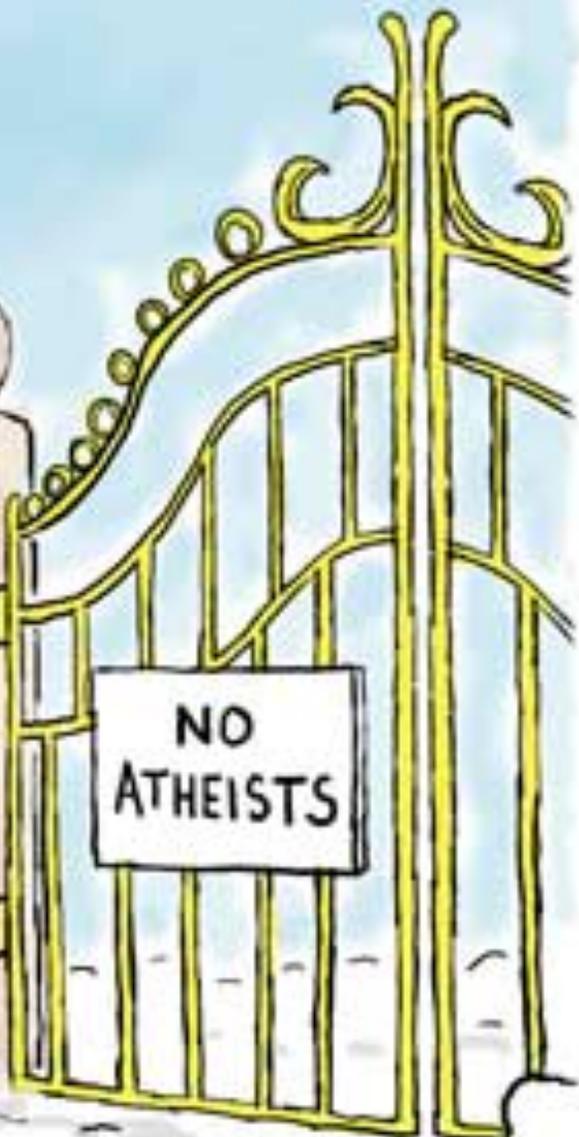


I DON'T BELIEVE IT.



Chris Madden.

After Life

Session 4: It's All in the Timing

Today's Question:

When do we get to
go to heaven?

So far we've studied...

- Why we die
- If we'll be resurrected
- What we'll be like when we're resurrected



After Life

Session 4: It's All in the Timing

Today's Question:

When do we get to
go to heaven?

Things we say...

- “They’ve gone to be with God”
- “They’re looking down on us from heaven”
- “Angels in heaven are rejoicing, welcoming a new arrival”
- “Daddy’s in heaven with Jesus”
- etc.

It begs the question:

How can anyone be in
heaven (or hell) before
the judgement day?

What's the timing?

- “...a time is coming when **all who are in their graves** will hear his voice and come out...” (John 5:28)
- “You will rest, and then **at the end of the days you will rise...**” (Daniel 12:13)
- “For David **did not** [yet] **ascend to heaven...**” (Acts 2:34)
- “...man lies down and **does not rise till the heavens are no more...**” (Job 14:12)
- “...He will appear a second time...to bring salvation to those **who are waiting for him.**” (Hebrews 9:28)

What's the timing?

- “...until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed **in the last time.**” (1 Peter 1:5)
- Paul's “crown” - 2 Timothy 4:8
 - He'll receive his crown **from the Judge**
 - He'll receive it **on “that day”**
 - He'll receive it **with the other saints**
- And others...

But what about Paul?

“...I desire to depart and
be with Christ”

Philippians 1:22

The Orderly Resurrection

I Thessalonians 4:15-17

1. The Lord will come down from heaven
2. Dead Christians will be brought back to life
3. Living Christians will be brought up “in the clouds”
4. Together, we’ll all meet the Lord in the air and be with Him forever

Everyone (good and bad)
will be judged together.

Until then, we wait.

What about the thief?



What about the thief?

“I tell you the truth,
today you will be with
me in paradise.”

Luke 23:43

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Luke 23:43

#1: What does He mean by
“paradise?”



#1: What does He mean by
“paradise?”

Probably “heaven”

#2: Where was Jesus going to be that day?

- If the Thief was in Heaven, then Jesus was in Heaven
- After His resurrection:
 - “...I have **not yet returned** to my Father.” (John 20:17)

#3: What was promised?

Possibly...

- The “right” to enter heaven. i.e., salvation
 - Rev. 2:7 - “To him who overcomes, I will give **the right to eat** from the tree of life, which is **in the paradise of God.**”
 - The thief asked for a relationship, not a place
 - For him, “today” was the day of his salvation

If you're still not sure...

- “...in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; **then, when he comes**, those who belong to him.” (1 Corinthians 15:22-23)
- “**No-one has ever gone into heaven** except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man.” (John 3:13)

There is no

...heaven before judgement.

There is no

...judgement until the resurrection.

There is no

...resurrection until Christ returns.

Until then,
where are we?

(next week)