

ENOCK AND ELIJAH DEAD OR CAUGHT UP TO HEAVEN, PARADISE?

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL DEATH

The principle of death on earth:

Ge 2:16-17 "God the Lord commanded the man, 'You may eat from every tree of the garden, but you shall not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die.'"

Ge 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, No ye shall not surely die.

Rom 12:12-14 "Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin death, (both spiritual and physical), and so death passed over to all men, because they all sinned... For, up to the law, sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. And yet, death reigned, from Adam down to Moses, even over those who had not sinned by a transgression like that of Adam, who is a type of him who was to come.

Rom 5:17-19 "For if death reigned through the transgression of one because of that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through that one who is Jesus Christ. Therefore, just as by a single transgression condemnation has been extended to all men, so also, by a single act of justice, the justification that gives life has been extended to all men. For just as by the disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so also by the obedience of one man the many will be made righteous.

1 Co 15:21-23 "For since death came through a man, so also through a man came the resurrection of the dead. For, as all die, in Adam.

Heb 9:27 "How it is appointed that men should die once, after which comes judgment."

1 Pet 4:6 "For for this reason the gospel was preached even to the dead, so that after they had undergone the judgment common to all men in the body, they might live by the Spirit according to the will of God.

Ps 89:48 What man is there that liveth without seeing death? (physical death) That his soul escapes the power of hell?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "For I first handed it to you, as I also received it, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

As it is written, all men die physically, without exception, even Jesus died and then rose again. But after Him, the only ones who will not die physically will be the elect of the end times who will be raptured.

DEATH IN CHRIST OR NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

He who is in Christ is born again

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 For the love of Christ compels us, because we have come to this conclusion, that one died for all, (Jesus Christ) and therefore all died, and that he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for him who died and rose for them. So, from now on, we no longer know anyone from a human point of view; and even if we have known Christ from a human point of view, now we no longer know him in this way. If therefore, one is in Christ, he is a new creation.

Rom 6:3-4 "Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him by baptism into his death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

Jn 8:51 "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never

see death. (spiritual death not physical)

Jn 21:20-23 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved coming after him, the same one who was leaning over Jesus' bosom during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that betrays you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what will become of him? Jesus answered him, "If I want him to stay until I come, what does it matter to you? You, follow me." For this reason the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die; But Jesus had not told him that he would not die (physical death) but: "If I want him to stay until I come, what does it matter to you?"

WHO ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN OR HEAVEN?

Only the Lord Jesus Christ has ascended, returned glorified, and ascended

Pr 30:4 Who went up into heaven, and came down from it? Who picked up the wind in his fist? Who enclosed the waters in his robe? Who has set all the boundaries of the earth? What is his name and his son's name? Do you know?

Acts 2:24,29-32 God raised him from the dead, having loosed him from the anguished bonds of death, because it was not possible for him to be held back by it. Brethren, it may well be said of the patriarch David, that he died and was buried; and his tomb is still among us today. He, therefore, being a prophet and knowing that God had promised him by oath that he would seat one of his descendants on his throne, foresaw the resurrection of Christ and spoke of it, saying that he would not be left in hell, and that his flesh would not undergo decay. This Jesus, God has raised; of this, we are all witnesses. He, therefore, having been exalted by the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into heaven, yet he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I have made your enemies your footstool.'"

Jn 3:13 "No one has ascended into heaven except he who came down from

heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven."

Eph 4:9-10 "Now what does this 'went up' mean, except that he had also descended to the lowest parts of the earth? He who descended is the same who ascended above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.

CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUITS (OF THE RESURRECTED AND ULTIMATELY GLORIFIED DEAD)

After the resurrection of Jesus, all those who died in Christ go to heaven but remain waiting to receive the glorified body similar to His, because Scripture says that we await the redemption of our body, which we will obtain when Jesus comes down to earth to rapture his living church in God's due time.

Rom 8:22-23 "For we know that until now the whole creation is groaning and travailing; not only it, but also we, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Rom 6:9 "Knowing that Christ, who was raised from the dead, dies no more; death has no more power over him.

1 Corinthians 15:3 "For I first delivered to you, as I also received it, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

Cl 1:17-18 "He is before all things, and all things hold together in him." He (Jesus) is the head of the body, that is, of the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he may have the primacy.

Acts 26:23 "that the Christ would suffer, and that he, the first to rise from the dead, would preach light to the people and to the nations.

Firstborn from the dead and first to rise from the dead, what does it mean? Firstborn from the dead means that he died but without suffering

the decay of the physical body, as prophesied by David:

Acts 2:27 For you... you will not allow your Holy One to undergo decomposition.

We know from the Scriptures that since the time of the prophets some have been resurrected by God, such as the son of the widow of Zarephath by Elijah, the son of the Shunammite woman by Elisha, the son of a widow of Nain, the daughter of Jairus, Lazarus the brother of Martha and Mary by Jesus. So if these people rose before Christ, then what does that line "the first to rise from the dead" mean? It means that Christ is the first to be resurrected with an incorruptible body without human intervention, but divine by conquering death and the first to ascend to heaven after the resurrection from the dead to be glorified.

Jn 10:17-18 "For this reason the Father loves me; for I (Jesus Christ) lay down my life to take it up again. No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down by myself. I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it back. This command I have received from my Father.

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your dart?

1 Corinthians 15:20,22-23 "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have died. ..., so also in Christ they will all be made alive; (transformed and glorified) but each in his turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then those who are Christ's, at his coming.

The dead in Christ go directly to Heaven to await the redemption of the spiritual body as can be seen in the verses that follow. Like the body of Jesus when He returned to earth glorified and made Himself seen by His own, so will we be when He returns for the last time to restore His Kingdom.

1 Thess 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that God, through Jesus, will bring back with him those who have

fallen asleep. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are living, who remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep; for the Lord himself, with an order, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and first the dead will rise in Christ; then we who are living, that we will have remained, we will be caught up with them, on the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will always be with the Lord.

Rev 1:17-18 "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead." But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last, and the living. I was dead, but behold, I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of Hades.

Heb 12:22-24 But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to the rejoicing gathering of the myriads of angels, to the assembly of the firstborn who are written in heaven, to God, the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

Rev 6:9-11 "When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony they had borne to him. They cried out with a loud voice, "How long will you wait, O holy and true Lord, to do justice and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" And each of them was given a white robe, and told to rest a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who were to be slain like them, was complete.

Rev 12:7-12 And there was a battle in heaven, and Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought, but they did not win, and there was no longer room for them in heaven. The great dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, was cast down; He was cast down to the earth, and his angels were also cast down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven

saying, "Now has come salvation and power, the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ, because the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, he who accused them day and night before our God. But they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they did not love their life, but rather exposed it to death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to you, O land, O sea! For the devil has come down to you in great fury, knowing that he has little time."

Eph 3:14-15 "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named...

Rev 20:4 "Then I saw thrones. Those who sat there were given to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and of those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came back to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Mt 24:30-31 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn and see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with great power and glory. And he will send his angels with a great trumpet sound to gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (redeemed in Christ)

Mr 13:26-27 "Then the Son of Man will be seen coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send the angels to gather his elect from the four winds, from the extremity of the earth to the extremity of heaven.

Jn 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he dies (physical death) will live; (life in spirit) and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. (i.e. of the second death)

MOSES

De 34:5-6 And Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of

Moab, as the LORD had commanded. And **the Lord buried him** in the valley, in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; and no one has ever known where his grave is.

PAUL

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 "I know **a man in Christ**, who fourteen years ago (whether it was with the body I do not know, whether it was without the body I do not know, God knows), was caught up to the third heaven. I know that that man (whether it was with the body or without the body I do not know, God knows) **was caught up to heaven**, and heard ineffable words that it is not lawful for man to speak. (temporarily kidnapped for a vision)

PHILIP

Acts 8:38-40 "He stopped the chariot, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch; and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord carried off Philip, and the eunuch** continued his journey all merrily, **and saw him no more**. Then **Philip found himself in Azoth**, and went on to preach the gospel of all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.

This type of rapture is exactly the same as Elijah's, because in the end Elijah died like all other men, without exception, even though the opposite is taught. Christ always has primacy over death, resurrection and life.

ENOCH DEAD OR KIDNAPPED?

The meaning of the name Enoch is: initiated, consecrated.

Ge 5:23-24 "And all the time that Enoch lived was three hundred and sixty-five years." **Enoch walked with God; then he disappeared, because God took him.**

Heb 11:5,13-16,39-40 "**By faith Enoch was transported** (saved by faith) **so that he might not see death**; (spiritual death) and was never found, because

God had taken him away; in fact, before he was taken away he had the testimony that he had been pleasing to God. All these died in faith, (died physically and in Christ in hope) without receiving the things promised, but they saw them and greeted them from afar, confessing that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth. For he who says so shows that he is looking for a homeland; and if they had cared for the one from which they had come out, they would certainly have had time to return to it! But now they desire a better one, that is, the heavenly one; therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has prepared a city for them. All of these, though they had a good witness for their faith, did not get what was promised. Because God had something better in sight for us, so that they would not come to perfection without us.

In this passage, when he speaks of all these faithful, he adds that they all died, he does not say all except Enoch, because they died in faith, that is, in hope in Christ, as we are while we live on earth until we go into the presence of God.

Cl 1:13 "God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has carried us into the kingdom of his beloved Son."

Eph 2:4-6 "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, made us alive with Christ (it is by grace that you were saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit in heaven in Christ Jesus with him."

We too have been transported into the kingdom of God in spirit, but we still live on earth, we did not immediately ascend to heaven in His presence.

Rom 8:22-24 ... we, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we have been saved in hope.

Ti 3:4-7 "But when the goodness of God our Savior and his love for men were manifested, he saved us, not by righteous works done by us, but by his mercy, through the bath of regeneration and renewal of the Holy

Spirit, which he poured out abundantly upon us through Christ Jesus, our Saviour, so that, justified by his grace, we might become, in hope, heirs of eternal life.

Why saved in hope? Because all the faithful of the Old Testament had obtained salvation by faith but had not yet received the blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, so for a long time they had been waiting in hell in the compartment of the righteous (see example the rich and Lazarus Lk 16:19-31) but when Jesus died he went down to Hades (hell) and took all those souls to heaven, Now this place is reserved only for souls who have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel and on the last day will be resurrected and judged according to their works.

1 Peter 3:18-20 Christ also suffered once for sins, he righteous for the unrighteous, that he might lead us to God. He was put to death as to the flesh, but made alive as to the spirit. And in it he also went to preach to the spirits held in prison, who were once rebellious, when the patience of God waited, in the time of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few souls, that is, eight, were saved through the water.

1 Pet 4:5-6 "They will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead, so that, after having undergone in the body the judgment common to all men, they might live by the Spirit according to the will of God.

Eph 4:8-10 "That is why it is said, 'When he went up on high, he took captives with him and gave gifts to men.'

This is also why He told the thief on the cross that He would be with him in paradise but not that day itself because Jesus remained in Hades three days and three nights, but after His resurrection.

Lk 23:39-43 "One of the hanged criminals reviled him, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, "Are you not even afraid of God, you who are in the same torment? For us it is right, because we receive the punishment we deserve for our actions; but

he did nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom!" Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you today, you will be with me in paradise."

That is why today the dead in Christ go directly to heaven, but with that hope that when Jesus returns to earth to put an end to the reign of satan and hand over His Kingdom to God the Father, that hope will be for us a reality that will transform our bodies from corruptible to incorruptible and from mortal to immortal like those of the angels, that is, glorified.

ELIJAH DEAD OR KIDNAPPED?

1 Kings 18:7-8 7,11-12 "While Obadiah was on his way, Elijah came to meet him, and Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, 'Are you my lord Elijah?' He answered, "It is I; go and say to your lord, 'Here is Elijah.' And now you say: Go and say to your lord: Here is Elijah! It will happen that when I have left you, the Spirit of the Lord will carry you I know not where; I will go to make an embassy to Ahab, and he, not finding you, will kill me.

2 Kings 2:1,3 "When the Lord wanted to catch Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah went away from Gilgal with Elisha. The disciples of the prophets who were in Bethel came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the Lord will lift your lord up on high to-day?" He answered, "Yes, I know; Be silent!"

2 Kings 2:10-12,15-17 Elijah said, "You ask for a difficult thing; however, if you see me when I am caught away from you, you will be given what you ask for; but if you do not see me, it will not be given to you." And they went on talking together, when behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated them from each other, and Elijah ascended to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw him and cried out, "My father, my father! Chariot and cavalry of Israel!" Then he didn't see him again. When the disciples of the prophets who were in Jericho, facing the Jordan, saw Elisha, they said, "The spirit of Elijah has rested on Elisha." They went to meet him, bowed down

to the ground before him, and said to him, "Here are fifty able-bodied men among your servants; let them go in search of your Lord, if ever the Spirit of the Lord had taken him and cast him on any mountain or in any valley." Elisha replied, "Don't send them." But they pressed him so much that he was confounded, and said, "Send them." Then they sent fifty men, who searched for Elijah for three days, but did not find him.

In this other passage it would seem that Elijah ascended to heaven with the Lord, but from some Scriptures we will see that Elijah was transported to another place, and lived at the time of the succession of three kings of Israel, Ahab, Ahaziah and Jehoram and two kings of Judah, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram, when both the prophet Elisha and the prophet Micaiah were still there.

1 Kings 21:17-18,28-29 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Arise, go to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria.

1 Kings 22:1-2,7-8,40 Three years passed without war between Syria and Israel. In the third year, Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, went down to see the king of Israel. (Ahab) But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no other prophet of the Lord here that you can consult? The king of Israel replied to Jehoshaphat, "There is still a man through whom the Lord could be consulted; but I hate him, because he never foretells me anything good, but only evil: he is Micaiah, son of Imla." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so." So Ahab slept with his fathers, and Ahaziah, his son, reigned in his place.

1 Kings 22:51 "Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel.

2 Kings 3:1,11 "Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet of the Lord here through whom we can consult the Lord?" One of the servants of the

king of Israel (Jehoram) answered, "Elisha son of Shaphath is here, pouring water on Elijah's hands."

2 Ch 20:35 "After this, Jehoshaphat king of Judah associated himself with Ahaziah the king of Israel, who was acting as an impious man.

2 Ch 21:1,3 And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with them in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his place.... and their father had given them great gifts of silver, gold, and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah, but he had left the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn.

2 Ch 21:11 And Jehoram also made high places in the mountains of Judah, and drove the inhabitants of Jerusalem into prostitution, and led Judah astray. And a writing came to him from the prophet Elijah, which said, "Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: 'For you did not walk in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, and in the ways of Asa king of Judah, but you walked in the way of the kings of Israel; because you have driven Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into prostitution, as the house of Ahab has driven Israel into prostitution, and because you have killed your brothers, members of your father's household, who were better than you, behold, the Lord will smite your people, your children, your wives, and everything that belongs to you, with a great scourge.

2 Kings 1:17 "Ahaziah died, according to the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah; and Jehoram began to reign in his place in the second year of Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, because Ahaziah had no son."

In these passages we see that Elijah lived all the time of Jehoshaphat king of Judah and his son Jehoram, and on the three kings of Israel Ahab, his son Ahaziah and his son Jehoram. At the same time that Elijah was "transported," there were Elisha, Micaiah, and four hundred other false prophets. If Elijah had ascended to heaven, he could not have sent the writing to Jehoram, king Jehoram, in 2 Chr 21:11, a message that their successors the prophet Elisha or Micaiah could have sent.

JESUS (Appearance of Moses and Elijah; they represent the law and the prophets)

Mt 17:1-4,9 "Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother with him, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light. And Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. And Peter began to say to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here; if you wish, I will make three tents here; one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Then, as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them this command: "Do not tell anyone about this vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

In this passage we see that Moses and Elijah appear, Moses physically dead with the body as the Scriptures say, and Elijah apparently ascending to heaven; yet we know that Jesus had not yet fulfilled his mission of sacrifice, death and resurrection and be glorified, so it cannot be that they had already appeared risen, both because Scripture says that Christ is the first fruits of the resurrected, then because Moses would have appeared with an unglorified body and Elijah with a glorified body if he had ascended into heaven, but Jesus was also the first to ascend to heaven, taking with him the captives who were in Hades from Adam until Jesus' death, because the glorification of our bodies for being like angels will take place only after the second coming of Christ with the rapture. So Jesus probably called their spirits from Hades (place of the righteous, Abraham's bosom) to inform them that the time of the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah) was over and the era of grace for all men was beginning and that their sojourn there was about to end because after his departure and resurrection they would be taken to heaven or paradise.

Is 48:7-9 "Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, to him who is despised by men, detested by the nation, a slave of the mighty:

"Kings will see him and will rise; princes as well, and they will bow down for the Lord's sake, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen you." This is what the Lord says: "In the time of grace I will hear you, in the day of salvation I will help you; I will preserve you and make you the covenant of the people, to raise up the land, to restore them to the possession of the devastated inheritances, to say to the captives, "Come out," and to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves!" They will feed along the roads and find their pasture on all the heights;

Joh 1:17 "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

2 Tim 1:9-10 "He saved us and gave us a holy calling, not because of our works, but according to his purpose, and the grace that was given to us in Christ Jesus from all time, but which has now been manifested by the appearance of our Savior Christ Jesus."

Ti 2:11-13 "For the grace of God, which is saving for all men, has been revealed, and teaches us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, that we may live in this world moderately, justly, and holy.

awaiting the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.