

Heaven and the Afterlife
Lesson 3 - The Hadean World (Part 2)

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Introduction: The cross of Christ was a climatic battle between spiritual forces.

- A. Satan had thought he was defeating the plan of God and in that securing mankind for eternal destruction.
 - 1. Satan did not anticipate how a righteous god could forgive a sinful people.
 - 2. Satan would not have been a willing participant in his own demise if he had known the plan of God. **(1 Cor 2:7-8)**
- B. We have been freed from slavery in fear by this great victory! **(Heb 2:14-16)**
 - 1. “When our Lord came he came to destroy him who had the power of death; the one who was holding death in his clutches. Today that power belongs to Jesus and that there are great blessings to his people today.
 - 2. This understanding should give us a very different view of life.

I. The transfiguration

- A. Peter, James and John were eyewitnesses to an amazing event.
(Mt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-9; Lk 9:28-36)
 - 1. They were taken by Jesus to a high mountain to pray and Jesus was transfigured as his clothing became as white as the sun.
 - 2. Elijah and Moses appear to him and freely discuss His upcoming death in Jerusalem. **(Lk 9:31)**
 - 3. God makes it clear that Jesus was to be heard and was not an equal with Elijah and Moses.
- B. Peter gives great emphasis to the eyewitness testimony he gave about this event.
(2 Pt 1:16-18)
 - 1. This was not a parable or a figurative account!
 - 2. This was not a vision or a dream but that which was seen by three men.
 - 3. Peter was not trying to be dishonest and make something up but simply related what he saw.
 - 4. God wanted this revealed to others but only after His resurrection. **(Mk 9:9)**
- C. Some lessons learned from this account.
 - 1. Jesus was given all authority after His resurrection and was to be heard. The previous teachings of Moses and the prophets were in preparation of the covenant given by God’s Son. **(Mt 28:18-20; Heb 8:6-8; 10:9-10)**
 - 2. After death men continue to be who they are and can be recognized.
 - 3. Just as the rich man had the ability to remember and recall so did Moses and Elijah.
 - 4. There will be a greater knowledge than what we had when we were in the body.

Questions

- 1. How did Satan think he could defeat the plan of God?
- 2. How does the transfiguration of Jesus help us to understand life after death?
- 3. How does an eyewitness account help us in understanding scripture?
- 4. What lessons did the Father want us to learn from the transfiguration/

II. Jesus, the thief on the Cross and paradise

- A. Jesus existed before He had a body. The death of His body did not make God go out of existence! (**Heb 10:5; Jn 1:14**)
 - 2. What can we learn about the death of Jesus?
- B. Jesus commended His Spirit to the Father. (**Lk 23:46**)
 - 1. Jesus became a man and tasted death as a man would. (**Heb 2:9**)
 - 2. Jesus Spirit separated from His body and His spirit entered Hades.
- C. Jesus promised the thief that he would join Him that day in paradise. (**Lk 23:43**)
 - 1. With all that we have studied then we would conclude the thief went to that realm of comfort and peace with all the righteous dead.
 - 2. The pain of the cross would be soon forgotten!
 - 3. Paul describes the “third heaven” as paradise. He was limited by God in what he could reveal about it. (**2 Cor 12:2-4**)
- D. Jesus death, burial and resurrection were foretold in scripture. (**Psa 16:8-11; 132:11**)
 - 1. We can know this because Peter tells us the fulfillment. (**Acts 2:25-32**)
 - 2. Jesus’ body did not decay nor was His soul left in Hades.
 - 3. The death, burial and resurrection of Christ brought a complete defeat for Satan. Jesus now abolished death and brings life and immortality to light! (**2 Tim 1:10**)

III. Additional New Testament passages on the place of the just and unjust

- A. Paul had a confidence that he wanted every Christian to have. (**Phil 1:21-23**)
 - 1. The righteous will be in the presence of Christ at death! (**2 Cor 5:8**)
 - 2. We want to remain to help others find this blessed hope.
 - 3. Do we think like this? Is our confidence such that others would ask us about it? (**1 Pt 3:15**)
- B. The unjust will be kept “under punishment” until the day of judgement. (**2 Pt 2:9**)
 - 1. This is consistent with all that we have studied, the wicked are kept in a place of torment until the final place of torment after the judgment.
 - 2. Angels who sinned also are kept until judgment. (**2 Pt 2:4**)

Questions

- 1. Did Jesus go out of existence at His death? Prove your answer from scripture.
- 2. Where did Jesus’ soul go at death? What is another name for the place the righteous go at death?
- 3. Is paradise the final abode of the righteous? Could paradise be called heaven?
- 4. How can one be in the presence of Christ and be “with the Lord” and not be in heaven?
- 5. How should we view our purpose in life in light of these truths?
- 6. Where are both the wicked who have died and the angels who have sinned? How can their present existence be described?