

With me in Paradise

What did Jesus mean?

- ◆ **What is paradise?**
 - "Supreme Bliss"? / A place we all go to when we die?
- ◆ **Paradise means:-**
 - A garden
 - A park
 - A hunting ground - ???



What is Paradise ?

- ◆ **The word is Persian in Origin**
 - Parks of the Persian kings & nobles
 - Word Paradiso picked up by the Greeks
- ◆ **Paradise used 3 times in our New Testaments**
- ◆ **Used lots of times in the Septuagint version of our Old Testaments.**
 - Translated as “garden” in our bibles
 - Used for garden of Eden regularly
- ◆ **So what did Jesus mean?**
 - Let’s find out from our bibles!

The two thieves

- ◆ **Luke 23 v 39-41:-**
 - “One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God”, he said “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong”
- ◆ **How did this thief know that Jesus had done nothing wrong?**
 - What did he mean?

The two thieves

◆ Did he mean:-

- Jesus had done no crime and therefore should not be crucified or
- Jesus had done no sin and therefore should not die?

◆ Luke 23 v 42:-

- Then he said "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"

Incredible!

The two thieves

◆ Did everyone believe as the thief that:-

- Jesus had done no sin and therefore should not die?
- After he had died he would be raised back to life again?
- One day he would COME as KING into his kingdom?

NO!

- Only the thief believed all that!

What about the disciples?

◆ Mark 9 v 30-32:-

- "...Jesus was teaching his disciples, He said to them "The Son of man is to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him and after 3 days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him.

◆ Luke 18 v 31-34:-

-"and they understood none of these things

What about the disciples?

◆ Luke 24 On the Road to Emmaus

- They were down cast
- They had hoped Jesus would redeem Israel
- He has been crucified
- Women said tomb was empty – couldn't find his body
- Jesus explains God's purpose
- "Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him....."

◆ The thief

- Luke 23 v 42:- Then he said "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"

The response of Jesus

- ◆ **Luke 23 v 43:-**
 - “I tell you the truth today you will be with me in paradise”
- ◆ **Paradise**
 - Thief says Kingdom v Jesus says Paradise
- ◆ **2 Cor 12 v 1-4**
 - “. ...visions and revelations from God.a man in Christ caught up to the 3rd heaven..... Was caught up to paradise”
 - So what does the bible tell us about the 3rd heaven?

Paradise – the 3rd heaven

- ◆ **2 Peter 3**
 - v 3-6 - 1st heavens (and earth) were destroyed in the flood
 - v7 – the heavens and earth which are now (the 2nd heavens)
 - v10 – “....the day of the Lord will come as a thief, the heavens will disappear with a roar.....we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth”
 - The next time period / the next order will be the 3rd heaven
- ◆ **The vision of the 3rd heaven = the vision of Paradise = the vision of the Kingdom**

Paradise in Revelation 2

◆ Rev 2 v 7

- "...To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God"
- Where is the tree of life?

◆ Isa 51

- v 3 "The Lord will surely comfort Zion..... He will make her deserts like Eden"
- v 11 "The ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them and sorrow and sighing will flee away"

The Conversation on the cross

◆ Paradise

- Thief says Kingdom v Jesus says Paradise

◆ Jesus was speaking of the paradise of Eden restored

- Paradise lost with Adam & Eve
- Due reward of sin is death
- 'Richer'

The Conversation on the cross

◆ Luke 23

– “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise”

- Was he?

◆ “Remember me when you come in your Kingdom

The Conversation on the cross

◆ The thief did not join Jesus in paradise/the kingdom on that day back in AD 27.

– So is our bible wrong?

◆ “I tell you the truth today, you will be with me in paradise”

– Punctuation added in 15th century

- 51 x like “....., today you will be”
- 179 x like “.....today, you will be”

◆ The thief knew on that day that

– He will be with Christ when Christ returns to set up his kingdom

What will paradise be like?

- ◆ **Isaiah 65 & 11 - Eden restored:-**
 - New heavens and a new earth
 - Be glad and rejoice forever
 - Sound of weeping heard no more
 - Wolf and Lamb will feed together
 - Animals live amicably together
 - A little child will lead them
 - They will neither harm nor destroy
 - Earth full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

What will paradise be like?

- ◆ **Isaiah 2 & 32 - Eden restored:-**
 - God will teach us of his ways
 - God's law will go out from Jerusalem
 - No more war or fighting
 - A King will reign in righteousness
 - Peace
 - Quietness and Confidence for ever

Eden Restored

◆ Isaiah 35 & Psalm 72

- Wilderness will rejoice & blossom**
- Eyes of the blind opened**
- Ears of the deaf unstopped**
- Lame man leap**
- Mute tongue shout for joy**
- Sorrow and sighing will flee away**
- Christ will rule from sea to sea & to ends of the earth**
- All nations will serve Christ**
- Corn will flourish on the top of mountains**
- Christ's name will endure for ever**
- The whole earth will be filled with God's glory**

With me in paradise

- ◆ The thief knew that his next waking moment would be with his Lord, in the kingdom when Christ returns**

In the paradise of Eden restored