

April 26, 2025

West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

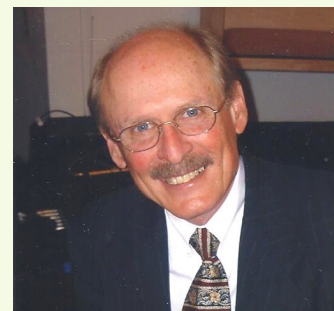
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(A Developing Ministry)



Darrell Chilson, Pastor

Join Our Weekly Bible Classes

Time: 2 p.m. AZ & West Coast; 5 p.m. East Coast

Click to Join:

<https://westvalleyend-timeministries-511.my.webex.com/meet/pastor>



Jessica Lindsey, Bible Instructor

How to Reach Our Team

- ◆ Pastor Chilson — Pastor@wvetm.com
- ◆ Jessica Lindsey — BibleStudy@wvetm.com

"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ's followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.

How to Support the WVM Ministry

- Your Prayers
- Your Participation In Class
- Your Gifts

Resource Library Links

Our Website — WVETM.com

Videos
Newsletters
Supplementary Materials



WVM Bible Class

Acts 4

Peter and John Arrested

1 Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

Addressing the Sanhedrin

5 And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, 6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: 9 If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the '*stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.*' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

The Name of Jesus Forbidden

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. 14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them *is* evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny *it*. 17 But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. 22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.



WYM Bible Class

Prayer for Boldness

(cf. Ps. 2:1, 2)

23 And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

‘Why did the nations rage,

And the people plot vain things?

26 *The kings of the earth took their stand,*

And the rulers were gathered together

Against the LORD and against His Christ.’

27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. 29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Sharing in All Things

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. 33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. 34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid *them* at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet.



DANIEL'S PROPHECIES — DANIEL 7

I'm going to need to postpone our study of the remainder of Daniel 7 one more week — sorry! This chapter of Daniel is such an important chapter in “blasting open the door of understanding” to the Book of Revelation. Daniel 2 establishes the overview of prophecy from 600 B.C. until the coming of Jesus — a framework which is critical to our view of the entire prophetic timeline. Daniel 8 gives us the actual names of nations symbolized by the metals and beasts of previous visions, and also a view of a “type” of the final Antichrist. Daniel 9 is all about Jesus, giving us a timeline of prophecy identifying the very day of Christ's crucifixion and the beginning of the Christian era. Daniel 12 is particularly exciting because it gives us another timeline for the end of time and the coming of Jesus. Each of the prophetic chapters of Daniel offer a valuable snapshot which opens our understanding to the prophecies of Revelation. But Daniel 7 is HUGE in providing us with language and imagery revisited in the Book of Revelation, and I must have more time to prepare for you an accurate and easy-to-understand view of this prophecy — one which will excite you as it has me!. However, I will reiterate what I said last week — for those who wish to review and reflect upon this vision, following is the major portion of the reference we will study — a most important part of Daniel's vision:

Daniel 7:7, 8, 19-28 — "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth beast**, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and **it had ten horns**. 8 "I was considering the horns, and there was **another horn, a little one**, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, **in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words**.

19 "Then I wished to know the truth about **the fourth beast**, which was **different from all the others**, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; 20 "and the ten horns that were on its head, and **the other horn** which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn **which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words**, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. 21 "I was watching; and **the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them**, 22 "until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. 23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. 24 The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. 25 He shall speak pompous **[blasphemous] words against the Most High**, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and **shall intend to change times and law**. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time **[3 1/2 years]**. 26 'But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. 27 Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.' 28 "This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart."




BIBLE ANSWERS TO HONEST QUESTIONS – #3

Honest Question: When Jesus was on the cross, one of the thieves who was hanging next to Him said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'" Luke 23:42, 43. Does this verse mean that the thief went to heaven that day? And if so, doesn't that mean that all believers go to heaven when they die?

Bible Answer: Jesus didn't go to heaven that day, so if Jesus didn't go to heaven that day, the thief couldn't have "been in Paradise **with Him that day.**" So, the answer to part one of the question is "No". Thus, we can also say that this text doesn't suggest that all believers go to heaven when they die – that part of the question is also "No".

Comments:


- 1) The word "paradise" is used in the New Testament three times, once by Jesus in this text (Luke 23:43), once by Paul (2 Corinthians 12:4), and once by John (Revelation 2:7). Each time the word is used in reference to heaven, so there's every reason to believe that heaven is what Jesus was promising the thief **that very day.**
- 2) **Jesus promised the thief heaven that very day,** even though neither of them actually went to heaven **that day.** You will recall that when Jesus met Mary Magdalene at the tomb the following Sunday morning, **two days after** His crucifixion, Mary was beyond herself to see Jesus again and know that death had not truly claimed Him. I want to believe that because of Jesus' love for Mary and hers for Him that Jesus actually waited to return to the Father until He could show Himself to Mary that morning and banish her grief. Further, He chose her to be the messenger to the disciples of His resurrection. But this experience also reveals that though Jesus had been crucified on Friday, the day He promised the thief he would "be with Me in Paradise," Jesus Himself had not yet been to heaven and seen His Father, and it was now the following Sunday morning! Jesus said to Mary, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God'" (John 20:17).
- 3) The answer to our original question about when the thief actually went to heaven and when the followers of Christ go to heaven after death is found in the understanding of profound teachings of Christ on **death** and on **eternal life.**

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- a) **Death** is but the **unconscious sleep of the soul** of man until the return of Jesus in the heavens when **all** the recipients of Christ's grace, of ages past, are resurrected from their graves (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17), given new bodies like Christ's (1 Corinthians 15:49 – and the entire chapter), and ascend into the heavens to meet Christ in the air, returning, with the saints who are alive, to the home He has prepared for us in heaven (John 14:1-3) – Paradise!

When the Bible describes death, it is **always as a sleep**, except when it is referring to the eternal death of the wicked, – Lazarus in John 11:11, 13; the saints who were resurrected at the time of Jesus' death in Matthew 27:52; Jairus' daughter in Luke 8:49-55; Stephen when he died from being stoned to death in Acts 7:60; all the "saints" who await the return of Christ, and Daniel himself in Daniel 12:2, 13; and finally, **numerous** references of the apostles to death as a sleep. Look it up for yourself! In Ecclesiastes 9:5 Solomon says, "For the living know that they shall die, but **the dead know nothing....**" And David says in Psalms 146:3, 4, "Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help, his breath departs, **he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.**"


- b) **Eternal life** begins at the moment of faith in Christ. And for the thief on the cross, eternal life began for him that very day – the very moment he asked to be remembered by his Savior! For Christ, the thief entered into Paradise that day, in the same way that all who place their faith in Him have eternal life the moment they believe. And that is what Jesus wanted the thief to know, just as He gave the same assurance to others listed below. And before you think that's too far-fetched, please note the following verses:

- ♦ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." Note too what follows as Jesus continues. Don't fail to miss the context! "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead** will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear **will live.** ... Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth**--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. John 5:24, 28, 29
- ♦ "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life...." John 3:36

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- ♦ “He who believes in Me has everlasting life.” John 6:47
 - ♦ “**Today salvation has come** to this house” – Jesus to Zacchaeus Luke 19:9
 - ♦ “**Your faith has saved you**” – Jesus to Mary Magdalene Luke 7:50
 - ♦ “Now Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother [Lazarus] would not have died.’ ... Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Do you believe this?’” John 11:21, 23-26. (**Conditional immortality!** See below.)
 - ♦ “**We know that we have passed from death to life...**” 1 John 3:14
 - ♦ “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...” 1 John 5:11-13. (**Conditional immortality** – See below)

So, when Jesus told the thief he would be with Him in Paradise that very day, **that very day** the thief entered into eternal life! It matters not that he would not see heaven that day, for when the thief died (probably not for a day or two after Jesus promised him paradise!) the very next thing he would see is Jesus coming to take him to Paradise. The time in between would be **unconscious “sleep”**. He like all before him and all after him would wait in his grave, “sleeping” until Christ called them forth to their inheritance.

We must understand that God lives in eternity and that we, as His children, must too. If heaven is ours because of our faith in what Jesus did that day on Calvary for us, God sees us living in eternity **today** just as surely as if we were physically already there. Paul tell us that “we died with Him, were buried with Him, were raised with Him, and that even now we sit at the right hand of God in Him.” Really?! Were you there on the cross with Christ? Were you buried in Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb? Did you come forth from that grave 2,000 years ago and go to heaven and sit down at the right hand of God with Christ? **Yes, you did!** That’s God’s reality, that must be our reality, and that was the thief’s reality that day on Calvary! Let’s not complicate the truth with the microscope of our limited, myopic vision! Incidentally, we have no record of complaint



from the thief that he didn't immediately go to Paradise! But can you imagine what comfort Jesus' words were to the thief as he suffered there on the cross until he died – just knowing that he would die only to live again with Christ in Paradise!

- c) **Doctrines of Demons** – Paul tells us that “In latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy....” 1 Timothy 4:1. Just think about the doctrine of the **Immortality of the Soul** that abounds in Christian churches and is considered the most prominent biblical theology of **death** and **hell** of Christendom today. Most evangelicals, Protestants and Catholics all believe that “When a person dies, he goes to heaven if he is saved, where he continues to live in “paradise” in a conscious state, and to hell if he's lost, where he burns alive in torment for forever. In truth, those doctrines of death and hell, held by most Christians today and taught by Christian pastors and Bible teachers affirm the first lie of Satan in the Garden of Eden when he said to her, “You shall not surely die”! Read the story in Genesis 2:17-3:4. Today the church is teaching the same lie – a doctrine of demons! According to common belief, nobody ever dies, they just continue to live in either heaven or hell! The lie continues to be told that originated in Eden! Nobody ever “perishes”, but all have eternal life – somewhere! But Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not **PERISH** but have **EVERLASTING LIFE**” John 3:16. Modern Christianity says that no one ever perishes but everyone has eternal life, either in heaven or hell. The Bible teaches something very different.
- d) **Conditional Immortality (what the Bible teaches!)** says that without Christ, all will “**perish**” – die an eternal death. Faith in Christ as Savior results in “**eternal life**” to the believer (like the thief on the cross – like you!). But if a person dies without Christ, he will die both the first death (that which we all die) and the second death – the eternal death of destruction, not eternal torture forever and ever! (**Annihilationism – what the Bible teaches!**)

One must to be informed on the biblical doctrine of death, hell, eternal life, and the second coming of Jesus to make sense of many verses which are used to teach falsely that a person doesn't die when he dies but keeps on living in heaven or hell, or the rapture of the saints before the great tribulation and return of Christ, and so many of the prophecies of the Jewish nation which are misunderstood. When you understand the basics, you won't be fooled by all the false teachings that are floating around in Christendom today!