

ARE ENOCH, ELIJAH, AND THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS IN HEAVEN?

We read an account in Hebrews 11:1–12, of some great heroes of the faith at the dawn of history. Some of these great heroes of the faith are as follows: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah. So let’s take a look at Hebrews 11:1–16, in context. This passage of Scripture says the following:

By Faith We Understand

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” (Heb. 11:1–3, NKJV)

Faith at the Dawn of History

“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.” (Heb. 11:4, NKJV)

“By faith ENOCH WAS TAKEN AWAY SO THAT HE DID NOT SEE DEATH, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Heb. 11:5–6, NKJV) (emphasis added).

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” (Heb. 11:7, NKJV)

Faithful Abraham

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for HE WAITED for the CITY which has FOUNDATIONS, whose BUILDER and MAKER is God.” (Heb. 11:8–10, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Do not dismiss this fact: We are specifically told in Hebrews 11:10, Abraham waited for the “city” which has foundations whose builder and maker is God. This is referring to Mount Zion which is located in the *heavenly* Jerusalem we read about in Hebrews 12:22–24, which I shall cover shortly.

“By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.” (Heb. 11:11–12, NKJV)

In Hebrews 11:13, we are specifically told these all died (including Enoch) in faith, not having received the promise of the heavenly hope. We know this is concerning the heavenly hope because this is what Hebrews 11:13–16, is specifically talking about. This Scripture says the following:

The Heavenly Hope

“THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISES, but having seen them afar off WERE ASSURED OF THEM, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now THEY DESIRE a better, that is, a HEAVENLY COUNTRY. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM. (Heb. 11:13–16, NKJV) (emphasis added).

In fact, they will all be resurrected in the *first* resurrection of the dead in Christ which shall take place at Jesus' second coming. This is based on the following Scriptures:

“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, AFTERWARD THOSE who are Christ’s AT HIS COMING.” (1 Cor. 15:23, NKJV) (emphasis added).

“And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, DID NOT RECEIVE THE PROMISE, God having provided something better for us, that THEY SHOULD NOT BE MADE PERFECT APART FROM US.” (Heb. 11:39–40, NKJV) (emphasis added).

In Hebrews 11:39–40, what does it mean when God’s Word tells us they should not be made “perfect” apart from us?

We find our answer in Hebrews 12:22–24. When you read this passage of Scripture which I shall cover shortly, it specifically says in Hebrews 12:23, to the “spirits” of just men, made “perfect” who are “registered” in heaven. It does not say their souls are in heaven.

The reason why it does not say their souls are in heaven is because their souls must have a body as a host and they must also have the breath of life which animates the soul. And, this is why the “resurrection” of the dead must happen first so those who have died in Christ can receive their “glorified” bodies. At the resurrection of the dead, our “spirit” which goes back to God upon our *physical* death (Ecclesiastes 12:7) will be rejoined with our “soul” (which goes to sleep until the resurrection).

Our “soul” must have a “glorified” *incorruptible* body in order to enter the *kingdom of heaven* because upon our *physical* death our *corruptible* body returned to the dust of the earth from whence it came. Thus, if our souls which must be housed in our “glorified” bodies are already in heaven, then what is the point of the resurrection? According to the whole counsel of God’s Word, there are two resurrections. The *first* resurrection of the dead will happen at Jesus’ second coming when those who have died in Christ will be presented as the *firstfruits* of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:23). They will be presented with

those who are still alive and remain who are “gathered together” (raptured from the earth) as the *firstfruits* to both God, the Father, and to the Lamb (Revelation 14:4).

Now let’s discover more about this city God has prepared in the *heavenly* country which Abraham and all the Old Testament saints have not yet received the promise of the *heavenly* hope apart from us. This city—Mount Zion is the *city of the living God*, and it has foundations whose builder and maker is God. This city which God has prepared for all of us is located in the *heavenly* Jerusalem. This is based on Hebrews 12:22–24, which says the following:

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn WHO ARE REGISTERED IN HEAVEN [their name is written in the Lamb’s book of Life], to God the Judge of all, to the SPIRITS OF JUST MEN MADE PERFECT, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” (Heb. 12:22–24, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Again, the Old Testament saints have not received the promise of the *heavenly* hope apart from us. We will all receive the promise of the *heavenly* hope at the return of Jesus Christ when the *first* resurrection of the dead occurs. Then those few who are still alive and remain shall be “caught up” (raptured) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

And, it is for this very reason, why we are told in Acts 2:29, the following: *“Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the PATRIARCH DAVID, that he is both DEAD and BURIED, and his tomb is with us to this day.”* (NKJV) (emphasis added).

Moreover, we are told in Acts 2:34, *“For DAVID DID NOT ASCEND INTO THE HEAVENS...”* (NKJV) (emphasis added).

If King David, a man after God’s own heart, He established an *everlasting* covenant with is not in heaven, then no one else other than Jesus is in heaven. In fact, this is why John 3:13

says, *“No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.”* (NKJV) (emphasis added).

And, before you quote what the apostle Paul says to us in Second Corinthians 5:8, he is saying we would rather be absent from the body and be present with the Lord. We automatically assume he is saying to be absent from the body is to be immediately present with the Lord in heaven. However, this is not what the apostle Paul is saying. In fact, in context, the apostle Paul is talking about the “Assurance of the Resurrection” of the dead in Christ. This is the main topic of Second Corinthians Chapter 5. The apostle Paul says to us in Second Corinthians 5:1–8, the following:

Assurance of the Resurrection

“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.” (2 Cor. 5:1–5, NKJV)

*“So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. **WE ARE CONFIDENT, YES, WELL PLEASED RATHER TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY AND TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD.**”* (2 Cor. 5:6–8, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Again, the apostle Paul is talking about the “assurance of the resurrection.” The “rapture” will not happen until the dead in Christ are resurrected in the *first* resurrection. This is based on First Thessalonians 4:15, which says, *“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we **WHO are ALIVE and REMAIN [survive] UNTIL THE COMING OF THE***

LORD will by NO MEANS PRECEDE those who are ASLEEP [died].” (NKJV) (emphasis added).

GOD TOLD ABRAHAM, MOSES, AND KING DAVID THEY WOULD SLEEP WITH THEIR FATHERS. AND, HE TOLD THE PROPHET, DANIEL, WHEN THEY WOULD AWAKE

God told the Old Testament saints Abraham, Moses, and King David they would all rest with their fathers. According to *Strong’s Hebrew Lexicon* #H7901, the word “rest” is the Hebrew word “shakab” (pronounced “shaw-kab”), which means: To *lie* down (for rest, decease): take rest, and sleep.

This is why when we bury someone we say “rest in peace.” In other words, those who lie down in sleep (die) are resting, and they do not know anything. I will substantiate this fact in Chapter 68 of this series of books.

The Lord said to Abraham, Moses, and King David they would all rest with their fathers in the grave. He did not say they would go to heaven immediately after they died. This is based on the following Scriptures:

“Now as for you [Abraham], you shall GO TO YOUR FATHERS IN PEACE; you shall be BURIED AT A GOOD OLD AGE.” (Genesis 15:15, NKJV) (emphasis added).

“And the LORD said to Moses: ‘Behold, you will REST [H7901: shākab. to lie down (for rest, decease): lie (down, down to sleep, still, with), take rest, sleep, stay] WITH YOUR FATHERS...’” (Deut. 31:16, NKJV)

“When your [King David] days are fulfilled and YOU REST [H7901: shākab. to lie down (for rest, decease): lie (down, down to sleep, still, with), take rest, sleep, stay] WITH YOUR FATHERS, I will set up your seed after you, who will

come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.” (2 Samuel 7:12, NKJV)

*“Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king [King David] **RESTS** [H7901: **shākab**: to lie down (for rest, decease): lie (down, down to sleep, still, with), take rest, sleep, stay] **WITH HIS FATHERS**, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders.” (1 Kings 1:21, NKJV)*

*“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, **FELL ASLEEP** [died], was **BURIED WITH HIS FATHERS**, and **SAW CORRUPTION...**” (Acts 13:36, NKJV) (emphasis added).*

Thus, the Old Testament saints will be resting (sleeping) in peace with their fathers until the *first* resurrection of the dead happens on the last day of planet earth when Jesus appears.

This is what Jesus is referring to in Matthew 22:31–33, when He says, “*But **CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD**, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*” And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.” (NKJV) (emphasis added).

Also, we are told by the prophet Daniel when he and the Old Testament saints will arise (be resurrected). It will be at the end of the days. This is based on Daniel 12:13, which says, “*As for you, go your way till the end. You will **REST**, and then **AT THE END OF THE DAYS** you will **RISE** to **RECEIVE** your **ALLOTTED INHERITANCE.**” (NIV) (emphasis added).*

Jesus confirms this when He tells us in Matthew 12:41-42, the men of Nineveh will stand up (be resurrected—rise up) at the judgment with this generation. And, they will condemn this generation because they repented at the preaching of Jonah. Jesus also says the Queen of the South will rise up (be resurrected—rise up) at the judgment with this generation and condemn it because she listened to Solomon’s wisdom. Yet now One greater than Jonah and Solomon is here which is referring to Jesus. Thus, the men of Nineveh, the

Queen of the South, the prophet Daniel, and all the Old Testament saints will rise up at the judgment with this generation.

In Hebrews 11:2, we are told by faith the “elders” obtained a good testimony. Is it possible these “elders” who are listed in Hebrews 11:1-40, will be some of the twenty-four elders who will be surrounding the throne of God and they will be sitting on thrones wearing white robes and having crowns of gold on their heads based on Revelation 4:4?

So who are some of these “elders” that are listed by name in Hebrews 11:1-40? They are as follows: Abel; Enoch; Noah; Abraham; Sarah; Isaac; Jacob; Joseph; Moses; Rahab; Gideon; Barak; Samson; Jephthah; King David; Samuel, and the prophets, such as Jeremiah; Daniel; Ezekiel; Isaiah; Elijah and John the Baptist to name some of them.

As such, after the resurrection of the dead takes place, I am certain Abraham, Moses, and King David will be “counted worthy” to be part of the twenty-four elders who are sitting on their thrones which surround the throne of God. They will be clothed in white robes and have crowns of gold on their heads (Revelation 4:40). When the apostle John saw this “vision” in the “spirit” he was shown things which must take place after this.

In fact, in Revelation 5:8–9, we are told when Jesus had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints and they sang a “new” song. However, we are told in Revelation 14:3, no one could learn this “new” song except the one hundred and forty-four (144,000) who were “redeemed” from the earth.

What this means is this: The resurrection of the dead and the “catching away” must have already taken place. We are specifically told by the apostle Paul in First Thessalonians 4:15, those who are alive and remain (survive) until the coming of the Lord will by NO MEANS precede those who are asleep (died).

Later on, in this chapter, I will reveal when the dead in Christ are resurrected in the *first* resurrection. For now, let’s refocus our attention on Enoch.

ENOCH DIED IN FAITH

We are specifically told in Hebrews 11:13, these all died in faith. All means all which includes Enoch. Moreover, concerning Enoch, Hebrews 11:5, says the following:

“By faith Enoch was TAKEN away so that he did not SEE DEATH, ‘and was not found, because God had TAKEN him’; for before he was TAKEN he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” (Heb. 11:5, NKJV) (emphasis added).

The word “taken” as used three times in Hebrews 11:5, is synonymous with the word “translated” the KJV uses when this Scripture says by faith Enoch was “taken” or “translated” that he should not see death.

According to *Strong’s Greek Lexicon* #G3346, this word “taken” or “translated” is the Greek word “metatithēmi” (pronounced “met-at-ith’-ay-mee”), which means the following: To *transfer*, that is, (literally) *transport*, (by implication) *exchange*, (reflexively) *change sides*, or (figuratively) *pervert*: carry over, change, remove, translate, turn.

According to *Strong’s Greek Lexicon* #G1492, the word “see” as used in Hebrews 11:5, is the Greek word “eido” (pronounced “i’-do”), which means the following: To know, to be aware of, to perceive, or to understand).

According to *Strong’s Greek Lexicon* #G2288, the word “death” as used in Hebrews 11:5, is the Greek word “thanatos” (pronounced “than’-at-os”), which means *death* (literally or figuratively): death.

Most of us have automatically assumed Enoch was “raptured” without ever having died. However, according to Hebrews 11:13, we are specifically told Enoch is listed with all the other heroes of the faith who died.

Thus, when God’s Word says by “faith” Enoch was “taken,” it must mean Enoch changed sides (he was removed from living on the earth, and his soul went to Hades the place of the departed souls) when he was removed, so he did not “see” (to know, to be aware of, to perceive, or to understand) death.

After we all die, we do not “see” (to know, to be aware of, to perceive, or to understand) death because our soul simply goes to sleep until the resurrection of the dead takes place.

This is why we are told Enoch would not see (to know, to be aware of, to perceive, or to understand) death. Also, another meaning of this statement is talking about Enoch by “faith” will not experience the second death.

In fact, this is what John 8:52 is referring to—the second death. This Scripture says the following:

Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! ABRAHAM IS DEAD, and the PROPHETS; and You say, ‘If anyone KEEPS My WORD he shall NEVER TASTE DEATH.’” (John 8:52, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Yet Abraham, Enoch, and the prophets in the Old Testament all died a *physical* death. Hence, Jesus is talking about the *second* death.

Moreover, in Revelation 20:14, we are told the *second* death is when death and Hades (G86: *hadēs*: the place [state] of departed souls: grave, hell) will be cast into the *lake of fire* along with those who practice “lawlessness” and “unrighteousness.”

Obviously, based on John 8:52, Jesus was, in fact, referring to the *second* death for this reason: We will all die a *physical* death. This, of course, is with the exception of those few who are still alive and remain (survive) the tribulation period. They will be “caught up” (harpazo) without dying a *physical* death based on First Thessalonians 4:17.

Again, this happens at the return of Jesus Christ. Our “gathering together” to Him and the return of Jesus is one and the same event. This is based on the apostle Paul talking about the great apostasy which would precede the Day of the Lord, which we are already witnessing. The apostle Paul says to us in Second Thessalonians 2:1–4, the following:

“Now, brethren, concerning the COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST and OUR GATHERING TOGETHER TO HIM [one and the same event—there is no secret rapture], we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or

troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the DAY of CHRIST [the Day of the Lord] had COME. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (2 Thess. 2:1–4, NKJV) (emphasis added).

The next question we need to answer before we find out what happened to Elijah is this: When are the dead in Christ resurrected?

Remember, this must happen first before those few who are still alive and remain (survive) at the return of Jesus Christ shall be “caught up” (raptured) and meet them (the dead in Christ and Jesus) in the air.

THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL BE RESURRECTED ON THE LAST DAY WHEN THE HEAVENS ARE NO MORE

When a person dies, he lies down and is in the grave until the *first* resurrection happens which will occur when the heavens are no more. This shall take place after the *great* and the *terrible* Day of the Lord. This is why Job says to the Lord to hide him in the grave and conceal him until His wrath has passed. Then at the “set time” the Lord will remember him. Until the heavens are no more, Job and all others will wait until his “change” comes. This is based on Job 14:12-14, which says the following:

“So MAN LIES DOWN and DOES NOT RISE. Till the HEAVENS are NO MORE, They will not AWAKE Nor be ROUSED from THEIR SLEEP. ‘Oh, that You would HIDE me in THE GRAVE, That You would CONCEAL ME UNTIL YOUR WRATH IS PAST, That You would APPOINT ME A SET TIME, and REMEMBER ME! If a MAN DIES, shall he LIVE AGAIN? All the days of my hard service I will wait, TILL MY CHANGE COMES.’” (Job 14:12-14, NKJV)

What “change” is Job talking about? The apostle Paul tells us in First Corinthians 15:51-54, which says the following:

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all SLEEP [die], but we shall all be CHANGED—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the DEAD WILL BE RAISED INCORRUPTIBLE, and we shall be CHANGED. For this CORRUPTIBLE must put on INCORRUPTION, and this MORTAL must put on IMMORTALITY. So when this CORRUPTIBLE has PUT ON INCORRUPTION, and this MORTAL has PUT ON IMMORTALITY, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” (1 Cor.15:51-54, NKJV)

Until this “mystery” the apostle Paul talks about has taken place at the last trump, no one other than Jesus has “immortality” and all will die and see corruption. This is substantiated in First Timothy 6:13-16, which says the following:

“I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless UNTIL OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST’S APPEARING, which HE WILL MANIFEST IN HIS OWN TIME, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who ALONE HAS IMMORTALITY, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.” (1Tim. 6:13-16, NKJV)

This is why we are told King David fell asleep (died), was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption (Acts 13:36). This is why we are told King David is both dead and buried (Acts 2:29). This is why we are specifically told King David did not ascend into the heavens (Acts 2:34).

Since we are told in Acts 13:36, King David saw the corruption of his body, this means that Psalm 16:10, is concerning the blessed “hope” of the faithful and the Messiah’s victory over

death and the grave. Psalm 16:10, says, *“For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”* (NKJV)

In fact, Acts 2:22-29, substantiates King David is speaking of Jesus, not himself. We are specifically told in Acts 2:31, *“...he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the RESURRECTION OF THE CHRIST, that HIS SOUL was NOT LEFT IN HADES, nor did HIS FLESH SEE CORRUPTION.”* (NKJV) (emphasis added).

Concerning the few who are still alive and remain (survive) to witness the second appearing of Jesus Christ, this shall not occur until the dead in Christ are resurrected first which happens on the last day of planet earth as we know it. This is based on the following Scriptures:

*“For I have COME DOWN from HEAVEN, not to do My own will, but THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME. This is THE WILL of THE FATHER who SENT Me, that of ALL He has GIVEN Me I should LOSE NOTHING, but should RAISE IT UP at the **LAST** [G2708: eschatos: in the sense of contiguity; farthest, final (of place or time)] DAY. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that EVERYONE who SEES the SON and BELIEVES IN HIM may have EVERLASTING LIFE; and I will RAISE HIM UP at the **LAST DAY**.”* (John 6:38–40, (NKJV) (emphasis added).

*“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has ETERNAL LIFE, and I will RAISE HIM UP at the **LAST** [G2708: eschatos: in the sense of contiguity; farthest, final (of place or time)] DAY.’”* (John 6:53–54, NKJV) (emphasis added).

*“Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will RISE AGAIN in the RESURRECTION at the **LAST** [G2708: eschatos: in the sense of contiguity; farthest, final (of place or time)] DAY’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that*

You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’” (John 11:23–27 (NKJV) (emphasis added).

Do not dismiss the significance of the fact the word “last” as used in the phrase “the last day” based on all the Scriptures above is the same Greek meaning of the word “last” the apostle Paul uses in First Corinthians 15:50–53, when he talks about the LAST trump!

The prophet Daniel tells us when the resurrection of the dead will take place and when God’s people will be delivered. It will be after there shall be a time of trouble (the tribulation period), such as never has been since there was a nation. This is based on Daniel 12:1-2, which says the following:

*“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And THERE SHALL BE A TIME OF TROUBLE, SUCH AS NEVER WAS SINCE THERE WAS A NATION, Even to that time. And AT THAT TIME YOUR PEOPLE SHALL BE DELIVERED, EVERYONE WHO IS FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK. And many of those who **SLEEP** [H3462: *yāshén*: to be slack or languid, that is, (by implication) sleep (figuratively to die) (make to) sleep] IN THE DUST OF THE EARTH shall **AWAKE** [H6974: *qûts*: the idea of abruptness in starting up from sleep (compare H3364); to awake (literally or figuratively): arise, (be) (a-) wake], Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Daniel 12:1–2, NKJV)*

Again, the dead in Christ must rise first which happens in the *first* resurrection. Then those few who are alive and remain (survive) the tribulation period shall be “caught up” (harpazo) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And, thus we shall always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:15–17).

ELIJAH WAS NOT RAPTURED

Now concerning Elijah being “translated” to heaven without ever dying a physical death, as we all know Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind. This is based on Second Kings 2:1 and Second Kings 2:11, which says the following:

[Elijah Ascends to Heaven] *“And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to TAKE UP ELIJAH INTO HEAVEN BY A WHIRLWIND, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.”* (2 Kings 2:1, NKJV) (emphasis added).

“Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a CHARIOT OF FIRE APPEARED WITH HORSES OF FIRE, and separated the two of them; and ELIJAH WENT UP by a WHIRLWIND into HEAVEN.” (2 Kings 2:11, NKJV) (emphasis added).

However, some years after Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven, he writes a letter to the wicked king, Jehoram, who walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for he had the daughter of Ahab as a wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

This letter that came to him from Elijah is based on Second Chronicles 21:12–15. This Scripture in Second Chronicles 21:12, specifically says this letter came to him from Elijah the prophet. So obviously, Elijah the prophet was alive and well. He was still being used by God to be His messenger.

Therefore, Elijah must have been taken by a whirlwind to the *first* heaven where the clouds are and was transported to another area and resurfaced when God needed him to. In fact, this is why we are told in Second Kings 2:16, the sons of the prophets wanted to go look for him, and they would never have imagined God had taken Him into heaven. Second Kings 2:16, says the following:

“Then they said to him, ‘Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has TAKEN HIM UP and CAST HIM UPON SOME MOUNTAIN or into SOME VALLEY.’ And he said, ‘You shall not send anyone.’” (2 Kings 2:16, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Since we are told in James 5:17, Elijah is a man with a nature like ours. then we have to presume that he died a *physical* death just like we all will and he too will be resurrected during the *first* resurrection which will happen at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

But wait—Elijah, Enoch, and Moses cannot be one of the two witnesses if they died because God’s Word says it is appointed for a man to die once and then face judgment. This passage of Scripture in Hebrews 9:27, is talking about Jesus who is the Son of Man only dying once and then He will return for judgment. This is based on Hebrews 9:27, which says, “*And as it is appointed for men TO DIE ONCE, but after this the judgment...*” (NKJV)

Hebrews 9:23–28, in context, is specifically talking about the greatness of Christ’s sacrifice.

In fact, there have been many resurrections of the dead throughout the *synergy of the ages*. The most infamous case was when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, yet he died again and will be raised on the last day with the rest of us based on John 11:23–27. Other examples of people being raised from the dead in both the Old Testament and the New Testament are as follows:

- ❖ Elijah raised the widow’s son from the dead (1 Kings 17:17–22).
- ❖ Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite (2 Kings 4:32–35).
- ❖ A man was raised from the dead because he touched Elisha’s bones (2 Kings 13:20–21).
- ❖ Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain from the dead (Luke 7:11–15).
- ❖ Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead (Luke 8:41–55).
- ❖ Peter raised Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36–41).
- ❖ Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:9–10).

Remember those Old Testament saints who were all resurrected from their graves when Jesus was resurrected? This is based on Matthew 27:51–53, which says the following:

“Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the GRAVES WERE OPENED; and MANY BODIES OF THE SAINTS WHO HAD FALLEN

ASLEEP WERE RAISED; and COMING OUT OF THE GRAVES AFTER HIS RESURRECTION, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”
(Matt. 27:51–53, NKJV) (emphasis added).

Did Jesus bring them up to heaven with Him as a *firstfruits* offering when He ascended into heaven like we have been taught? No! We are told what happened to these saints who were raised and came out of their graves after His resurrection. We find the answer in Hebrews 11:35–40, which says the following:

“Women received their DEAD RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, THAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.” (Heb. 11:35–38, NKJV) (emphasis added).

“And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, DID NOT RECEIVE THE PROMISE [of the heavenly hope], God having provided something better for us, that THEY SHOULD NOT BE MADE PERFECT APART FROM US.” (Heb. 11:39–40, NKJV) (emphasis added).

In fact, when people are raised from the dead, even to this *very* day, they will all die a *physical* death again. So, clearly based on all these examples, Hebrews 9:27 is specifically referring to only the Son of Man—Jesus Christ, who died *only* once.

As I said before, but it bears repeating, I will fully disclose all this and much more in Book #3 of these series of books. I will talk about Paradise concerning what Jesus said to the criminal on the cross, what happens to us when we die, and when we are “born again” *physically* speaking.

WHO ARE THE LAST TWO WITNESSES?

In the last book of the Old Testament, we are told to remember the Law of Moses and that God will send the prophet Elijah before the *great* and *terrible* day of the Lord. This is based on Malachi 4:4–5, which says the following:

“Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.” (Malachi 4:4–5, NKJV) (emphasis added).

It is not a coincidence that we are told in the New Testament in the Book of Matthew who these two witnesses are. The two witnesses will be Moses (who represents the Law) and Elijah (who represents the Spirit). These were the two who were seen at the “transfiguration” in Matthew Chapter 17. The “transfiguration” will happen during the Feast of Tabernacles. This is why Peter asked Jesus, “*...if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.*” (NKJV)

Temporary tabernacles (Sukkots) are required to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for those who dwell in the land of Israel. Hence, for God’s “covenant” people who are Israel, our bodies are our “temporary” tabernacle for the Spirit of God to dwell in while we are on the earth. However, it will be during the final Feast of Tabernacles held on planet earth, that these “temporary” tabernacles will be “transfigured” in the *twinkling of an eye*.

Also, in this passage of Scripture in Matthew Chapter 17, we are told after six (6) days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, his brother, and He led them up on a high mountain by themselves, and He was transfigured before them.

Mankind has been “ruling” and “reigning” on the earth for about 6,000 years since God created the first Adam. Thus, at the dawn of 7th millennium (after 6 days which equals 6,000 years) we will be “transfigured” to go up to a high mountain—Mount Zion, the *city of the living God* which is located in the *heavenly* Jerusalem as we enter into our final Sabbath day of rest. This is based on the six days of the creation week. Also, this is based on Second Peter 3:8, which says, “*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*” (NKJV)

Notice in Matthew 17:9, Jesus commanded His disciples to tell no one of this “vision” until He—the Son of Man had risen from the dead. It was also a “vision” of what would take place at the end of days when both Moses and Elijah are raised from the grave during the *first* resurrection. It is for this very reason; I do not believe the two witnesses who will be killed as they are prophesying in Jerusalem are *literally* Moses and Elijah.

Rather, it will be two witnesses who have the Law of Moses and are operating under the Spirit of Elijah. This is why we are told in Malachi 4:4–5, the following:

1. To remember the Law of Moses, His servant, which the Lord commanded him in Horeb for all Israel—the statutes and judgments.
2. God will send the prophet Elijah (the Spirit of Elijah—John the Baptist had) to prepare the way for the *great* and *terrible* Day of the Lord. In other words, God will “raise up” forerunners to “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” who will operate under the Spirit of Elijah and teach God’s people to remember the Law of Moses and keep His statutes and judgments.

The reason why I say this is for the following reason: Spiritually speaking, the two witnesses in the Book of Revelation represent both the Jews and former Gentiles—who are God’s “covenant” people that God established a New Covenant with. See Jeremiah 31:31–33 and Hebrews 8:7–13. Both Jews and former Gentiles are God’s “covenant” people by grace through faith in Jesus Christ who shed His precious blood at Calvary to fulfill (consummate, execute, ratify [confirm]) the New Covenant. Thus, Israel is God’s “covenant” people who are comprised of both Jews and former Gentiles who must become the One New Man in the *physical* earthly realm before Jesus returns for His bride. Both Jew and former Gentiles becoming One New Man are the two witnesses, in the Book of Revelation, *spiritually* speaking.

In Chapter 70 of Book 3 of this series, I will fully reveal the significance of these two final witnesses, both *spiritually* and *physically*, speaking concerning God’s eternal plan of the total “restoration” and “reconciliation” of all things, especially all Israel.

Thus, whomever God chooses to use as His two witnesses that will *literally* be prophesying in Jerusalem during the tribulation period, they will *literally* be killed, and their bodies will lay in the street for three-and-a-half (3 ½) days.

After three-and-a-half (3 ½) days, the breath of life from God will enter them, and they will ascend to heaven in a cloud. Thus, these two witnesses will be resurrected from the dead. This is when the *first* resurrection of the dead will take place.

These two witnesses who have been resurrected will ascend into heaven to give our heavenly Father the report of the sighting of the New Moon in Jerusalem and the condition of the harvest in the land of Israel. This is the only way the Feast of Trumpets can commence by the sighting of the New Moon in Jerusalem by two or more witnesses and the “condition” of the harvest in the land of Israel. In other words, the “condition” of the harvest in the land of Israel, refers to the *spiritual* maturity of His bride who is Israel.

Shortly after these two witnesses give their report we are told in Revelation 14:14–15, this is when John saw the Son of Man having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And, an angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him (Jesus) who sat on a cloud and said, *“Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”* (NKJV)

This is when those who are still alive and remain (survive) until the coming of the Lord will be “caught up” together with them (the dead in Christ) in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And, thus we shall always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:15).

PLEASE SHARE THIS TEACHING TO HELP SPREAD THE TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS. IF YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THIS TEACHING, PLEASE CONSIDER SOWING A SEED INTO MY MINISTRY OR PARTNERING WITH MY MINISTRY. THANK YOU.