

True Christians fervently look forward to living in Paradise. This article discusses why we have a solid Scriptural basis for that hope and how the promise that Jesus made about Paradise is to be understood.

(Luke 23:43) And he said to him: "Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise."

Paragraph 3

(Genesis 2:8) Further, Jehovah God planted a garden in E'den, toward the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

(Genesis 1:29-31) Then God said: "Here I have given to you every seed-bearing plant that is on the entire earth and every tree with seed-bearing fruit. Let them serve as food for you. 30 And to every wild animal of the earth and to every flying creature of the heavens and to everything moving on the earth in which there is life, I have given all green vegetation for food." And it was so. 31 After that God saw everything he had made, and look! it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Paragraph 4

(Genesis 2:15, 16) Jehovah God took the man and settled him in the garden of E'den to cultivate it and to take care of it. 16 Jehovah God also gave this command to the man: "From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction.

Paragraph 5

(Genesis 3:23, 24) With that Jehovah God expelled him from the garden of E'den to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. 24 So he drove the man out, and he posted at the east of the garden of E'den the cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword that was turning continuously to guard the way to the tree of life.

Paragraph 7

(Genesis 22:17, 18) I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply your offspring like the stars of the heavens and like the grains of sand on the seashore, and your offspring will take possession of the gate of his enemies. 18 And by means of your offspring all nations of the earth will obtain a blessing for themselves because you have listened to my voice."

(Genesis 26:4) 'I will multiply your offspring like the stars of the heavens; and I will give to your offspring all these lands; and by means of your offspring, all nations of the earth will obtain a blessing for themselves,'

(Genesis 28:14) And your offspring will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your offspring all the families of the ground will certainly be blessed.

Paragraph 9

(Psalm 37:1, 2) Do not be upset because of evil men Or envious of wrongdoers. 2 They will quickly wither like grass And shrivel like green new grass.

(Psalm 37:10) Just a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more; You will look at where they were, And they will not be there.

(Psalm 37:11) But the meek will possess the earth, And they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

(Psalm 37:29) The righteous will possess the earth, And they will live forever on it.

(2 Samuel 23:2) The spirit of Jehovah spoke through me; His word was on my tongue.

Paragraph 10

(2 Chronicles 36:15-21) Jehovah the God of their forefathers kept warning them by means of his messengers, warning them again and again, because he felt compassion for his people and for his dwelling place. 16 But they kept ridiculing the messengers of the true God, and they despised his words and mocked his prophets, until the rage of Jehovah came up against his people, until they were beyond healing. 17 So he brought against them the king of the Chal-de'ans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary; he felt no compassion for young man or virgin, old or infirm. God gave everything into his hand. 18 All the utensils of the house of the true God, great and small, as well as the treasures of the house of Jehovah and the treasures of the king and his princes, everything he brought to Babylon. 19 He burned down the house of the true God, tore down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its fortified towers with fire, and destroyed everything of value. 20 He carried off captive to Babylon those who escaped the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia began to reign, 21 to fulfill Jehovah's word spoken by Jeremiah, until the land had paid off its sabbaths. All the days it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfill 70 years.

(Jeremiah 4:22-27) “For my people are foolish; They take no note of me. They are stupid sons, with no understanding. They are clever enough when it comes to doing bad, But they do not know how to do good.” 23 I saw the land, and look! it was empty and desolate. I looked at the heavens, and their light was no more. 24 I saw the mountains, and look! they were quaking, And the hills were shaking. 25 I saw, and look! there was no man, And the birds of the heavens had all fled. 26 I saw, and look! the orchard had become a wilderness, And its cities had all been torn down. It was because of Jehovah, Because of his burning anger. 27 For this is what Jehovah says: “The whole land will become desolate, But I will not carry out a complete extermination.

Paragraph 11

(Isaiah 11:6-9) The wolf will reside for a while with the lamb, And with the young goat the leopard will lie down, And the calf and the lion and the fattened animal will all be together; And a little boy will lead them. 7 The cow and the bear will feed together, And their young will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the bull. 8 The nursing child will play over the lair of a cobra, And a weaned child will put his hand over the den of a poisonous snake. 9 They will not cause any harm Or any ruin in all my holy mountain, Because the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah As the waters cover the sea.

(Isaiah 51:3) For Jehovah will comfort Zion. He will bring comfort to all her ruins, And he will make her wilderness like E'den And her desert plain like the garden of Jehovah. Exultation and rejoicing will be found in her, Thanksgiving and melodious song.

Paragraph 12

(Isaiah 35:5-10) At that time the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. 6 At that time the lame will leap like the deer, And the tongue of the speechless will shout for joy. For waters will burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert plain. 7 The heat-parched ground will become a reedy pool, And the thirsty ground springs of water. In the lairs where jackals rested, There will be green grass and reeds and papyrus. 8 And a highway will be there, Yes, a way called the Way of Holiness. The unclean one will not travel on it. It is reserved for the one walking on the way; No one foolish will stray onto it. 9 No lion will be there, And no vicious wild beasts will come on it. They will not be found there; Only the repurchased ones will walk there. 10 Those redeemed by Jehovah will return and come to Zion with a joyful cry. Unending joy will

crown their heads. Exultation and rejoicing will be theirs, And grief and sighing will flee away.

(Genesis 2:10-14) Now there was a river flowing out of E'den to water the garden, and from there it divided into four rivers. 11 The name of the first is Pi'shon; it is the one encircling the entire land of Hav'i-lah, where there is gold. 12 The gold of that land is good. Bdellium gum and onyx stone are also there. 13 The name of the second river is Gi'hon; it is the one encircling the entire land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Hid'de-kel; it is the one going to the east of As-syr'i-a. And the fourth river is the Eu-phra'tes.

(Jeremiah 31:12) They will come and shout joyfully on the height of Zion And become radiant over the goodness of Jehovah, Over the grain and the new wine and the oil, And over the young of the flock and the herd. They will become like a well-watered garden, And they will never languish again."

Paragraph 13

(Isaiah 65:21-23) They will build houses and live in them, And they will plant vineyards and eat their fruitage. 22 They will not build for someone else to inhabit, Nor will they plant for others to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, And the work of their hands my chosen ones will enjoy to the full. 23 They will not toil for nothing, Nor will they bear children for distress, Because they are the offspring made up of those blessed by Jehovah, And their descendants with them.

Paragraph 16

(Luke 23:39-42) Then one of the criminals hanging there began to speak abusively to him, saying: "You are the Christ, are you not? Save yourself and us too!" 40 In response the other rebuked him, saying: "Do you not fear God at all, now that you have received the same judgment?

41 And we rightly so, for we are getting back what we deserve for the things we did; but this man did nothing wrong." 42 Then he said: "Jesus, remember me when you get into your Kingdom."

(Luke 23:43) And he said to him: "Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise."

Paragraph 18

(Matthew 12:40) For just as Jo'nah was in the belly of the huge fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

(Matthew 16:21) From that time forward, Jesus began explaining to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed, and on the third day be raised up.

(Matthew 17:22, 23) It was while they were gathered together in Gal'i-lee that Jesus said to them: "The Son of man is going to be betrayed into men's hands, 23 and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised up." And they were very much grieved.

(Mark 10:34) and these will mock him and spit on him and scourge him and kill him, but three days later he will rise."

(Acts 10:39, 40) And we are witnesses of all the things he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem; but they did away with him by hanging him on a stake. 40 God raised this one up on the third day and allowed him to become manifest,

(Acts 2:31, 32) he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in the Grave nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 God resurrected this Jesus, and of this we are all witnesses.

[Footnotes]

- (Matthew 12:40) For just as Jo'nah was in the belly of the huge fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.
- (Acts 2:31) he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in the Grave nor did his flesh see corruption.
- (Romans 10:7) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' that is, to bring Christ up from the dead."

Paragraph 19

(Deuteronomy 6:6) These words that I am commanding you today must be on your heart,

(Deuteronomy 7:11) Therefore, take care to keep the commandments and the regulations and the judicial decisions that I am commanding you today, by observing them.

(Deuteronomy 8:1) "You should be careful to observe every commandment that I am giving you today, so that you may continue living and multiply and go in and take possession of the land about which Jehovah swore to your forefathers.

(Deuteronomy 8:19) "If you should ever forget Jehovah your God and you walk after other gods and serve them and bow down to them, I do bear witness against you today that you will surely perish.

(Deuteronomy 30:15) "See, I do put before you today life and good, and death and bad.

Paragraph 21

(Luke 22:29) and I make a covenant with you, just as my Father has made a covenant with me, for a kingdom,

(John 3:3-6) In response Jesus said to him: "Most truly I say to you, unless anyone is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." 4 Nic·o·de'mus said to him: "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter into the womb of his mother a second time and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered: "Most truly I say to you, unless anyone is born from water and spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. 6 What has been born from the flesh is flesh, and what has been born from the spirit is spirit.

(John 3:12) If I have told you earthly things and you still do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

(2 Corinthians 12:1-4) I have to boast. It is not beneficial, but I will move on to supernatural visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in union with Christ who, 14 years ago—whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know; God knows—was caught away to the third heaven. 3 Yes, I know such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body, I do not know; God knows— 4 who was caught away into paradise and heard words that cannot be spoken and that are not lawful for a man to say.

Paragraph 22

(Psalm 37:29) The righteous will possess the earth, And they will live forever on it.

(2 Peter 3:13) But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell.

(Isaiah 65:22) They will not build for someone else to inhabit, Nor will they plant for others to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, And the work of their hands my chosen ones will enjoy to the full.

(Revelation 21:1-4) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea is no more. 2 I also saw the holy city, New

Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: “Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his people. And God himself will be with them. 4 And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”