

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Cross
Lesson 6C After His Burial

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Luke 23:43-49 *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.*

The above verses contain multiple subjects that we need to cover before we move ahead to His Resurrection.

- Paradise: Where did it come from? Where is it now?
- Hell: Where did it come from? Where is it now?
- The veil in the temple was rent.
- Certainly, this was a righteous man.

First, let's look at Paradise. We have learned from previous lessons that the only way to get a clear definition of what something means in the Bible is by comparing scripture with scripture (Isaiah 28:10-13). Since Paradise is only mentioned three times and Hell 56 times in the Bible, we will have to follow the trail of other words used in relation to our paradise verses.

Let us look at the three paradise verses, giving time frame and location when each verse took place.

1. Luke 23:43 ***And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*** (prior to the death of Jesus Christ on Mt. Calvary)
2. 2 Corinthians 12:4 ***How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*** (after the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ In Heaven)
3. Revelation 2:7 ***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.*** (After the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, In Heaven)

The Bible says that Jesus was crucified, and when He died (or for clarification, His body died), His Spirit was given back to the Father (Luke

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23:46). His soul, along with His dead body, went to hell (see Acts 2:27, 31). But a very important fact: His body did not see corruption. A mortician will tell you that as soon as a body dies, it begins to deteriorate. The scripture is perfect to include that important fact – *neither his flesh did see corruption*. Later, He was to meet Mary, the two men on the road to Emmaus, His disciples, and over 120 eye witnesses. His intact body was needed to complete these tasks, and He will use it again later during the events noted in Revelation, in the end times.

Stay with us we will show you the location of both paradise and hell in the following paragraphs.

Where is this place called hell? The Bible tells us in a few places that it is down (Matthew 11:23; 2 Peter 2:4) and describes Hell as a place of torment and flame.

Let us look at someone who went to Hell – Luke 16:22-26. It is clear from this passage that hell is a place of torment and flame. In the same general area, at the time this story was happening, there was another place called Abraham's bosom (also called paradise - a place of comfort and protection) which is where the beggar, Lazarus, was. The rich man in Hell, an unrepentant sinner, is suffering miserably. He is begging Abraham to send Lazarus to bring him one drop of water to cool his tongue. (Luke 16:24) *For I am tormented in this flame*. You would think that being in Hell would cause him to repent; however, that is not the case. Instead of repenting, he is still concerned about his flesh desiring to have water.

Then Abraham tells him the reason why he cannot do what the rich man asks. Luke 16:26 *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*. There is a great gulf between Hell, the place of torment, and Abraham's bosom (paradise), the place of comfort. Look at the last thing the rich man says, "I pray thee, send someone to tell my family, so they do not come to a place like this." Besides the physical torment and agony suffered in Hell, there is the fact that the unrepentant sinner will suffer mental agony as he remembers for eternity his rejection of God.

We have heard people say that before being saved, they had recurring dreams of falling with fear. Well, that is what Hell is likened to – falling and never hitting the bottom because it is a bottomless pit (Revelation 9:2).

Let us get a picture of this place called Hell. The best way to describe Hell is to draw a picture of a tire. Draw the rim and the hubcap. The inside of the tire is Hell, the rim is the Great Gulf, and the hubcap is Paradise. Where is paradise? Prior to the ascension of Jesus Christ, it was in the center of the

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Earth. The Cherubims mentioned in Genesis are guarding the place of paradise with flaming swords. (Genesis 3:24)

All those who died in faith were with Lazarus and the thief on the cross in Paradise with the tree of Life. Revelation 2:7 *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.*

Jesus died (Mark 15:39) and went to Hell (Acts 2:27,31; Revelation 1:18; Hebrews 9:28). Then He stepped across the great gulf into paradise, where He met the thief that was on the cross, and Lazarus, along with the other captives.

While Jesus was in paradise, He preached to the captives there (Luke 4:18 *to preach deliverance to the captives*). Who are the captives? They are those in Abraham's bosom, who died in faith *not having received the promises* (Hebrews 11:13). These are all the people that died before Jesus Christ died on the cross and was buried.

After Jesus descended down into Hell and then to paradise to preach deliverance to the captives, He ascended, bringing with Him the tree of life, paradise, and its occupants. He did not bring the occupants of Hell; the rich man is still there. (Revelation 2:7; Revelation 22:14)

When Jesus ascended, the bodies of the captives He had delivered came out of the graves and walked the streets. That must have been a scary sight (Matthew 27:52-53). Jesus then appeared in the garden, where He met Mary. He had not gone up to heaven yet because He told Mary, "Touch me not" (John 20:17).

Where is paradise now? Paradise is no longer needed on Earth. When believers die now, they are absent from the body and present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). Paradise is now in heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2-4). God has future plans for it in Heaven (Revelation 2:7; 22:2-19).

Let's review our timetable:

- Jesus dies on the cross (Matthew 27:50).
- The veil in the Temple is rent from top to bottom (Mark 15:38).
- Jesus is buried (Matthew 27:60).
- He descended into Hell (Acts 2:27, 31) and then to paradise. The thief on the cross also went to paradise as Jesus promised.
- He preached to the captives (Luke 4:18).
- He ascended to Earth, bringing those who died in faith, including the thief (Luke 23:42- 43), with Him.
- He met Mary in the garden (John 20:1-15, 17).
- He ascended up on high (heaven), taking the captives with Him and gave them gifts (Ephesians 4:8).

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- He came back down from heaven on the same day that He met Mary in the garden. In the evening, He met Cleopas and the other disciple on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31). Jesus explained Himself to them from all the Old Testament scriptures, had meat, and broke bread with them. Then He appeared to His disciples where they were gathered, showing them His hands and His side. He breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." (John 20:19-22).

You might say, "How could He do all that in the three days and three nights?" – Jesus is God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).

Let's go back to our starting place, to ensure that we have a clear picture of the miraculous events that took place during and after His death:

Luke 23:43-47 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

Same event from a different gospel:

Matthew 27:50-54 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 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; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

What was the significance of this statement from scripture? *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom;*

In order to get a clear understanding of this portion of scripture, we must build on a foundation taken from the Old Testament.

Once upon a time, God said that the descendants that came from the bloodline of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be a chosen race of people unto Him. They were chosen, not because they were the greatest people, but

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because they were the least; therefore, through His dealings with them throughout history, He might show forth His person, nature, goodness, grace and His longsuffering. Eventually, through their descendants, He would bring into the world His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the first twenty-five hundred years of their history, they had a peculiar relationship with God. God selected a man out of the Israelite people (Hebrews) to be a high priest. He gave instructions to the people on how to build the tabernacle. This building was set up in an unusual manner. It had an outer court, where anyone could go. It had an inner court for religious worship called the holy place. The next room was called the most holy place; it was separated from the rest of the tabernacle by a veil. The most holy place was where God Himself would descend once a year and sit to receive the blood offering from the high priest. The high priest would enter into that most holy place within the veil to sprinkle the blood of a sacrificed animal. Only once a year was the high priest allowed to meet with God within the veil, inside the most holy place.

Let's look at a few verses to clarify the above statements:

Exodus 26:33-34 *And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.*

Exodus 30:6 *And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.*

Exodus 30:10 *And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.* Read also Leviticus 16:7-16.

God created all this symbolism to show the Children of Israel a picture – a picture of Jesus Christ when He would come on the scene. Hebrews 10:1a *For the law having a shadow of good things to come.*

The veil was rent from the top to the bottom, showing that God had opened up access to the most holy place by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. We no longer need a high priest to go to God once a year to offer sacrifices and offerings for our sins. We now have a great high priest, Jesus Christ, who is available anytime, day or night.

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Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.* One sacrifice, one time, forever.

Romans 6:10 *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

Hebrews 10:10 *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Let's meditate on why God wants us to hear three times in His word the response of a centurion who took part in the crucifixion of Jesus:

Matthew 27:54 *Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*

Mark 15:39 *And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.*

Luke 23:47 *Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.*

By declaring that Jesus was The Son of God and a righteous man, he was saying that Jesus was God.

Notes

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The Cross
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Name _____

(*) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with an answer in your own words.

1. Where is the tree of life?
 - a. Before the death of Jesus Christ *

 - b. After the death of Jesus Christ *
2. Describe hell.
3. What are the senses you will still have after you die? *
4. Who are the captives? *
5. Who was allowed into the most holy place? *
6. What verse confirms that we no longer need a man to mediate between us and God? *
7. Who glorified God after the death of Jesus Christ? *
8. When were there dead people walking the streets of Jerusalem? *

