

DOCTRINE OF A NEW AND LIVING WAY

In our lesson text, the writer shows how God opened a New Living Way to the third heaven with the new covenant historical Christology.

This lesson will study five aspects of a New Living Way to heaven under the New Covenant.

You ask, “How do we know the New Living Way was to heaven?”

1. At the Last supper, before His crucifixion, Jesus introduced the doctrine of the New and Living Way to His disciples.

(John 14:6) “I **am the way**, and the truth, and **the life**; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

The “**Way**” became a name given to the followers of Jesus Christ by the Jews.

(Acts 9:1-2 “Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the WAY, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.” (Acts 19:8-9, 23-27; 24:22).

2. Writer introduced us to the New Living Way to enter the holy place by the blood and flesh of Jesus.

(Heb.10:19-20) “Therefore (oun) (Heb.10:17-18), brethren, since we have confidence to enter (eis+acc ten eisodon/ asf) the holy place (ton hagios/ gpln) by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh.”

(Heb.9:24) “For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but **in to heaven itself**, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” (1 John 2:1)

(Heb.9:12) “**And not through** the blood of goats and calves, **but through his own blood**, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”

This leads to another question, “What is the difference between an Old Covenant believer’s death and going to heaven than a New Covenant believer’ death?”

3. When an Old Covenant believer died, he went to Hades to await the order of the resurrection of the Second Coming of Christ (1 Cor.15:20-23).

(Luke 6:22-23) “Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In **Hades** he lifted up his eyes, because he was in torment, and saw **Abraham** far away and Lazarus in his bosom.” (Luke 6:28-31)

(Luke 23:43) “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in **Paradise.**”

(Acts 2:31 “He looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.” (Acts 2:37; Ps.16:8-10; 1 Pet.3:18-20; Matt.12:40)

4. New Covenant death is connected to the Jesus' Resurrection-Ascension and His being seated in the third heaven.

(Acts 2:33) "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear." (Acts 1:11)

(Col.1:18) "He is also head of the body, the church, and He is the beginning, the **firstborn from the dead**, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything." (Rev.1:5)

(Col.3:1) "Therefore if (1st class condition "if" = true) **you** have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Eph.2:5-6)

5. When a New Covenant believer dies, he goes immediately to the third heaven into the presence of Christ.

(2 Cor.12:2) "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not now, or out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a man was **caught up** to the third heaven."

(2 Cor.12:4) "**Caught up** into Paradise

(1 Thess.4:17) "Then we who are **alive and remain** will be **caught up** together with them in the cloud to meet the Lord in the air, and **so we shall always be with the Lord**."

(2 Cor.5:8) "We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." (Phil.1:23)