

A Biblical Examination of Where Christ Went and the Saints Go After Death

by Eric Douma

July 19, 2015

Descended Into Hell?

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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1

"The Apostle's Creed"

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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Word of Faith Heresy

Kenneth Copeland For Jesus to become our substitute, He had to go through the same kind of separation. He had to die, not just physically, but spiritually, and descend into hell to suffer the whole penalty of sin...Not only did Jesus go to hell, He sank to the deepest, darkest part of it to suffer everything that was necessary on our behalf. We'll be forever glad He did, too--because had He not gone to hell, we would have to (Copeland, *The Blessing of The Lord Makes Rich And Adds No Sorrows To It* (Prov. 10:22), Kindle Locations 2776).

3

3



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Agenda

1. Jesus never descended into hell after His death to finish atonement.
2. Jesus did not have to "set free" O.T. Saints living in Hades.
3. Both O.T. and N.T. believers go to be with God immediately after death.

4

4

The Key Texts

**Acts 2:27; Romans 10:6-8; Ephesians 4:8-9;
1 Peter 3:18-20**

Acts 2:25-28 ESV For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

5

5

The Key Texts

Romans 10:6-8 ESV But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)...

➤ The issue is not Christ being in heaven or the abyss; it is about Christ being "accessible."

6

6

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The Key Texts

Ephesians 4:7-10 ESV But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Numbers 18:6 Behold, I Myself have taken your fellow Levites from among the sons of Israel; they are a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD, to perform the service for the tent of meeting.

7

7

The Key Texts

1 Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

8

8

Jesus Did Not Go to Hell After His Death

John 19:30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Luke 23:43, 46 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise...46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last.

9

9



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O.T. Saints Went to Heaven After Death

Genesis 5:24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalms 49:15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, for He will receive me. Selah.

Psalms 73:24 With Your counsel You will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory.

10

10

O.T. Saints Went to Heaven After Death

Proverbs 14:32 The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing, but the righteous has a refuge when he dies.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Mark 12:27 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living; you are greatly mistaken.

11

11

Will God Abandon the Righteous?

Genesis 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Romans 4:6-8 So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin."

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His godly ones.

12

12




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One Savior, One Cross, One Faith, One Salvation

John 8:56 **ESV** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad.

Abraham →  ← N.T. Believers

13

13

All Believers HAVE Everlasting Life

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better.

14

14
