

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

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Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—37
Wednesday—8
Contribution—\$

For meditation:
Proverbs 31.4–7
What curses come
when wine is used
as a drink? What
blessings come
when it is used as
a medicine?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

What will life be like in Heaven? 1

We wonder about heaven. “One must be afflicted with spiritual stupidity or cursed by incurable frivolity,” wrote Scottish author Ian Maclaren, “who has never thought of that new state on which he may any day enter, nor speculated concerning its conditions” (*The Mind of the Master*).

Imagining what heaven is like is made difficult by the fact that only two who returned from there ever spoke about it. How could Lazarus—or, for instance, the saints raised in Matthew 26.52,53—not tell everyone what he/they saw and heard? Why wasn’t the testimony of those resurrected taken and preserved?

Only two individuals, it seems, who returned after seeing the other side, said anything about it. One of these was Paul.

In 2 Corinthians 12.1–4, Paul says he was “caught up to the third heaven”—Macknight said to the Jews *first heaven* was where the birds flew, *second heaven* was where the stars shone, and *third heaven* was the seat of God. Paul didn’t know whether his time in heaven was a bodily experience or something else (v 2), but he did believe: (1) his spirit could exist outside his body, (2) his spirit could be present in a place (see Lk. 16.22), and (3) his spirit could see and hear without the intervention of his physical senses. Although he was not allowed to say much (v 4; maybe Lazarus wasn’t allowed to say anything), Paul’s one-word description of heaven was to call it a *paradise*, which was the Persian word for *garden*. “Today,” Christ said to a thief, “you will be with Me in paradise.” Man began in a garden; it seems he will *eternity* in a garden.

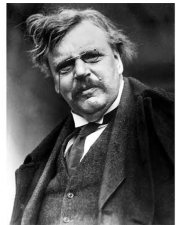
The other person who has been to heaven and back is the Lord. In the next article, we’ll look at what He taught about heaven.

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Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

“At least five times, therefore, with the Arian and the Albigensian, with the Humanist sceptic, after Voltaire and after Darwin, the Faith has to all appearances gone to the dogs. In each of these five cases it was the dog that died.”



G. K. Chesterton
The Everlasting Man, 319–320

Sermon: Philippians 2.9–11

The Preeminence of Christ

11 August 2024

The death sentence of Jesus Christ

“In the year seventeen, of the empire of Tiberius Caesar, and the 25th day of March, the city of holy Jerusalem, Anna and Caiaphas being priests, sacrificators, of the people of God, Pontius Pilate, Governor of Lower Galilee, sitting on the presidential chair of the Praetory, condemns Jesus of Nazareth to die on the cross, between two thieves—the great and notorious evidence of the people, saying:—(1) Jesus is a seducer. (2) He is seditious. (3) He is an enemy of the law. (4) He calls Himself falsely the Son of God. (5) He calls Himself falsely the King of Israel. (6) He entered into the temple, followed by a multitude, bearing palm branches in th eir hands. Order the first centurion, Quillus Cornelius, to lead Him to the place of execution. Forbid to any person whomsoever, either poor or rich, to oppose the death of Jesus. The witnesses that signed the condemnation of Jesus are, viz.: I. Daniel Robani, a Pharisee. II. Joannas Rorobable. III. Raphdel Robani. IV. Capet, a citizen. Jesus shall go out of the City of Jerusalem by the gate of Struennus.”

The above decree is engraved on a copper plate. On one side are written the words: “A similar place is sent to each tribe!” The plate was found in an antique vase of white marble, while excavating the ancient city of Aquila, in the kingdom of Naples, in the year 1820, and was discovered by the Commissariats of Arts attached to the French armies. At the expedition of Naples it was found enclosed in a box of ebony, in the sacristy of Caserta. The French translation was made by the members of the Commission of Arts. The original is in the Hebrew language. The Chartrom requested that the plate might not be taken away from them, and the request was granted.

An M. Denon, one of the savans [savant], caused a plate to be made of the same model, on which he had the above paragraph engraved. At the sale of his collection of antiquities, the copper plate sold for 2,890 francs.

The “Aquila discovery,” purported to record “the death sentence of Jesus,” was unearthed in Aquila in 1580. Like the shroud of Turin, it was one of the medieval forgeries involving Christ. It’s a curiosity not many are familiar with.

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A trip to Mt. Sinai, 5

From talking with Father Isaiah at the Wadi Feiran in the gorge that led to Mt. Sinai, H. V. Morton learned that he, with his 1859 Tower musket, guarded the ruins of the hermit city of Pharan. The hills around the wadi are honeycombed with the caves of the first hermits to Sinai and their graves. Between the Oasis of Feiran to Mt. Serbal (which is twenty miles NW of Mt. Sinai and was for many years believed to be the true Mt. Sinai), the terrain is littered with the ruins of churches and dwellings of the hermits who were wiped out by Arabian raiders during the early centuries of the Christian era. In 1869, Henry Palmer, a British Royal Engineer, who was part of a project—the Ordnance Survey Expedition—to map the Sinai peninsula, found a stone with the figure of a sitting man with uplifted arms, thought by some to be Moses at the Battle of Rephidim.

In the afternoon, Morton’s group continued on toward Mt. Sinai. When evening arrived it was cold, for the vally that leads up to Sinai is several thousand feet above sea level. The cars drove around a hill and there, suddenly, the Monastery of St. Catherine came into view. As any picture of the structure will show, it rests in a valley and is dwarfed by towering ridges and peaks. Monks, wearing black gowns, black stove-pipe hats, and sporting black beards could be seen. The cars stopped before the walls of the monastery, which were immense. Morton’s guide, Mr. Vallinis, called out in Greek, “With God’s help we have come to the Holy Mountain.” The monks knew Mr. Vallinis. They unlocked the gate, the entryway opened, and Morton and his companions were soon shaking hands with young monks who had come to greet them.

In the darkness, Morton’s group was led through a narrow alley, past an old cannon, past Justinian’s church, up a wooden staircase, and into a small room, which was the office of the Archbishop of Sinai (Greek Orthodox).

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News about us

- Dave has been admitted to the Mayo Clinic. They’re trying to find a medicine to help his congestive heart condition.
- Doctors are also trying to balance Kellee’s medicine so she and Mike can return home.