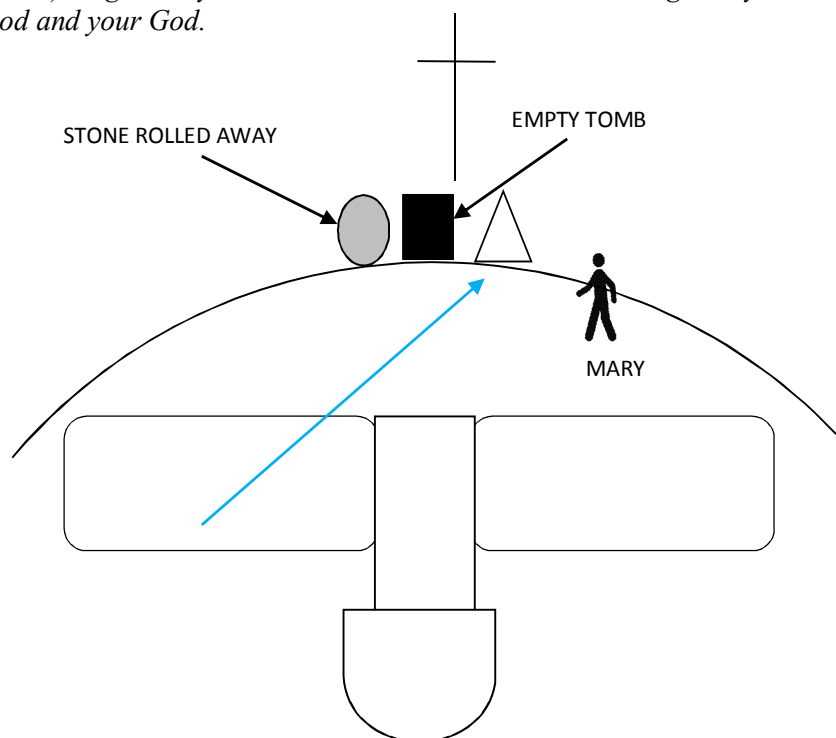


GROWTH RESOURCES

WHERE ARE THE DEAD, PART 2

AFTER THE RESURRECTION

When Jesus rose from the dead (to present His own sinless Blood shed on the cross to God the Father), He paused for a while at the empty tomb to leave an important message for His distraught, discouraged, fearful disciples: *(John 20:17) ... go to My brethren and tell them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.*



Jesus rises from the dead (with the righteous souls) and leaves a message for Mary.

(Matt 27:52-53) The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people."

For reasons known only to God, He allowed some recently deceased people in Jerusalem to be seen by their relatives and friends. (This was a glimpse into the spirit world).

The New Testament writers refer to righteous people who die as being asleep or having slept. *(1 Thess 4:13-15) Now also we would not have you ignorant, brethren, about those who fall asleep [in death], that you may not grieve [for them] as the rest do who have no hope [beyond the grave]. (v.14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will also bring with Him through Jesus those who have fallen asleep [in death].*

When Jesus rose from the dead, He emptied (old) paradise in Sheol-Hades of all the righteous souls and took them with Him to the new Paradise in the third Heaven, where He is now.

The Bible teaches that there are three heavens:

- The atmosphere where the clouds are.
- Outer space where the stars are.
- Beyond space where God is.

His righteous, blood-bought, adopted, blood-cleansed children may now be with Him in His Home forever.

- *(2 Cor 12:2-4) I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – was caught up to the third heaven. (v.3) And I know that this man – whether in the body or away from the body I do not know, God knows – (v.4) Was caught up into paradise, and he heard utterances beyond the power of man to put into words, which man is not permitted to utter. (Read Acts 14:19,20 for this account)*
- *(John 14:2-3) Jesus explains where Paradise is now: (v.2) In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you. (v.3) And when (if) I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.*

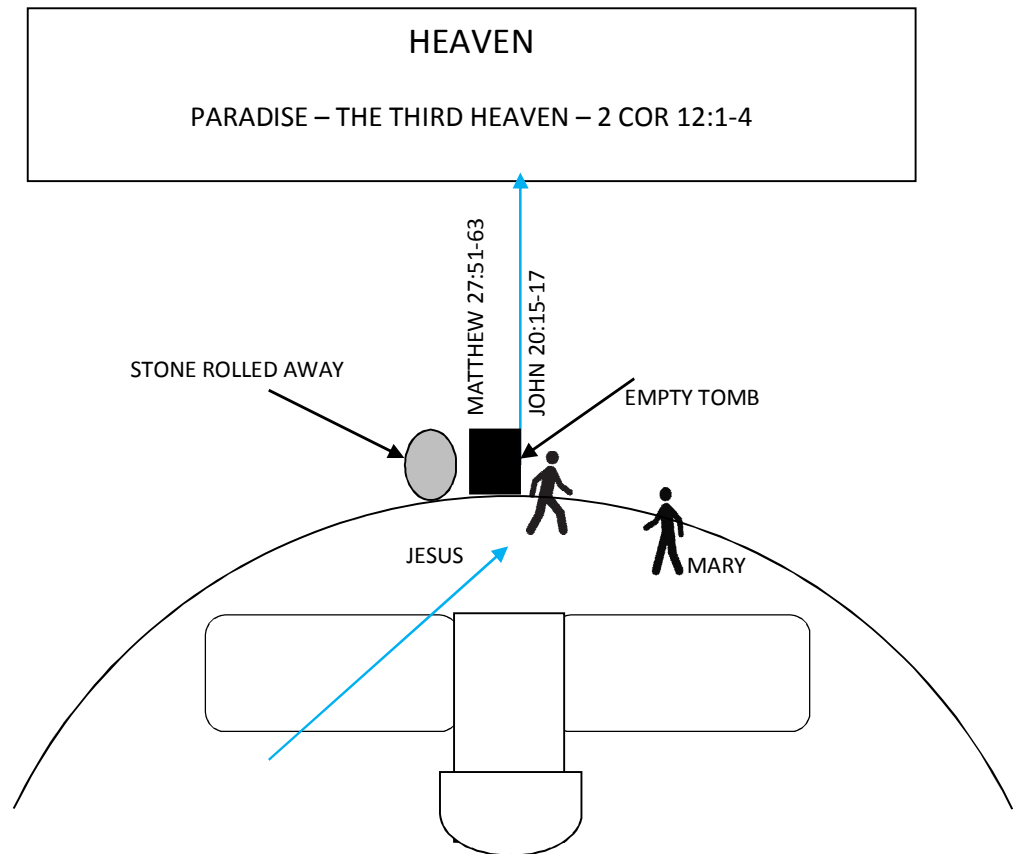
(John 20:15-17) tells us something very interesting: (v.15) Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you crying [so]? For Who are you looking? Supposing that it was the gardener, she replied, Sir, if you carried Him away from here, tell me where you have put Him and I will take Him away. (v.16) Jesus said to her, Mary! Turning around she said to Him in Hebrew, Rabboni! - which means Teacher or Master. (v.17) Jesus said to her, Do not cling to Me [do not hold Me], for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brethren and tell them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.

Why did Jesus tell Mary Magdalene not to touch, hold or cling to Him? Because He had not yet ascended to the Father.

Secondly, maybe Jesus did not want anything of this earth to contaminate His resurrected body because God cursed the ground when Adam sinned.

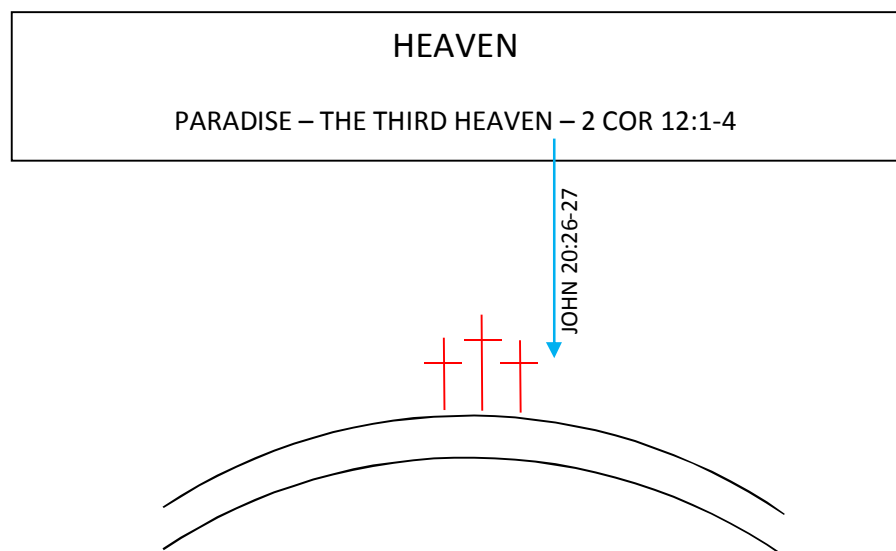
The Bible tells us in Gen 2:7 that people are made from dust – soil, earth. *Then the Lord formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being. (Gen 3:17) And to Adam He said, Because you have listened and given heed to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it, the ground is under a curse because of you; in sorrow and toil shall you eat [of the fruits] of it all the days of your life.*

Jesus gave His message to Mary to encourage the disciples. Then together with all the souls He had taken from the bosom of Abraham / Paradise (some of whom were seen in the holy city), He ascended to the Father to do His Priestly duty of presenting His Blood to God. (Note Hebrew 9:7-25) *(Eph 4:8) tells us When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive...*” (i.e. those who were held captive in the righteous section of Sheol-Hades.)



After leaving a message with Mary, Jesus returned to the Father with the righteous souls.

After this the Resurrected Jesus returned to Jerusalem to show Himself to His followers.



(Luke 24:13-40) And behold, that very day two of [the disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, [which is] about seven miles from Jerusalem. (v.14) And they were talking with each other about all these things that had occurred. (v.15) And while they were conversing and discussing together, Jesus

Himself caught up with them and was already accompanying them. (v.16) But their eyes were held, so that they did not recognize Him.

(John 20:26-27) Eight days later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though they were behind closed doors, and stood among them and said, Peace to you! (v.27) Then He said to Thomas, Reach out your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand and place [it] in My side. So not be faithless and incredulous, but [stop your unbelief and] believe!

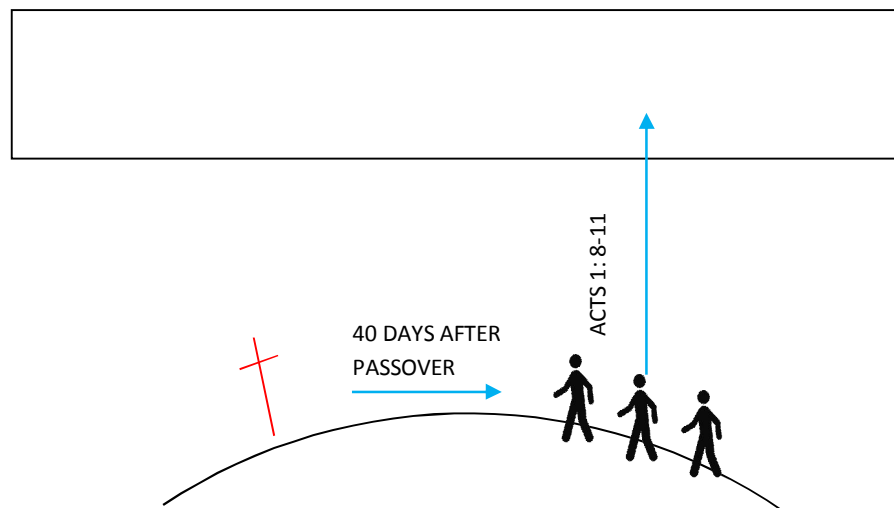
The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead cannot be disputed in a court of law where two witnesses are required to verify a fact.

After Jesus rose from the dead and before He ascended to Heaven (recorded in Acts 1:9-11), He appeared to more than 500 people.

(1 Cor 15:3-6) For I passed on to you first of all what I also had received, that Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for our sins in accordance with [what] the Scriptures [foretold]. (v.4) That He was buried, that He arose on the third day as the Scriptures foretold. (v.5) And [also] that He appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the Twelve. (v.6) Then later He showed Himself to more than five hundred brethren at one time, the majority of whom are still alive, but some have fallen asleep [in death].

THE ASCENSION

40 days after Passover: *(Acts 1:9-11) And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight. (v.10) And while they were gazing intently into heaven as He went, behold, two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them. (v.11) Who said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This same Jesus, Who was caught away and lifted up from among you into heaven, will return in [just] the same way in which you saw Him go into heaven.*



Paul tells us where the New Paradise is in (2 Cor 12:2-4).

Jesus has clearly told us how we can also go to the third Heaven / Paradise. *(John 3:3) Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.*

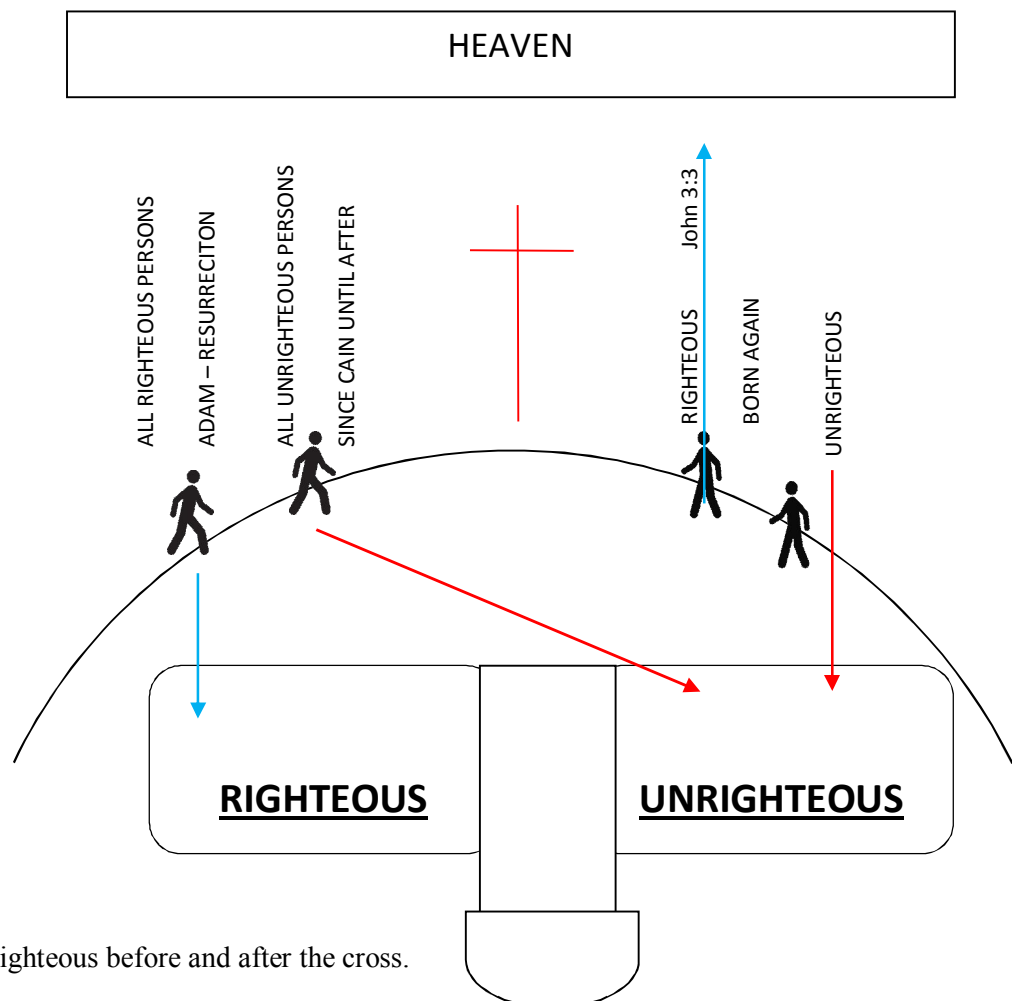
Salvation cannot be merited or obtained through good works, charitable deeds or by being a good person. (Eph 2:8) *For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favour) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God. (v.9) Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]*

Jesus said in (John 5:24) *I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to My message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) eternal life. And he does not come into judgment [does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life.*

Jesus said in (John 1:12) *But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name.*

(1 John 1:7-9) *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

We are told what happens to a (righteous or born again) person when they die physically: "... to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (2 Cor 5:8) When a righteous/born again person dies, immediately his or her spirit and soul leave the body and is carried by angels to paradise/heaven – into the presence of the Lord.



The state of the righteous before and after the cross.

CONCLUSION

In the Old Testament God dwelt in the “tent” of covenant (Tabernacle).

In the New Testament the Holy Spirit no longer dwells in buildings built by man, but in buildings built by God – human bodies of those who have repented of their sin, surrendered their lives to Christ and are living to please Him.

- (1 Cor 6:19) explains: *Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own. (v.20) You were bought with a price [purchased with a preciousness and paid for, made His own]. So then, honour God and bring glory to Him in your body.*
- (1 Thess 5:23) tells us that humans are spirit beings who have a soul which are wrapped up in a physical body. *“And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate your from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).*

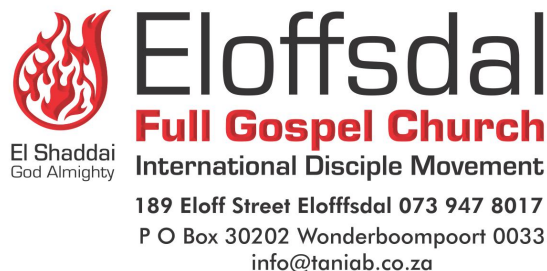
Campers use tents as a temporary home – dwelling place. After the vacation the tent is folded up and the people return to their permanent place of dwelling – home.

When a person dies, their spirit and soul vacates their body (tent/temporary place of dwelling) and relocates to their eternal home and permanent dwelling place – either with the Lord in Heaven or in Hades awaiting the final Great White Throne judgment.

If a person dies without repenting of their sin and surrendering their life to Christ – accepting Him as personal Saviour, forsaking their sinful life-style of selfishness and living to please God – they will immediately “lift up their eyes in Hades” like the rich man of Luke 16.

- The Bible warns us in (Hebrews 2:3) *“how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.”*
- Jesus warns us in: (John 3:3) *Jesus answered him, truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:36) He who believes on the Son has everlasting life, and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides upon him.”*
- The Church of Jesus Christ [all who are born again] is waiting for His return so we may be with Him forever. (John 14:2-3) *In My Father’s house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you. (v.3) And when (if) I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.*

Bibliography: Where are the dead by Ferdie Warwick



If you would like to speak to someone about your situation, we would love to help you and pray with you. Please contact the El Shaddai FGC Offices or you can email us at info@taniab.co.za