

Enoch, Elijah and the Beggar Lazarus

Mr. Spaulding wrote an article a couple weeks back entitled, Is Elijah (the prophet) in Heaven? I appreciate Mr. Spaulding's view and the way he brought out about the three heavens and that no man has ascended to heaven where God's throne is, and where Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, John 3:13.

Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind (a chariot of fire with horses of fire, was what this whirlwind resembled,) (2 Kings 2 chapter) and the Lord took him up into heaven.

Enoch, the eldest son of Cain and seventh from Adam, did not die because God took him when he was only 365 years old (Genesis 5:24).

Now we see that Enoch was taken by God and Elijah also taken by God. And I am satisfied that they are IN the same place.

Let us look at another man that left this world and see where he is.

In the 16th chapter of Luke at the 19th verse, I believe we can see of two men that died and went somewhere. One of these men was named Lazarus (a beggar), the other was a rich man.

They both died and went to the place of the dead. The beggar Lazarus went to the Bosom of Abraham, and was comforted there. The Bosom means right in the center of where Abraham was. The rich man lifted up his eyes being in hell, tormented by flames, wanted Lazarus to dip his fingers in water and put on his tongue.

Abraham explains to the rich man that Lazarus cannot come to him because there is a GREAT gulf between them. Also notice that the rich man saw Lazarus comforted in the Bosom of Abraham but Lazarus didn't look down to the suffering of the rich man in that fiery condition.

If Lazarus could have looked down and seen the rich man suffering, there is no way that he could have been comforted.

This place where Lazarus is was referred to by many as the third heaven or paradise.

Let us look at 2 Corinthians 12:2-4, here Paul, the apostle, speaks about how a man was caught up to the third heaven, 2nd verse and in the 4th verse calls this same place paradise, and saw things which was unlawful to utter. No doubt Paul is speaking of himself as being this man, for no one would have been able to utter these things to Paul.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross dying for the sins of the world, one of the thieves said unto him, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "To-day you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43. Enoch, Elijah, Lazarus, Paul, Noah, all the saints that have gone on, are there in the Bosom of Abraham, comforted.

The only difference between Enoch, Elijah and us is they did not have to taste death as we do, for God changed them in a split of a second, from this life to paradise.

When Christ comes again to judge the world in righteousness, He will bring those spirits with Him because we must all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Did you know there will be people walking around on this earth when Christ comes back? What will happen to them? There will be no time for burial! They will be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye and all will then stand before Christ to be judged.

I pray, you, of good and honest heart, will obey the gospel and be ready when Jesus comes to render judgment.

-James Ferguson