

The Israel of God Bible Study Class

2515 E. 75th Street

Chicago, IL 60649

(773) 374-6413 or (800) 96-BIBLE

“Clearing up the Fallacies about going to Heaven”

It’s a strange thing to go to a funeral and hear the preacher tell you, “that’s not sister so and so in the in the casket, that’s just her shell, she has made her home going, she’s in heaven smiling down on us, she’s with the Lord now”. Then fifteen minutes later he’s talking about the resurrection from the grave. That’s strange because if she’s in heaven then what is there left of her to be raised in the resurrection?

Most professing Christians believe that the saved will go to heaven at death. But they have little or no idea about what they will do in heaven. What does the Bible teach is the reward of the saved? The belief in "going to heaven" at death is not only held by most professing Christians. People all over the world, of many religions, hold to a belief in some kind of afterlife—some type of "reward" or blissful life after death. Shocking as it may seem, neither Jesus nor any of his followers taught that the righteous go to heaven when they die! The "reward" Jesus promises His faithful followers are not heaven; it includes ruling with Christ on the earth. (Rev.3:20-21) (v.20) “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me”. What door is this that Jesus is standing at and knocking on? This is the door to your mind! (v.21) “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne”. To he that overcomes the cares of this world, will he grant to sit with him in his throne.

Jesus is not promising you heaven; he is promising to allow you to sit with him on his throne. Now let’s go and see what throne he will sit on. (Luke:1:26-33) (v.26) “And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, (v.27) To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. (v.28) And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. (v.29) And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. (v.30) And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. (v.31) And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. (v.32) He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: (v.33) And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end”. Jesus was promised the throne of David, which sits on this earth in Jerusalem, Jesus was to rule over the house of Jacob forever, which is the house of Israel. (1Chron:29:26-27) (v.26) “Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. (v.27) And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem”. In Jerusalem! So don’t look to go up, look to go over.

Note the admission of this secular encyclopedia: "The dominant view in the early church seems to have been that until the return of the Lord upon the clouds of heaven to raise the dead, those who had died were asleep, and that they would be suddenly awakened to be given their new bodies, after which they would reign with Him on earth for a thousand years" ("Heaven," The

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New International Encyclopedia, 1st edition). The early Church of God, which Jesus Christ established, did not teach the concept of "going to heaven"—an idea that did not become accepted until long after the Apostles had died. Jesus' desire is to dwell on earth! (Psalm 132:1-5, 11-14) (v.1) A Song of degrees. LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions: (v.2) How he swore unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; (v.3) Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; (v.4) I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, (v.5) Until I find out a place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob. David said that he will not sleep until he finds a habitation for the God of Jacob. (v.11) The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne. Jesus is the fruit of David's body being spoken of here that will sit on David's throne. (v.12) If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore. And if you keep the covenant of the God of Israel and become spiritual Israel, you too shall sit on the throne forever more. (v.13) For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. (v.14) This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. Where has the Lord chosen for his habitation? Zion. This is just another name for Jerusalem. Jerusalem is where the Lord says he will dwell forever. (Psalm 122:1-5) (v.1) A Song of degrees of David. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. (v.2) Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Why are our feet standing in the gates of Jerusalem when speaking of the house of the Lord? Because that's where the house of the Lord will be. (v.3) Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: (v.4) Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. (v.5) For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. For there are set thrones (plural) of judgment.

That's correct thrones, because Jesus is not the only one that's going to be doing the judging. (Rev. 20:4-6) (v.4) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. At the coming of the Lord those that died in Christ shall be raised and those that are living in Christ shall be changed. And in Jerusalem shall they sit on thrones and judge and reign with Christ. (v.5) But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. (v.6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. So the rest of the dead shall remain dead at least another thousand years. This is the first resurrection; first means that there is nothing before it. So before this time no one has been raised from the dead, or continue to live forever. (Rev 5:8-10) (v.8) And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. (v.9) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (v.10) And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. We shall reign on the earth. (Psalm 149:1, 5-9) (v.1) Praise ye the

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LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. (v.5) Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. We are talking about the saints here! (v.6) Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; (v.7) To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; People are always talking about going to heaven but have no ideal what they are going to be doing. The saints are going to be one of the two armies (holy angels is the other) that the Lord is going to use to take down the earth at his second coming. In others words, the saints are going to be doing some killing. You may say that saints don't kill - you better read this bible. The Lord said that if this was his kingdom, his servants would fight! (John 18:36) (v.8) To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; (v.9) To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD. That's right, all the saints have a job.

(1Cor 6:1-3) (v.1) Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? (v.2) Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? (v.3) Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? Again people are always talking about saints this and saints that. Do you not know that the saints are going to judge the world and the (evil) angels? I mean how silly does it sounds when people say that I going to fly around heaven all day? No! We are not going to heaven and if we should be so blessed to make the kingdom of God we will have jobs. Even the apostles will have jobs because they will be saints. (Mat.19:27-28) (v.27) Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? (v.28) And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. In the regeneration (resurrection) when the Son of man (Jesus) sits on his throne, each apostle will sit on a throne also judging one of the tribes of Israel. Everybody will have a job in the kingdom of God on earth. God has a divine plan laid out, we are not dealing with a vain God. Our God has a plan and he told you the end from the beginning but you won't take heed. Now we know that the promise of God is to set up his kingdom on earth and to have his saints sit with him and rule this kingdom. Eternal life is the gift of God (Romans 6:23), which Spirit-begotten Christians are to receive when resurrected or changed. But what is the "reward" Jesus will bring with Him? No one has yet to receive this reward, absolutely no one!

(Heb.11:1-2, 8, 32, 39-40) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (v.2) For by it the elders obtained a good report. It says by believing (faith) the elders obtained a report. (v.8) By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. (v.32) And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: It named some of the great and mighty men and women of God, but he said that time would fail him to name them all. (v.39) And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: The book said these all having obtained a good report received not the promise. What promise? To sit with Jesus on his throne. (v.40) God having provided some better thing for us, that they

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without us should not be made perfect. And I can say that they without us should not be made perfect. Who is perfect but God? That's what God is doing he is recreating himself. But we all get our reward at the same time. Christ said that at His return He will reward all over comers—all who grow in the spiritual character of God. Some will overcome and grow more than others, and Jesus said that He "will reward each according to his works" (Matthew 16:27; Revelation 22:12). God's saints will not be strumming on harps up in heaven for eternity. Their destiny is infinitely more glorious and exciting! The Bible reveals that the "reward of the saved" will be rulership of the earth with Jesus Christ after He returns (Revelation 2:26; 3:21; 5:10). Jesus Christ and the resurrected Christians shall rule for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4-6). They will teach the nations God's way of life, which shall bring lasting peace, prosperity and joy to all mankind. But when shall this be and when shall we receive this reward? At the second coming of Christ. (2Tim.4:1-5) 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; Jesus has not made his second coming yet, so the living (quick) or the dead has not been judged yet.

So if no one has been judged yet then how can anyone be in heaven or hell right now? It doesn't make sense when you say, so and so is in heaven, and then you say I don't want to be in that long line on judgment day. It doesn't make sense! (v.2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. It says to preach the word, not what you fill or believe. Reprove and rebuke with doctrine. Well people will tell you that they don't argue the bible, but you will argue any and everything else. Please research the words "reprove" and "rebuke" and find out what they mean. (v.3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; That time is here and now. Regardless of how much scripture you read, the response is always "well you believe what you believe and I believe what I believe" or "I don't care what you read my pastor said". but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And going to heaven is just one of the many made up stories or lies (v.4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (That's what a fable is). A straight up lie that can not be proven out of the scriptures. (v.5) But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. Whether you are teaching it or it is being taught to you, you need to make full proof of it. (v.8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. At what day? The day that He makes His second coming. (Is.40:3-4,10) (v.3) The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (v.4) Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: (v.10) Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. His reward is with Him and we can't get it until He gets here. (Rev.22:12) And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Again His reward is with Him and whether you believe it or not you will be judged according to your work so get your house in order. (1Cor:15:20-24) But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. (v.21) For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. (v.22) For as in Adam all die,

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even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (v.23) But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. We shall be made like unto Christ at his coming.

(John 14:1-3) (v.1) Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. If they don't read you anything else at a funeral they are going to read you a portion of this verse. (v.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. And almost all of them stop reading in the same spot because if they continue to read then they would have to explain this. (v.3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Where was Jesus at when he said "I come again"? He was standing on the earth. He said that if I go to prepare a place for you "I come again". "I come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also. Jesus has never promised to take you to heaven. The Lord had the apostle Peter to say that obedient King David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), "is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us to this day.... For David did not ascend into the heavens" (Acts 2:29, 34). Righteous King David did not go to heaven! He, like all the righteous men and women of God who have died, are still dead. They are awaiting a resurrection from their graves, when they shall receive spirit bodies that can never die again (1 Corinthians 15:50-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

(John 7:31-36) (v.31) And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done? (v.32) The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him. (v.33) Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me. This is Jesus telling them that he will go back to heaven. (v.34) Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come. He said that you shall seek me and you won't find me, but the kicker is when he said "and where I am, thither ye cannot come". When I go unto him that sent me ye will seek me and where I am you cannot come. What part of the "where I am you cannot come" don't we understand? (v.35) Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles? (v.36) What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come? Even they didn't understand that Jesus was going back to him (the Father in heaven) that sent him and where he was going they cannot come. And where he was going you and I cannot come! Scripture tells us that after God's great Master Plan of salvation for mankind is complete, the surface of the earth will be purified by fire (2 Peter 3:10-12). A new earth and new heavens will emerge (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1). And the glorious new capital of the earth the "New Jerusalem" sparkling with precious stones and with streets of transparent pure gold (Revelation 21:18-21) will descend from heaven (Revelation 21:2, 10; 3:12). God the Father will then come and dwell on the earth in person, and will make the New Jerusalem the location of His glorious throne (Revelation 21:3, 22-23; 22:3-5), from where He and His immortal saints will go on to rule the entire universe!

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(Is.13:5) They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. This far country is described as being from the “End of heaven” but we know that this is talking about from the far end of the earth. The earth and the first heaven are interchangeable.

(Gen.1:20) And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. This second heaven that is above the earth is described as the “Open firmament of heaven”. But we know that the fowl don’t fly in outer space, they fly above the earth where the airplanes fly and where the clouds are located. So the second heaven and the space above the earth are interchangeable.

(2 Cor.12:1-4) (v.1) It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. (v.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: Paul was not saying that he didn’t know if he was in or out of his body. He was saying he didn’t know if Christ was in the body (fleshly body) or out of the body (spiritual body) God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. What’s going on here? What is Paul talking about the third heaven? (v.3) And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) (v.4) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. So now we understand that this third heaven and paradise are one and the same. And this is the heaven that no man has and never will ascend to. So the next time you say you are going to heaven, first consider which one. And remember, Jesus plainly told his disciples: (John:3:13) And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. No man is absolute! No man has ascended into the heavens but he that came down from heaven. Jesus is the only man to come down from heaven, all of the rest of us came from the dust. For dust we are and until dust shall we return.

I believe therefore I speak.

Always remember that there is peace in Jesus.

May the Lord God give skill and understanding to all that truly seek the truth.

In Jesus Name, A-MEN.