

No One Has Ascended to Heaven

Bible Study | The Church of God International, Philippines | November 3, 2018



Introduction



It is estimated that there have been **100**
billion people who lived and died since the
time of creation



We all have Christ-believing relatives and friends who had passed away. And, many believe that their departed loved ones are now in heaven with the angels and Jesus Christ.



Wonder...

how many people do you think are currently
enjoying a blissful existence in heaven?



World population today stands at 7.6 billion. It is estimated that about a third or 2.3 billion are Christians. By the traditional belief that the righteous go to heaven after death, there should be at least 30 billion souls now blissfully residing in heaven; and the balance of the 70 billion are tormented in hell.

30,000,000,000



So, how many Christians are really in heaven today?
The Biblical answer is ZERO.

NONE!



0



How many people would be burning in hell fire? The answer is also “Zero.” That is the simple scriptural truth.



0



“No One Ascended to Heaven”



Christians who have been brought up in Sunday school teaching believe that the dead are judged and receive their reward upon death. The righteous goes to heaven and enjoys the blissful company of the Holy angels and the Lord Jesus Christ.



This heaven bound preaching is opposite to the teaching of Christ. If there is any person who has authority on this matter, it is the LORD. He was in heaven with The Father and He came down to earth. If there were saints in heaven, Jesus would have known – He would have seen them.



Jesus said in John 3:13:

“No one has ever gone into the heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man.”



Jesus confirms that no one, not Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, Moses, Samson, Elijah, Daniel, Isaiah, Ezra or even David is in heaven.

Yet, most Christian churches teach that the dead are in heaven gazing at the face of God. And, millions of Christians believe it without question! Even with the direct declaration of Christ, people still insist that the saved are in heaven.



If one truly believes that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Master, then Jesus' words should be the standard of truth.



Where are the dead?

1. Where is **King David**, the man after God's own heart?
2. Where are **Enoch and Elijah** who were said to have been taken away and did not see death?
3. Where are all the **heroes of the Bible** and the **Holy prophets**?



David



Peter affirming the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, speaks of David in this way



Acts 2

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.



Acts 2

34 For **David did not ascend to heaven**, and yet he said,

“The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand

35 until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”



Acts 2

36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”



Peter boldly testified to the resurrection of Jesus said that the patriarch David prophesied about the resurrection of Jesus even when David himself is dead and buried, and did not ascend into the heaven.



Luke wrote the Book of the Acts of the Apostles many years after the resurrection and ascension of Christ. Even at the time of the writing, David has not yet ascended to heaven.



Peter added in Acts 2:29

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and **his tomb is here to this day.**”



Therefore, it is clear from the Scripture that David has not gone to heaven and is not in heaven!



Enoch and Elijah



Many erroneously conclude that both Enoch and Elijah cheated death and were miraculously transported to heaven.



The Bible talks of Enoch who walked with God and was translated so he should not see death, and Elijah who was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire.



Many churches claimed that the two were whisked toward heaven. What actually happened to Enoch and Elijah were actually revealed in the Bible.



The account of Enoch can be found in 2 books, the Book of Genesis and the Letters to the Hebrews.



Genesis 5 (KJV)

22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

24 And Enoch walked with God: **and he was not; for God took him.**”



Genesis 5 (NIV)

22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years.

24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then **he was no more**, because **God took him away.**”



Paul talked about Enoch as one of the faithful in
Hebrews 11:5.



Hebrews 11:5 (KJV)

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”



Hebrews 11:5 (NIV)

“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, (This phrase is not found in the KJV. It was an inference from the translator) so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.”



1. Moses said Enoch “was not” in (KJV) and “he was no more” in (NIV) because God took him. What were meant by “he not” and “he was no more”?



2. Paul gave the additional answer. Paul said that he
“was not found.”



3. Paul further clarified that “Enoch did not see or experience death because God took him away,” so that he could not be found.



4. Paul said before his translation he was giving a testimony and God was pleased with him.



5. What testimony was Enoch giving during those days?

The answer is in Jude 14-15: “**Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied** about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”



6. Who were the ungodly men that Enoch was warning about? He was warning about the judgment of God. Enoch is the seventh from Adam and he had the shortest life span of the pre-flood age at 365 years old. He was the great grandfather of Noah. He was the father of Methuselah, the grandfather of Lamech and the great grandfather of Noah. Enoch died about 70 years before Noah was born. During Noah's time the whole earth was already filled with sin because of the Nephilim. Enoch preached to the Nephilim whom God destroyed in the great flood.



7. Paul said in Hebrews 11:5 that Enoch did not see death, he cannot be found for God had taken him away.



The key to understanding this verse is the word
TRANSLATED.

What is meant by “Enoch was **translated** that
he should not see death”?



In its original Greek language, the word for translated is “metatithemi,” it means transported, transferred, removed, taken away or carried over.



The wording implies that God transported, transferred, removed or took him away to a safe place because people were trying to kill Enoch. God protected Enoch by moving him to a safe place.



Enoch was a righteous and fearless preacher of the truth. He was a straight talker and some of the wicked people plotted to kill him. God protected Enoch from the Nephilim by transporting him to safety so that he would 'not see death,' in other words, not be slain.



Elijah

The puzzle about Elijah is much easier to solve. In fact, the answer is within the account in
2 Kings 2:1-17.



2 Kings 2

1 When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

2 Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.



2 Kings 2

3 The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.”

4 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.



2 Kings 2

5 The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.”

6 Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.



2 Kings 2

7 Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan.

8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.



2 Kings 2

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

10 “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”



2 Kings 2

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly **a chariot of fire and horses** of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and **Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.**

12 Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And **Elisha saw him no more.** Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.



2 Kings 2

13 Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.

14 He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.



2 Kings 2

15 The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, “The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.” And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

16 “Look,” they said, “we your servants have fifty able men. Let them go and **look for your master**. Perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley.”
“No,” Elisha replied, “do not send them.”



2 Kings 2

17 But they persisted until he was too embarrassed to refuse. So he said, “Send them.” And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days but did not find him.

18 When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, “Didn’t I tell you not to go?”



Here is the gist of the story:

1. God wanted to separate Elijah from his disciple Elisha so Elisha can start his ministry.
2. Elisha refused to be separated by staying close to Elijah. He persistently followed Elijah.



3. God had to take extra ordinary measures to transport Elijah away from Elisha; in a whirlwind by chariot of fire

4. The group of prophets knew Elijah did not die nor was taken into the heaven. They went out to search for him in the mountains and valleys. They knew God transported him to another place to separate him from Elisha.



Actually, Elijah's transport to another location was borne out by what he wrote some years later! The letter can be found in 2 Chronicles 21:12-15.



2 Chronicles 21

12 Jehoram received a letter from **Elijah the prophet**, which said: “This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: ‘You have not followed the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or of Asa king of Judah.



2 Chronicles 21

13 But you have followed the ways of the kings of Israel, and you have led Judah and the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves, just as the house of Ahab did. You have also murdered your own brothers, members of your own family, men who were better than you.



2 Chronicles 21

14 So now the Lord is about to strike your people, your sons, your wives and everything that is yours, with a heavy blow.

15 You yourself will be very ill with a lingering disease of the bowels, until the disease causes your bowels to come out.’ ”



Philip

Yet another “translation” happened in the New Testament; this time to Philip. Philip was miraculously transported by God after he baptized the Ethiopian eunuch.



Acts 8

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away

40 Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus.



God transported Enoch, Elijah and Philip from one location to another each for unique reasons.



Heroes of the Bible



How about all the heroes of the Bible; i.e., Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Gideon, Samson, Rahab, and the other great men of faith?



The answer can be found in Hebrews 11 – the faith chapter. Hebrews 11 is an honor list of some of the greatest men of the Bible. This is what we read of them in Hebrews 11:4-40.



Hebrews 11

4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

5 By faith **Enoch was taken from this life**, so that he **did not experience death**: “**He could not be found**, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.



Hebrews 11

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

7 By faith **Noah**, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.



Hebrews 11

8 By faith **Abraham**, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did **Isaac and Jacob**, who were heirs with him of the same promise.



Hebrews 11

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. **They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance**, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.



Hebrews 11

15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a **heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has **prepared a city for them**.



Hebrews 11

17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,
18 even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”



Hebrews 11

19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.



Hebrews 11

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

22 By faith **Joseph**, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.



Hebrews 11

23 By faith **Moses'** parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.



Hebrews 11

25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.



Hebrews 11

27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.



Hebrews 11

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

31 By faith the prostitute **Rahab**, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.



Hebrews 11

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about **Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,**

33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,



Hebrews 11

34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better **resurrection**.



Hebrews 11

36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

37 They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—



Hebrews 11

38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

39 These were all commended for their faith, **yet none of them received what had been promised,**

40 since God had planned something better for us so that **only together with us would they be made perfect.**



The Scripture is clear. All these men of faith died, including Enoch and the prophet Elijah. None of them – none of the faithful – not even Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah, Samson, Rahab, Ester, David, and Peter, Paul, James and John; and all the rest of faithful – have received their rewards. None of them is in heaven. None of them has been resurrected to eternal life. Not yet!



This is plain and simple. It is from the pages of the Bible. Confirming what Jesus said in John 3:13: “No one has ascended into the heaven.”



State of the Dead



If none of the saved is in heaven, then where are they? The answer is they are still dead and buried; just like David whose tomb is still with us today.



Daniel 12:2

“And many of those who **sleep** in the dust of the ground will **awake**, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. “



The dead are sleeping awaiting the resurrection!



John 5

28 Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when **all who are in their graves will hear his voice**

29 **and come out**—those who have done what is good will **rise to live**, and those who have done what is evil will **rise to be judged.**”



John 11

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has **fallen asleep**; but I am going there to **wake him up**.”

12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.”



John 11

13 Jesus had been **speaking of his death**, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, "**Lazarus is dead**,

15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."



Jesus was very precise on the use of the terminology.

Jesus called the first death “**sleep.**” This is a great insight. Sleep is the state of the dead prior to being awoken in the resurrection.



John 11

21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will **rise again.**”

24 Martha answered, “I know he will **rise again in the resurrection at the last day.**”



John 11

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”



This is an awesome conversation between Martha and Jesus. Martha knew about the truth of the resurrection of the dead that will come at the last day upon the return of Jesus Christ. Jesus confirms it by saying He is the resurrection and the life.



John 11

39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that **if you believe, you will see the glory of God?**”



John 11

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that **they may believe that you sent me.**”



John 11

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”



This account proves that death is not the end of life,
but a transitional period of sleep until the
resurrection to life or to judgment. And, during this
transition period of sleep there is no consciousness.



Ecclesiastes 9:5

“For the living know that they will die, but the **dead know nothing**; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten.”



In this particular account of Lazarus, Lazarus was brought back to a physical life. He lived out his days and eventually died. He is together with all those who have fallen asleep with Christ waiting for the resurrection of the saints.



Hope of Resurrection



Jesus powerfully preached about the resurrection during His ministry on earth.



Luke 20

34 Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage.

35 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the **age to come** and in the **resurrection from the dead** will neither marry nor be given in marriage,

36 and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are **God’s children**, since they are **children of the resurrection**.



Luke 20

37 But in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the **dead rise**, for he calls the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’

38 He is not the **God of the dead**, but of the **living**, for to him **all are alive.**”



The resurrection from the dead is the hope of all Christians. This is the reason why we believe in Jesus Christ. Paul testifying before Governor Felix said in Acts 24:15

“I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that **there will be a resurrection** of both the righteous and the wicked.”



Peter further testified that the resurrection of Jesus is the anchor of our hope. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead, after three days and three nights, demonstrates that there is life after death – the hope and reward of the saved.



1 Peter 1:3

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the **RESURRECTION** of **Jesus Christ** from the dead.”



Further, the Apostle Paul dedicated an entire chapter to talk about the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15 is known as the resurrection chapter. Detailed herein is the hope of the entire human race – the resurrection from the dead.



1 Corinthians 15

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you received and on which you have **taken your stand**.

2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.



1 Corinthians 15

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of **first IMPORTANCE**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 that he was buried, that **he was RAISED** on the **third day** according to the Scriptures,



1 Corinthians 15

5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.



1 Corinthians 15

7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.



1 Corinthians 15

11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what **we preach**, and this is what **you believed**.

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, **how can some of you say that there is no RESURRECTION of the dead?**



1 Corinthians 15

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.



1 Corinthians 15

15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.



1 Corinthians 15

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But Christ has **indeed been raised** from the dead, the **firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep**.



1 Corinthians 15

21 For since death came through a man, the **resurrection of the dead** comes also through a man.

22 For as in Adam all die, so in **Christ all will be made alive.**

23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, **WHEN HE COMES, THOSE WHO BELONG TO HIM.**



1 Corinthians 15

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?”

36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.



1 Corinthians 15

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised **IMPERISHABLE;**

43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in **POWER;**

44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a **SPIRITUAL BODY.**



1 Corinthians 15

45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the **last Adam, a life-giving SPIRIT.**

46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.

47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.



1 Corinthians 15

48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.

49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall **we bear the image of the heavenly man.**

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.



1 Corinthians 15

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—

52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the **imperishable**, and the mortal with **IMMORTALITY**.



1 Corinthians 15

54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.



1 Corinthians 15

57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.



Paul clearly illustrates in this exposition that there is a resurrection of the dead exemplified by the resurrection of Jesus as the firstfruits of them that are asleep. And, after that those who belong to him at His coming. Yes, the reward of the saved is to rise to eternal life clothed with immortality.



The resurrection will happen at Christ's second coming. Paul declares in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.



1 Thessalonians 4

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be **uninformed** about those who **sleep in death**, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

(THIS SECTION TALKS ABOUT THE TRUE THE STATE OF THE DEAD. SAYING THERE IS HOPE. THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL LIVE AGAIN.)



1 Thessalonians 4

14 For we believe that **Jesus died and rose again**, and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus** those who have **fallen asleep in him**.

(THERE IS A RESURRECTION FROM DEATH. JESUS WAS RESURRECTED TO LIFE AND SHALL ALL WHO HAVE FALLEN ASPLEEP IN CHRIST.)



1 Thessalonians 4

15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who **have fallen asleep**.

(THE DEAD WILL RISE FIRST TO BEFORE THE LIVING. THIS GROUP INCLUDES ALL THE HEROES OF THE BIBLE WRITTEN IN HEBREWS 11. THE DEAD WILL BE RESURRECTED AND RISE FIRST TO MEET CHRIST IN THE AIR, THEN FOLLOWED BY THE LIVING – WHO ARE STILL ALIVE.)



1 Thessalonians 4

16 For the Lord himself **WILL COME DOWN** from **heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the **dead in Christ will rise first.**

(THE EVENT OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS WILL HAPPEN AT THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST; NOT EARLIER.)



1 Thessalonians 4

17 After that, we **who are still alive** and are left will be **caught up TOGETHER** with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

(THEN ALL THE SAVED WILL RECEIVE THEIR REWARD TOGETHER TO MEET THE RETURNING CHRIST.)



This agrees with Hebrews 11:39-40

“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”



1 Thessalonians 4

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.



THIS IS THE AMAZING TRUTH ABOUT THE HOPE OF
THE RESURRECTION IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.
ANY OTHER GOSPEL DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU
HAVE JUST READ IS NOT TRUE.



Summation



Are there people in heaven? Are there saints living a blissful life in heaven today? The answer is NO! Jesus mentioned three things about it, and these are visibly printed in RED text in your Bible. Jesus' declarations are:



1. John 3:13: “No one has ascended into the heavens.” (NIV)



2. John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” (NIV)

The dead are all sleeping in the dust of the ground awaiting the resurrection.



3. John 5:28-29 “Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out—those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.” (Berean Study Bible)

The resurrection of the righteous is still a future event that will happen at the second coming of Christ.



So, where are the dead? The dead are sleeping
waiting for the resurrection!



END

