

Paradise

**Gulf Coast Dispensational Church
Rightlydividingtheword.org**

513-520-6077

The word “paradise” is only mentioned 3 times in the Bible. Yet, it is the subject of much, if not all of the Bible!! A saved person’s ultimate destination, in Christianity and almost all other religions, is Paradise.

Jesus told the penitent thief that he was going to be in Paradise with Jesus on the day of the crucifixion.

Luke 23:43

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee,
To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Where was Jesus talking about? Earlier in His ministry, Jesus had told His followers that He was going to be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. So, Paradise is in the heart of the earth.

Mathew 12:39-40

But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: **For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the**

Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

There are great advantages to knowing how to study the Bible dispensationally. The Bible student must know which things pertain to him, and which things pertain to others in the past, or even future. Otherwise, you might be confused by the next passage.

Paul writes that he was caught up to the third heaven, which he called "Paradise."

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 knoweth;) **such an one caught up to the third heaven.** And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

So, is Paradise in the heart of the earth or is Paradise in the third Heaven? There is one more

reference to Paradise in the Bible.

Revelation 2:7

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I **give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

Which paradise is the paradise of God? It really is a trick question. Both the Paradise in the heart of the earth, and the one in the third Heaven are God's. The paradise referred to in the verse above is actually in a third location, the Garden of Eden when it is here on the earth.

Ezekiel 31:9

I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that **all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God,** envied him.

So there are three times paradise is mentioned and each time, it is in a different place. The Bible never contradicts itself, so we are going to find out how Paradise can be in three places.

Earth started out as Paradise. God planted a

garden east of Eden that had every tree that is pleasant to look at, and good for food, including the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He put Adam in the garden to dress and keep it. You may imagine that gardening, before the curse, would have been a real pleasure!!!

Genesis 2:5-9, 15

And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: **for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.** And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And **out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.**

¹⁵ And the LORD God took the man, and put him

into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Genesis does not call the Garden of Eden “Paradise.” We have to wait all the way until the book of Revelation to find out that the Tree of Life is in the Paradise of God. We know that the Garden of Eden was Paradise, because it contained the Tree of Life.

Revelation 2:7

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I **give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

Anyone who ate of the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden would live forever. Remember, God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden, so they could not eat from the Tree of Life. God did not want Adam to eat from the Tree of Life, and live forever in his sinful state, forever separated from God.

Genesis 3:22-24

And the LORD God said, Behold, **the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and**

now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to keep the way of the tree of life.**

From the following verse, we find out that the trees of Eden, which include the Tree of Life, are no longer on earth, but are now located in the lower parts of the earth. Ezekiel prophesied to the Pharaoh and all of his people:

Ezekiel 31:18

To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? **yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth:** thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel was prophesying that Pharaoh and his multitude were to be sent to Hell. The trees of

Eden, however, with their beauty, had not been sent to Hell, but were sent to Abraham's bosom with the Old Testaments saints, awaiting the promised Kingdom of Heaven on the earth.

Jesus told the following story about the two sides to Hell, both in the "nether parts of the earth." One side is known as "Abraham's bosom" which is a place of comfort for the Old Testament saints (where the trees of Eden currently reside,) and the other, the Hell we know as a place of torment for unbelievers.

Luke 16:22-23

And it came to pass, that **the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom:** the rich man also died, and was buried; **And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,** and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. **But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted,**

and thou art tormented.

So, from Ezekiel, we know that Paradise, the Paradise of God, has been moved from earth's surface, to the center of the earth, with the Old Testament faithful. These saints are currently in Paradise.

To confirm that Paradise was moved from earth's surface, to the center of the earth, Jesus told the penitent thief on the cross that both he and Jesus would be in Paradise that day.

Luke 23:42-43

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

We know that Christ descended into the lower parts of the earth—Paradise—after His crucifixion. We can be sure the penitent thief went there, too.

Ephesians 4:7-9

But unto every one of us is given grace according

to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, **When he ascended up on high**, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. **(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)**

The Old Testament faithful are still in the center of the earth, in Paradise, awaiting Christ's return to set up His Kingdom. They are His earthly people who will rule and reign with Him in His Kingdom of Heaven on the earth.

Revelation 5:10

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: **and we shall reign on the earth.**

Israel was God's peculiar treasure, and will be again, during the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth.

Psalms 135:4

For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.

What about us in the Church, the Body of Christ?

We are His peculiar people today. Paul (our apostle) told Titus:

Titus 2:14

Who gave himself for us, that **he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

If Paradise is for the Old Testament saints in the center of the earth, where do we go to after we die? Paul was caught up to the third heaven and he called it Paradise. He repeats the phrase, using “the third heaven” the first time and “paradise” the next time.

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 knoweth;) **such an one caught up to the third heaven.** And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was **caught up into paradise**, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

From this, we know that the third heaven, where God resides, is Paradise.

Psalm 11:4

The LORD is in his holy temple, **the LORD'S throne is in heaven:** his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

We are in Christ, and Christ is seated at His Father's right hand. So, we are at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, who is in Paradise!

Colossians 3:1

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things **which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

It should not be confusing that there are 2 places called Paradise, one for each of God's people. The earthly people are the Jews, who have been promised a Kingdom of Heaven on the earth with Christ as the King. We, the Church, the Body of Christ, are His heavenly people and have been promised a home in the Heavens in Christ.

The Jews in Abraham's bosom are in Paradise,

awaiting their coming King, David's son, Jesus Christ.

Members of the Church, the Body of Christ are already in Christ, both we who are still living, and those who have died.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. We members of the Church, the Body of Christ who are alive on earth are being kept here by our earthly bodies. We are "in Christ in the heavenly places" but cannot go to Paradise in our corrupt, mortal bodies.

Members of the Church, the Body of Christ, who have already died, were freed from their mortal, corruptible bodies, and their souls and spirits were present with the Lord as soon as they died.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

We who are still living on earth, cannot yet go to be with our Lord, because of our mortal bodies. As soon as we leave these bodies, we will be with our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

Those members of the Christ, the Body of Christ, whose souls and spirits are already with the Lord are not waiting in Paradise for Him to come and set up His Kingdom on earth, like the Old Testament saints. They are waiting *with* Christ to come back with Him in the Rapture, to meet the rest of His Church coming who are still living on earth.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** Wherefore comfort

one another with these words.

One of the jobs of the Holy Ghost who lives in our hearts—is to make known all of the wonderful things that are freely given to us from God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-13

But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also **we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

That's how we know that when we die, we will be in Heaven, with Christ, and it will be far better

than we could ever imagine.

Paul tells us that we can be so familiar with heaven that we can have a conversation about it!

Philippians 3:20

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

What is Paradise like for those people who have left their bodies here on the earth, and whose souls are with Christ waiting to get their immortal, incorruptible bodies? Paul says that we will be not be unclothed, we will have a house, eternal in the heavens, and that is Jesus Christ Himself! Remember, we are in Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that **if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: **If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.** For we

that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for **that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon**, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

The Church, the Body of Christ has nothing to do with the Tree of Life. When Jesus Christ comes to meet us in the clouds at the Adoption, the dead in Christ will receive their immortal bodies first, before those members who are alive on earth. We will not eat from the Tree of Life.

Our Paradise is much different from the Old Testament saints'. They have the earthly Paradise. They are living in the Garden of Eden in the center of the earth, with the Tree of Life in the midst of the paradise of God.

Everyone in Abraham's bosom will eat from the Tree of Life (still in Paradise in the center of the earth) when they are resurrected and reunited with their earthly bodies. They will leave Paradise, and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth at Christ's second coming, in immortal bodies.

Revelation 2:7

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I **give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

Ezekiel prophesied about the resurrection of God's earthly people, the Old Testament saints in Abraham's bosom, as they enter into the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth at Christ's second coming.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, Then he said unto me, Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and**

brought you up out of your graves, **And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.**

Ezekiel continues on, this time about those faithful saints who have survived the Tribulation, and are still living, when Christ comes to set up His Kingdom. They will enter the Kingdom in their mortal bodies.

Ezekiel 37:21-26

And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:** And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein

they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. **And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt;** and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and **my servant David shall be their prince for ever.** Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

Won't that be interesting? There will be resurrected Old Testament saints living in their immortal bodies alongside mortal people who have not yet died, in the Kingdom! The mortal people will be able to talk to the immortal people, like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom!

Matthew 8:11

And I say unto you, That **many shall come from**

the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

In Kingdom, the twelve tribes of Israel will actually be governed by the twelve apostles, who will have come from Paradise. Jesus told His disciples:

Luke 22:29-30

And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That **ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

The earth will not yet be the Paradise it was when Adam and Eve were created. The faithful mortals in the Kingdom will live much longer lives than today, but they will not be immortal. A person at 100 years old will still be considered a child.

Isaiah 65:20

There **shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old;** but the

sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

Zechariah prophesied about all of the people who will reach a very advanced age in the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth. That is how we know that mortals will still age and die in the Kingdom.

Zechariah 8:3-4

Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell **in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth;** and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. **Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.**

Jesus told His followers that in the Kingdom, it will be as it was in the days of Noah. We know that Noah lived to be 950 years old.

Luke 17:26

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

The mortals in the Kingdom will not have access to the Tree of Life to give them immortality. It will stay in the center of the earth until the end of the 1,000 year Kingdom. Mortals in the Kingdom will still be able to sin. If they eat from the Tree of Life in their sinful state, they will spend eternity separated from God! God did not let that happen to Adam and He will not let it happen to mortals in the Kingdom.

At the end of the 1,000 year Kingdom, Satan and his followers are defeated and there will be a new heavens and a new earth. The new heavens and new earth will be very different. There will be no need for the sun, or the moon. There will be no more sea. There will be no night.

Revelation 21:1-2, 22-26

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. **And the city had no need of**

the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. **And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.** And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

The Tree of Life next appears on earth when the new City of Jerusalem comes down out of heaven: “in the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river was the Tree of Life.”

Revelation 22:1-5

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. **In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month:** and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall

see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

So, the earth will, once again be Paradise.

Isaiah 51:3

For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and **he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD**; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.











Ezekiel 36:35

And they shall say, **This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden**; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

The faithful saints, still mortal at the end of the Millennial Kingdom, will eat from the Tree of Life as they enter into eternity in the new City of Jerusalem.

Revelation 22:14

**Blessed are they that do his commandments,
that they may have right to the tree of life, and
may enter in through the gates into the city.**

Dispensation of Adam & Eve	After the fall of Adam & Eve	Noah through Jesus' apostles	The Church, the Body of Christ	1,000 Year Kingdom	Eternity/ New Jerusalem
Heaven					
Earth					
Under the Earth	(Abraham's bosom) 	(Abraham's bosom) 	(Abraham's bosom) 	(Abraham's bosom) 	(Abraham's bosom) 
					



Paradise for the Old Testament Saints



Paradise for the Church, the Body of Christ