

FROM THE MINISTRY OF
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The "Around the World Ministry"
That's Based in Texas

BOUGHT WITH A PRICE

This is My Body, which is Broken for You

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

He became Sin for Us

God who so loves us, desires that none should perish but that all would turn to him and be forgiven. So to make this possible, He sent his Son Jesus Christ who took our sins upon himself. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Yes it's true, "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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

Yes, this same Jesus whom the Father sent, loved us and gave his life for us, and "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame." (Galatians 2:20, Hebrews 12:2) And not only that, he suffered by the hands of sinful man through beatings and whipping's as well, "by whose stripes ye were healed." (1 Peter 2:24) And then last of all, Christ died and spent three days and nights in hell. For Jesus said: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40)

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What was it Like?

So, what was it like for Jesus in the heart of the earth? Well personally, I don't think any of us can truly expound fully on that. And yes, there are those who try to detail it all for us, but only end up making a mess of it. However, we can get a clue of what it was like from the words of Jonah himself. For in the book of the prophet Jonah we read: "Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice." (Jonah 2:1-2) So, we can see that Jonah was experiencing affliction and he quoted it as being in hell. (Luke 16:23) And furthermore, Jesus called Jonah a prophet and even at one point said: "in the volume of the book it is written of me." (Hebrews 10:7, Psalm 40:7-9) So, from all this we can see that Jesus experienced affliction during his three days and nights. For as Jesus stated earlier: "as Jonah was - so shall the Son of man be."

KEY PASSAGES CONCERNING JESUS IN HELL

- God raising Jesus from the "pains of death" - Peter, while addressing the crowds in Act chapter 2 said: Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. (Acts 2:22-24)
- Jesus rejoices that the Father didn't leave his soul in hell - Now, Peter goes on to quote David saying: "For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. ... He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." (Acts 2:25-27, 31- 32)

The Promise to the Dying Thief

This passage poses a few problems because in most translations we have Jesus promising the repentant thief that they would be together today in paradise. But we also know that Jesus said he had to spend three days and nights in hell as well. So, even though I do believe that the KJV is the best translation ever, I'm still convinced that the Passage: "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise," Should be reading: Verily, to you am I saying today, with me shall you be in paradise. (Luke 23:43)

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This I believe is true, because we first see the thief saying to Jesus: "remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Next we have Jesus saying the Greek word "Amen" (truly) to the thief; affirming his request for a future in paradise with him. Also, let us remember that there were no comas in the Greek, so the translators had to place them to the best of their knowledge. This alternate reading above is supported in several bibles, with include: Concordant Literal New Testament, Rotherham's Emphasized Bible, Companion Bible by E. W. Bullinger. This would change the need to come up with the theory of the underground paradise which has no support in any of the scriptures.

OTHER PASSAGES IN THE KJV WHICH AFFIRM THE ALTERNATE READING ARE:

- I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. (Deuteronomy 30:18)
- Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. (Acts 20:26)

Just Hanging Out with the Saint?

Now, there are those who say that Jesus went to a place of paradise in the heart of the earth called "Abrahams Bosom" (Hell) for three days and nights. Here they claim the dead saints are waiting for the resurrection day. But, the scriptures never say that. And if Jesus short three day stay was just to hanging out in this place with the saints (some who would have been there for more than a thousand years), why was he so glad to get out of there as quoted earlier? Let's remember while praying in agony Jesus said: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. (Matthew 26:39) So, wouldn't this agonizing prayer be not only for the cross, but over his three days and nights in hell as well?

So, Where is Paradise?

So, let's deal with the word "paradise" which Jesus said to the thief and see where the Bible says that it is. First we read: *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. (Revelation 2:7)* So, we can see that this paradise of God is where the tree of life is. And where is the tree of life? *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:1-2)* Also, we have Paul's own testimony which he said, *"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*

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knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) So according to God's word, paradise is up in heaven and not in some abode inside the earth.

So, Where's Abraham and the Saints?

So, where is Abraham and all the Saint of God who have died? Well, what does the scripture say? For we read in Hebrews: *"since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:1 NKJV)* So, it sounds more like we're surrounded by them. So when it says that the dead in Christ shall rise first, wouldn't this simply mean the bodily resurrection of those saints who have died. For even though ones body may be in the grave, the souls of the dead are quite alive.

We can see this to be true from what we read about the rich man and Lazarus. For the rich man was conscious of his surroundings, feeling the torments of hell while Lazarus was being comforted in the arms of Abraham who was quite alive himself. And let's also remember that Moses and Elisha appeared before Peter, James and John when Jesus was transfigured before them. (Matthew 17:1-4) So this to me would be proof that they're not stuck underground somewhere in a so called "Abrahams Bosom." And last but not least, let's remember what Jesus said to those religious rulers who were challenging him concerning the after life. For he said: *But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. (Matthew 22:31-32)*

Further reading concerning this:

- And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. (Mark 13:27)
- That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. (Ephesians 1:10-12)

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- That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11).
- To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. (1 Thessalonians 3:13)
- 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: 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. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Those who do support the story of a paradise inside the earth also point out the fact that the rich man in hell was able to talk to Abraham afar off. They say that this is proof that there is a chamber called Abrahams Bosom inside the earth. But there is a few problems with this. First of all, the rich man has never seen Abraham before, so how could he have spot him off in a distance among a huge mass of people. That would be like you sitting in a packed stadium and recognizing a well known radio host all the way on the other side whom you never seen before; and then on top of that, you being able to talking with him as well amongst the noise of the crowds. So on the contrary, wouldn't this be a vision of some sort, just as it was with Stephen who was looking up and seeing Jesus standing on the right hand of God. So, that great gulf that's fixed between the rich man and Lazarus could have been simply the distance between hell beneath and the earthly realm above.

What about the Atonement?

So, am I saying that our atonement for sin wasn't accomplished when he shed his blood on the cross? Not at all, for his word says:

- For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. (Leviticus 17:11)

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- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)
- But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)
- 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 9:14)
- Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. (1 Peter 1:2) Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, (Revelation 1:5)

So Why Hell?

So, I know that this may still leave the question "why would Jesus still have to spend three days and night's in the heart of the earth if his blood already atoned all sin?" Well, that because hell is the temporary abode for all who have died in their sins (Luke ch.16) And it's also worth noting that Jesus died a sinners death, *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)* And: *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."* (Isaiah 53:6) And lets remember that God is not a respecter of person. All who die in sin, do end up in hell. So, sense Jesus took upon himself our sins, it would reason that he went to hell because of our sins as well. So, I believe that Jesus had to experience hell because it was part of the penalty of those who died in sin (he took our sins upon himself), yet at the same time his blood was the atonement for our sins?

Something to Think About

We must remember that all sacrifices had to be done according to procedure which was written in the law. For not only was the blood of the lamb to be shed and applied for the remission of sins, but it also had to go through the fire. One was not to be done without the other. And if by chance a step was missed or neglected, would God even regard it? God said: *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you*

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upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. (Leviticus 17:11) But God also says: "And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. (Exodus 12:8) So, the blood of the lamb did atone for their sins, but they had to partake of its flesh which went through the fire as well. And so it is also with for us Christians. For Christ blood alone atones for our sins, but that's only after we have partaken of him by receiving him in our heart. And this could only have fully come about after all he did for us.

So, Let's Focus on something We All Know

But by the power of our God, Jesus was raised from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. For it's true that our God wants all to be saved, for his word says: *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9).* And this is also true in the Old Testament where we read in Ezekiel: *Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? (Ezekiel 33:11)* This is so true.

In Closing

Well, I hope that this would stimulate a desire in you to dig in and study his word for yourselves on this. For it should be our desire to truly recognize and see all that Jesus Christ did and accomplished for us sinner. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)* Amen

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:3-5)

YouTube Web Links on this Subject:

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