

ISRAEL  
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Israel**

**TITLE: Program 13 – Eternal Life – Torment Or Paradise?**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OPEN**

Have you ever asked the question, “What happens when I die?” It’s a good question to ask. And the answers are found really in this place where I am standing. At my back is Golgotha. Golgotha means the place of the skull. And you can hear the sounds of the city around me. You see Jesus was crucified in a very public place. Jesus was crucified on a road where all the passersby could see the death of the criminals. In those day, you wouldn’t hear of the honking of the cars and the cabs. But you would hear the bleating of the animals. You would hear the camels as they cobbled by and as everyone looked at the one that was hanging on a cross, the One who tells us what happens when we die.

**PART ONE**

It’s a windy, blustery, rainy day in Jerusalem. It’s Shabbat, it’s the Sabbath. And the Jews are celebrating their day of rest. It’s the second day of

Ramadan, the beginning of a month of holy days for the Muslim nation. And I'm standing with Golgotha at my back, as I told you, the place of the skull. It's in the midst of a bus station and you hear all the sounds that go with people and horns and activity. It was in this place that Jesus Christ was crucified. But before He ever died He wanted people to understand what happens when they die and He made that very clear. The account is given to us in the Gospel of Luke in the 16th chapter. I do not believe that it's a parable, because usually the Scriptures tell us if Jesus is saying a parable. This is very detailed. Listen to what He says. "Now there was a [certain] rich man, [a very definite person,] and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, [gaily] living in splendor everyday. And a [certain] poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now [it came about that] the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. [And] in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried...and [he] said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus...that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'" (Luke 16:19-24) Where was this rich man? He died and he was in Hades. He was in Sheol. He was in the netherworld. He was in the place of the grave, the place of the dead. "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received...good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here...,'" and where was he? He was in Abraham's bosom. He says, "'...and you are in agony.'" (16:25) And where is this man? He is in Hades. And remember, he's in torment in the torment of fire. And it says, "'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed [in order] that those who wish to come over here to you [may] not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' And he said, [the rich man,] '...I beg you,

Father, that you send him to my father's house- for I have five brothers...that [they] may warn them, [lest] they...also come to this place of torment.”(16:26-28) What I want you to see and what I want you to understand is that Jesus wanted to explain to us very clearly where the dead went, where the dead went before Jesus Christ went to Golgotha and was crucified, before He was buried and was raised from he dead. He wanted us to understand that there was a netherworld, that there was a chasm separated between a place of agony and Abraham's bosom. He wanted us to understand that although those that were in flames and torment would have desired to escape that place, to go across that chasm, to go into Abraham's bosom, that it was too late. Why? Because the Bible tells us in Hebrews, chapter 9, verse 23 (It is really verse 27), that, [“it is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment.”] (PARAPHRASE Hebrews 9:27) What happens when you die? When you die, you, my friend, step into eternity, an eternity that is fixed, an eternity that can never ever be changed. And you say, “How can I determine, is there any way that I can determine where I will go when I step into eternity?” Yes there is a way beloved. And we'll talk about it today. But first let me finish what Jesus had to say. Remember the rich man says, [“Okay, if I can't come over there, I've got five brothers. Those five brothers are still alive, please, please Father Abraham, send someone to tell them that this is a place of torment, that this is a place that they can avoid. Tell them to do whatever is necessary so that they don't come to this place.”] (PARAPHRASE Luke 16:27-28) And he said, “...‘they have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’”(Luke 16:29) In other words in this Bible, in Genesis, in Exodus, in Leviticus, in Numbers, in Deuteronomy, and Joshua and Judges, all the way through to the book of Malachi, the Bible that existed in those days, there was the answer to where a man would spend eternity. He says, “...‘They have Moses...[they have] the Prophets; let them hear them.’”(16:29) Now one of the things that Moses told us about when he wrote the book of Genesis,

under God's direction, was he told us of the day that Abraham was saved. In Genesis, chapter 15, God explained to Abraham that Abraham would have a seed and that that seed was the Christ, the Promised One. We know this from the Gospels. Because it said that Jesus said, "...Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and [he] was glad." (John 8:56) Abraham understood that Messiah would be born. Abraham understood that Messiah would come through his loins, through the loins later of his son Isaac, and later of his son Jacob and through the twelve tribes, through the tribe of Judah, through the house of David. Abraham understood that Messiah was coming. Now Abraham didn't really really know about Isaac and Jacob and Judah and David at that time, but he knew that Messiah would come from him. And it says that, "...Abraham believed God, and it was [counted] to him [for] righteousness." (Galatians 3:6) The book of Galatians and the book of Romans tells us that this is the day that Abraham was saved by faith. So the Bible makes it very very clear how to have salvation, how to escape a place of torment and how to go to Abraham's bosom. Abraham, who believed God and as a result of faith was counted righteous, counted righteous before he was ever circumcised, counted righteous before the Law ever came by Moses. And so, "...Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear [him].' But he said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!'" (Luke 16:29-30) What does it mean to repent? To repent means to have a change of mind. And he says, "Send him someone from the dead." Who's the one that's giving us this account? It's the One that was raised from the dead. It's the One that was crucified at Golgotha. It's the One that was made sin for us, that you and I might be made the righteousness of God. It's the One in whom we believe and receive eternal life. He's the One that came back from the dead. And, "[Abraham] said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and [to] the Prophets, [neither will] they...be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'" (16:31) In other words what you and I need to understand is this:

You and I need to understand that salvation has always been by faith. It's never by keeping the Law. It's never by being circumcised. It's never simply by being baptized. It's never by joining a church. It's always been by faith. Now let me explain. Let me show you this diagram so that you understand what happened when people died before Jesus was crucified. If you listened carefully, you saw that there were two parts to Hades. There was the place of torment. Then there was the place of Abraham's bosom. And in between was a great chasm. Now the other thing that you see is that this man, this rich man that died, could look across that chasm. He could see Abraham. He could see Lazarus in Abraham's bosom. He could see that there was peace and that there was quiet and he was in agony and he was in torment. And so he cried and said, ["Please send Lazarus, send this servant, send this man, this poor man to dip his finger in the water and touch my tongue, for I am in flames and in torment."] (PARAPHRASE 16:24) What were these two parts? Well, we believe from studying the rest of the Scriptures that one part of that was the place of the dead that God will enlarge for all time until death is cast into the lake of fire. He will enlarge it to receive the dead. But the other side, what's the other side? The other side is a place called Paradise. And I'll tell you about that and how you when you die can know that you're stepping into Paradise. We'll be right back and talk about it.

## **PART TWO**

Until Jesus Christ died every soul that died went either to Abraham's bosom, because in faith they had looked forward to the coming of Messiah. Or they went to this place of agony where the rich man went. But after Jesus Christ died at Golgotha, after He was buried and raised again from the dead, then those who looked in faith to God and to Jesus Christ, those who received Jesus Christ as their Lord, as their Savior went to another place. Where did they go? They went to heaven. Immediately they were absent from the body and they were present with the Lord. But that could not happen until Jesus

Christ was raised from the dead. Remember when we studied 1 Corinthians 15? Jesus had to be the first fruits from the dead. And then after that, men when they died, could go immediately into the presence of God. Now let me explain to you exactly what happened when Jesus Christ died on the cross and was buried. The Bible tells us that He descended into hell. But the literal word is not hell, gehennan. The literal word is the lake of fire. Listen again carefully to Acts, chapter 2, quoting Psalm 16. It says, “Because [Thou] will not abandon my soul to Hades....”(Acts 2:27a) Now this is the place of the dead until Jesus Christ is raised from the dead. Now God did not leave Jesus Christ in Hades, in the place of the dead. Because Jesus Christ, through His death satisfied God’s holiness. And so therefore God raised Him from the dead. Now when Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and He ascended into heaven, the book of Ephesians gives us a very interesting statement. In Ephesians, chapter 4 verse 8, it says, “... ‘When He...,’” speaking of Jesus, ““...ascended on high, [when He ascended into heaven,] He led captive a host of captives, and gave gifts to men.””(Ephesians 4:8) In other words, when Jesus Christ ascended to heaven after He was the first fruits from the dead, then He could lead all of those who were in the Paradise side of Hades, He could take them to heaven. Remember when Jesus Christ hung on the cross. Remember the thieves that He talked to, the criminals, and remember how He said to one, who said, “...remember me when You come in[to] Your kingdom!”(Luke 23:42) In other words, [“I know that You’re the King. I know that You’re God. I know that You’re the Messiah. Will You remember me when You come into Your kingdom?”] Remember that Jesus Christ said to him, “...[this] day [thou] shall be with Me...,” where? You’ve got it. In Paradise. Now Paradise we believe then was the side of Abraham’s bosom. It was a pleasant side. Remember that Lazarus died and he was in Abraham’s bosom and he was content while the rich man was in the other side and he was in agony and in flames. But once Jesus Christ died, once He was buried, once He was raised from the dead, once He ascended to heaven

as the first born from the dead, as Colossians says, then all those in that Paradise side could be taken to heaven. So what happens to us now? When we die, we are absent from the body and we are present with the Lord. Let me show this to you, let me take you to 2 Corinthians, chapter 5. In 2 Corinthians, chapter 5, Paul is explaining how this mortal puts on immortality. He's explaining how we shed this earthly tent and how we're clothed with a tent from heaven. And in the midst of saying this, he says, in verse 8, "We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and..." Listen very carefully. "...to be at home with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:8) Now where is Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. He's waiting until all of His enemies be made His footstool. Then Jesus Christ is going to return to the earth. He's going to rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He's going to set up His kingdom and it's going to last for a thousand years, as Revelation, chapter 20 tells us. Now, when Jesus Christ died, just so that you make sure that you understand, He descended into Hades. All right. Then He went to heaven. He led that host of captives that were there until He was raised from the dead. So He took Paradise from Hades and put Paradise in heaven. If you do not believe in Jesus Christ, then you can know that when you die, you will go this place of agony. You will go to this place of torment and you will stay there until after Jesus Christ comes to rule and reign on the face of this earth. You will stay there during that whole millennial reign of Jesus Christ and then you will be delivered up to judgment. Let me show you what it says in the last and final book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, the apocalypse, the uncovering. In Revelation, chapter 20, it says, "And...I saw a great white throne and Him who sat...on it, from whose presence...heaven [and earth] fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and [the] books were opened..." (Revelation 20:11-12a) Now who's standing before the throne? It's not those who have fallen asleep in Jesus, because they are with God.

The minute that they die, they are absent from the body and they are present with the Lord. They go to Paradise. So those that are standing before the throne of God according to this passage are the dead, those who have never really known life. They were born dead in their trespasses and sins. They never believed on Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ is life. Jesus says, “He [that] has the Son has...life; [and] he [that has not] the Son of God [has] not...life.”(1 John 5:12) I want to ask you a question. Do you have the Son of God? Is Jesus Christ inside of you? This is the hope of glory, Christ in you. And He comes in you by faith. He comes in you when you receive Him as your Lord, as your God, as your Savior. If all of a sudden, you were to die? Where would you be? Would you be in flames and torment? Would you be among these dead that are some day going to stand before the great white throne? And it says, “...and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in [them], and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one...according to their deeds. [And] death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, ...” And listen to me very carefully. “...And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”(Revelation 12b-15) Do you know what? God is not willing that any should perish. Jesus died so that you who were dead might have life. If you don’t believe in Him, your name is erased from the book of life. What will happen to you when you die?