ THE TEMPLE

9. **(1 Corinthians 6:19 KJV)** **19** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

(1 Corinthians 6:19AMP) **19** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is within you, whom you have [received as a gift] from God, and that you are not your own [property]? **20** You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. So then, honor and glorify God with your body.

a. Why does the Bible call our bodies the temple of the Holy Ghost?
b. Who owns our bodies?
c. How were our bodies purchased?
d. Topical Encyclopedia – Herod's Temple was renowned for its grandeur and beauty. The Temple itself was adorned with white marble and gold, making it a magnificent sight. The Jews remarked to Jesus, "This temple took forty-six years to build, and You will raise it up in three days?" (**John 2:20**).
   - The ark of the covenant was never mentioned beyond Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. It is believed that it was not present in Herod's temple.
   - Herod's temple stood as a magnificent structure, but without the ark (symbolic of God's holy presence), it was spiritually empty (Ichabod-glory had departed).



❖ **THE PRISONERS**

10. **(1 Peter 3:18-20 KJV)** **18** 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: **19** By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; **20** Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah…..

    (1 Peter 3:18-20 AMPC) **18** For Christ [the Messiah Himself] died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous (the Just for the unjust, the Innocent for the guilty), that He might bring us to God. In His human body He was put to death, but He was made alive in the spirit, **19** In which He went and preached to the spirits in prison, **20** [The souls of those] who long before in the days of Noah had been disobedient…..

    a. Many Bible scholars believe that Christ preached to the spirits in prison between His death and resurrection.
       Some believe He preached to:
       - Those spirits in the days of Noah
       - Those spirits who lived in Hades/hell
       - Those spirits in paradise

    b. Discuss the prisoners who sit in darkness:
       - **(Isaiah 61:1 AMPC)** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound,
       - **(Isaiah 42:7 KJV)** To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.
       - **(2 Cor 4:4 KJV)** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

    c. How did they become prisoners?
    d. How are these prisoners released?
    e. Why were these prisoners blind and in darkness?
    f. Can the god of this world blind believers?
       - **(1 Timothy 4:1 KJV)** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils
       - **(1 Timothy 4:1 AMPC)** But the [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach,

    g. Discuss the resurrection
       - **(Ephesians 4:8-9 KJV)** **8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. **9** (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?
       - **(Matthew 27 KJV)** **52** And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, **53** And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.
       - **(1 Cor 15 AMP)** **20** But now [as things really are] Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, [and He became] the first fruits [that is, the first to be resurrected with an incorruptible, immortal body, foreshadowing the resurrection] of those who have fallen asleep [in death].