

Revelation 20 [Part 2] Life After Death



[**Genesis 2:20-21**] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it; [21] For in the day you eat thereof you shall surely die.

And after Adam and Eve had transgressed, the Lord said:

“You shall eat bread by the sweat of your face, until you return unto the ground, for you shall surely die; for out of it you were taken, for dust you were, and unto dust you shall return. ... And I, the Lord God, said unto mine Only Begotten, ... I will send him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from where he was taken.” [Genesis 3:25, 28-29]

[Isaiah 40:6, 8] The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field; [8] The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God shall stand forever.

[James 4:14] Whereas you know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away.

[1 Peter 1:24-25] For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower thereof falls away; [25] But the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

[Job 14:1-2,10, 14] Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. [2] He comes forth like a flower, and is cut down; he flees also as a shadow, and continues not. [10] . . . man dies, and wastes away; yes, man gives up the ghost, and where is he? [14] **If a man die, shall he live again?** all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

These scriptures leave one with a feeling of hopelessness about his future, the fragility of his life, and the briefness of his days on earth. If we had only scriptures like these we would probably ask the same question Job asked; “If a man die, shall he live again?” But, Job later said, “Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! **For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; And though after my skin worms destroy this body; yet in my flesh shall I see God;** Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me. [Job 19:23-27] But! Adam could not have know what



the Lord meant when he said; “you shall surely die?” How could he? He had never seen death!

James, in essence, tells us that when a person dies, his spirit leaves the body. [James 2:25] For, as **the body without the spirit is dead**, so faith without works is dead.

It is the spirit that keeps the body alive. The body is the natural medium through which the spirit expresses itself. But where does the spirit go when it leaves the body?

The preacher tells us what happens:

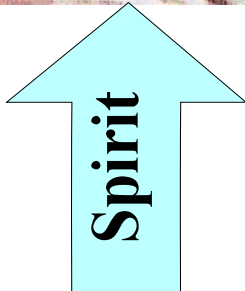
“Then shall dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

[Ecclesiastes 12:7]

And Paul makes this profound statement in as recorded in:

[Hebrews 9:27] **“it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”**

The spirit returns to God



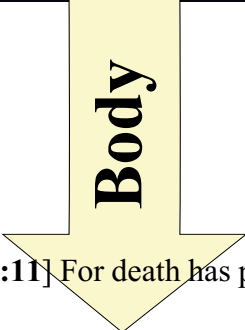
At Death



[Alma 9:46] But behold, it was appointed unto man that they must die; and after death, they must come to judgment; even that same judgment of which we have spoken, which is the end.

[Alma 19:42-43] Now concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection. [43] Behold, it has been made known unto me, by an angel, that **the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body** yes, **the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life.**

The body returns to dust



Verse [44] goes on to say that the spirits are then consigned to a place which correlates to the lifestyle they lived while in the flesh, whether it was good, bad, or indifferent.

[2 Nephi 6:11] For death has passed upon all men, to fulfill the merciful plan of the great Creator.

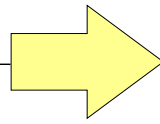
But, Jesus said that;

“Those that die in me shall not taste of death, for it shall be sweet unto them; and they that die not in me, woe unto them, for their death is bitter.” [D&C 42:12f]

To “die in Jesus” is to be “buried with him by baptism into death,” and then “walk in newness of life.” [Romans 6:4]



The spirits of those who do this go to Paradise.



Paradise

[**Luke 23:40-44**] And one of the malefactors who was crucified with him, railed on him, saying, If you be the Christ, save yourself and us. [41] But the other answering, rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, seeing you are in the same condemnation? [42] And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing amiss. [43] And he said to Jesus, Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom. [44] And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto you;

Today shall you be with me in Paradise. [**Matthew 27:43-48**]

Luke called this “criminal” a malefactor; Matthew called him a thief, however, neither of them gave a clue as to what crime he committed. For instance, what did he steal? Was it a loaf of bread to feed a hungry family, some fruit, vegetables; or some clothes; who knows? What we do know is that he was familiar with the “kingdom” because he said to Jesus, “remember me when you come into your kingdom.” We also know that Roman law was very harsh, even against the smallest of crime; but this malefactor had to have been a good person to have gone into paradise to be with Jesus.

[**2 Corinthians 12:2-4**] I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell; God knows;) such a one caught up to the third heaven. [3] And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knows;) [4] How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

[**Revelation 2:7**] He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; **To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the “tree of life,” which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

Those who go to **paradise**, i.e., the garden of Eden, from which Adam and Eve were banished, “are the church of the First-born.”

[**D&C 76:7j**]

[**Alma 19:42-44**] Now concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection. [43] Behold, it has been made known unto me, by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body; yes, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. [44] And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those who are righteous, are received into **a state of happiness, which is called paradise**; a state of rest;

a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow.

In order to see what and where paradise is, lets look again at [**Revelation 2:7**]. “To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, **which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**”

But wasn't the tree of life planted in the garden of Eden?

[**Genesis 2:12, 18**] And I, the Lord God, planted the tree of life also, in the midst of the garden; and also the tree of knowledge of good and evil. [**18**] And I, the Lord God, took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden, to dress it, and to keep it.

John saw the tree that Moses recorded as being “in the midst of the *garden of Eden*,” as being “in the midst of the paradise of God!” The tree of life is where it has been from the beginning, in paradise, or in other words, in the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden, **not the tree!** It is still there! Lets explore further.

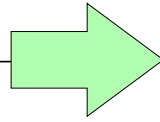
Adam and Eve had eaten of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil:

“Therefore, I, the Lord God, will send him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from where he was taken; So I drove out the man, and I placed at the east of the garden of Eden, cherubim, and a flaming sword, which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”
[**Genesis 3:29, 31**] And again from [**Alma 19**, verses **82 & 84**]

“... the Lord God sent our first parents forth from the garden of Eden to till the ground, from where they were taken; he drew out the man, and placed at the east end of the garden of Eden, cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the tree of life. ... And there was a time granted unto man, to repent, a probationary time, a time to repent and serve God.”

Opinions and speculations have flourished as to the meaning of the “tree of life” and the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” However, logic, and the scriptures, suggest that they are metaphors, the tree of life being that which pleases the spiritual mind, the other tree pleasing the natural. For “when the woman saw that the tree *of the knowledge of good and evil* was good for food, and that it became pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make her wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.”

[**Genesis 3:11**]



Prison

But of the tree of life, Nephi said; “I beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, **or** to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God; And I also beheld that the **tree of life was a representation of the love of God**. [1 Nephi 3:68-69]

Those who hold onto the ‘rod of iron,’ a.k.a. the ‘word of God,’ shall receive a place in paradise, that is, until the millennium begins. The Lord also prepared a place for the “honorable people of the earth who were blinded by the craftiness of men,” and for the heathen nations “who died without law.” [D&C 76:6] Scriptures call it “prison” but the saints *en masse* refer to it as the prison house.

[Genesis 7:44-45] Wherefore should not the heavens weep, seeing these shall suffer? But, behold, these which your eyes are upon shall perish in the floods; and, behold, I will shut them up; **a prison have I prepared for them**, and he whom I have chosen has pleaded before my face; [45] Wherefore he suffers for their sins, inasmuch as **they will repent, in the day that my chosen shall return unto me; and until that day they shall be in torment**.

[Isaiah 26:19] Your dead men shall live, **together with my dead body shall they arise**. Awake and sing, you that dwell in dust; for your dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. **this scripture is likely about both, those who were in paradise and those who were in the prison house up until Jesus’ resurrection - as is the scripture below; *see [Matthew 27:56-57]*

[D&C 36:11b-c] And the Lord said unto Enoch, Look, and he looked and beheld the Son of man lifted upon the cross, after the manner of men; and he heard a loud voice; and the heavens were veiled; and all the creations of God mourned; and the earth groaned; and the rocks were rent; [c] and the saints arose and were crowned at the right hand of the Son of man, with crowns of glory; **and as many of the spirits as were in prison**, came forth and stood on the right hand of God; and the remainder were reserved in chains of darkness until the judgment of the great day.

[1 Peter 3:18-20] For **Christ** also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, that he might bring us to God. [19] For which cause also, he **went and preached unto the spirits in prison**; [20] Some of whom were disobedient in the days of Noah, while the long-suffering of God waited, while the ark was preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

There seems to be a discrepancy between [Verse 20] here and [D&C 36:11c]; but not if Jesus had also preached to them before he came to earth, which, logically thinking, he would have.

[D&C 76:6c] Behold, these are they who died without law; and also they who are the spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it;

[D&C 45:10a] And then shall the heathen nations be redeemed, and they that knew no law shall have part in the first resurrection; and it shall be tolerable for them; and Satan shall be bound that he shall have no place in the hearts of the children of men. * *more on this later*



[Genesis 6:27-30] And he (Enoch) heard a voice from heaven, saying, Enoch, my son, prophesy unto this people, and say unto them, Repent, for thus saith the Lord, I am angry with this people, and my fierce anger is kindled against them; for their hearts have waxed hard, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes cannot see afar off. [28] And for these many generations, even since the day that I created them, have they gone astray, and have denied me, and have sought their own counsels in the dark; and in their own abominations have they devised murder, and have not kept the commandments which I gave unto their father Adam. [29] Wherefore, they have forsworn themselves, and by their oaths they have brought upon themselves death. [30] **And an hell I have prepared for them, if they repent not.**

[Psalms 9:17] The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

[Isaiah 5:13] Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. [14] Therefore hell has enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoices, shall descend into it.

[2 Nephi 12:18] O the wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the pride of their hearts, and all those who preach false doctrines, and all those who commit whoredoms, and pervert

the right way of the Lord; wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, **for they shall be thrust down to hell.**

[D&C 76:7d] these are they who are thrust down to hell;

[b] ... they who received not the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus;

[c] ... they who deny not the Holy Spirit;

[l] ... they who are of Paul, and of Apollos, and of Cephas;

[m] ... they who say they are some of one and some of another, some of Christ, and some of John, and some of Moses, and some of Elias; and some of Esais, and some of Isaiah, and some of Enoch, but received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus, neither the prophets; **neither the everlasting covenant;** **[3 Nephi 12:18-22]**

[o] ... they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie;

[n] last of all, these all are they who will not be gathered with the saints, to be caught up unto the church of the Firstborn, and received into the cloud. * *one other group will not be caught up*



**Outer
Darkness**

[Matthew 8:11-12] Many shall come from the east, and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. **[12]** But the children of the wicked one shall be cast out into **outer darkness;** there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

[Luke 13:24-28] Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for I say unto you Many shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able; for the Lord shall not always strive with man. **[25]** Therefore, when once the Lord of the kingdom is risen up, and has shut the door of the kingdom, then you shall stand without, and knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us, But the Lord shall answer and say unto you, I will not receive you, for you don't know where you're from. **[26]** Then you shall begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in your presence, and you have taught in our streets. **[27]** But he shall say, I tell you, you know not from whence you are; depart from me, all workers of iniquity. **[28]** There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth among you, when you shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you are thrust out.

*[the KJ version says that Jesus didn't know where they were from.]

[Alma 19:45-47] And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil; for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord: for behold they choose evil works, rather than good: therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house; [46] And these shall be cast out into **outer darkness**; there shall be weeping, and wailing and gnashing of teeth; and this because of their own iniquity; being led captive by the will of the devil. [47] Now this is the state of the souls of the wicked; yea, in darkness, and a state of awful, fearful, looking for, of the fiery indignation of the wrath of God upon them; thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in paradise, until the time of their resurrection.

[D&C 108:12d-13b] In that day when I came unto my own, no man among you received me, and you were driven out. [12e] When I called again, there was none of you to answer, yet my arm was not shortened at all, that I could not redeem, neither my power to deliver. [12f] And this you shall have of my hand, you shall lie down in sorrow. [13a] Behold, and lo, there are none to deliver you, for you obeyed not my voice when I called to you out of the heavens, you believed not my servants; and when they were sent unto you, you received them not; [13b] wherefore, they sealed up the testimony and bound up the law, and you were delivered over unto darkness; these shall go away into **outer darkness**, where there is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Behold, the Lord your God has spoken it. Amen.

Even though those whose spirits go to hell and those who are cast into outer darkness are not resurrected until the final judgement, they are not of the same caliber of people; not by a long shot. There are two main realities that distinguishes them from each other; (1) those who are thrust down to hell do not deny the Holy Ghost, those cast into outer darkness do; (2) those who are thrust down to hell are not angels who were cast out of God's presence along with the devil. The devil and his angels were cast out of his presence, and are the only ones who are cast into outer darkness.

Notice also that those who are cast into outer darkness respond to their fate with weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Even Satan responded this way after tempting Moses, trying to deceive him. Moses prevailed however, and Satan had to depart from him.

[D&C 22:12-15] And now, when Moses had said these words, Satan cried with a loud voice, and went upon the earth, and commanded, saying, I am the Only Begotten, worship me. [13] And it came to pass, that Moses began to fear exceedingly; and as he began to fear, he saw the bitterness of hell; nevertheless, calling upon God he received strength, and he commanded, saying, Depart from here, Satan; for this one God only will I worship, which is the God of glory. [14] And now, Satan began to tremble, and the earth shook, and Moses received strength and called upon God in the name of the Only Begotten, saying to Satan, Depart from here. [15] And it came to pass, that Satan cried with a loud voice, with weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, and departed hence; yea, from the presence of Moses, that he beheld him not.

Those who are cast down to hell are not preoccupied with fighting against Zion, they couldn't care less about Zion; they are mostly out to have a good time. As was seen earlier, even though they do not embrace the gospel of Christ, they don't deny the Holy Spirit. They may promote the doctrines of other churches however, instead of the one belonging to Jesus. And though they may promote Jesus' name, their doctrines conflict with his words, as did the churches which existed

during his time; for they “received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus, neither the prophets; neither the everlasting covenant. [D&C 76:71-m] They come in Jesus’ name, saying Jesus is the Christ, deceiving many. That’s why Jesus said, “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”

[Matthew 24:5-6]

The pronoun still must agree with its antecedent!

Of course, many of those who are cast into outer darkness are guilty of doing some of these things also; they may have their “good times,” but they go far beyond that; they deny the Holy Spirit! They reject the truth after having learned it, and fight against it. They camouflage lies to look like the truth, or without reserve, replace the truth with lies. And thus, they fight against Zion.

[1 Nephi 7:42, 51-53] For the time surely must come, that all they who fight against Zion, shall be cut off. [51] Yes, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil, are they who need to fear, and tremble, and quake; [52] They are those who must be brought low in the dust; [53] They are those who must be consumed as stubble:

[Hebrews 6:4-6] For he has made it impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, [5] And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, [6] If they shall fall away, to be renewed again unto repentance; seeing they crucify unto themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.