A Place Called Paradise

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I. The Bible calls it paradise

- Luk 23:42 ...he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.
- Luk 23:43 And Jesus said unto him...To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.
- 2Co 12:2 I knew a man...such an one caught up to the third heaven.
- 2Co 12:4 How that he was caught up into **paradise**, and heard unspeakable words...

II. What happens to us when we die?

A. At our natural deaths—Our spirits go to be with Jesus

- 2Co 5:8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
- Luk 20:37 Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.
- Luk 20:38 For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living...
- Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.
- 1Th 4:14 ...them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

B. We need not be afraid or troubled—Jesus will come to us at the time our passing

- Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me...
- Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
- Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 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.

C. The spirits are with Jesus—Alive and conscious—No such thing as 'soul sleep'

- Luk 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
- Luk 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- Luk 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.
- Luk 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.
- Luk 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.
- Luk 16:27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
- Luk 16:28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
- Luk 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
- Luk 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
- Luk 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.
- Rev 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
- Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?
- Rev 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.
- Isa 57:1 The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth *it* to heart: and merciful men *are* taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil *to come*.
- Isa 57:2 He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, *each one* walking *in* his uprightness.
- Php 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:
- Php 1:24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

D. We will know each other in heaven

1Co 13:12 ...then shall I know even as also I am known.

- Mat 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.
- Mat 17:4 Then answered Peter...let us make here three tabernacles...
- Luk 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes...and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus...
- 2Sa 12:23 ...I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

III. Jesus is coming back

- Act 1:9 ...while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
- Act 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
- Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
- Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- 1Ti 6:14 ...until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 1Ti 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;
- Rev 22:20 ... Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
- Rev 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

IV. Our bodies will go to heaven at the final resurrection

- 1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.
- 1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
- 1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
- 1Th 4:16 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:
- 1Th 4:17 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.
- 1Co 15:51 ...I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
- 1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- 1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.
- 1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

- 1Co 15:42 ...It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
- 1Co 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:
- 1Co 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body...

V. Descriptions of what we will be

- 1Jn 3:2 ...now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- Psa 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.
- Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- Php 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be **fashioned like unto his glorious** body...

VI. The wonder of what waits for us

- Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that **they may behold my glory**, which thou hast given me...
- Col 3:4 When Christ...shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
- 1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
- 2Ti 4:8 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.
- Rev 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father...
- Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions....
- Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you...
- Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
- Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as **a bride adorned** for her husband.
- Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and **God himself shall be with them**, *and be* their God.
- Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

VII. There is coming a day ... What a day, glorious day, that will be!!!