



# Q & A

## Questions and Answers

*Reference: People's Questions*

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**Q :** *Who appeared to Manoah to evangelize him with the birth of his son Samson? Some said he is the angel of the Lord for when Manoah asked Him about His name, He answered him “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful” (Judges 23:17-18).*

**A :** He is the Lord who took the shape of the angel of the Lord. When He said, “why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful” we are reminded of Isaiah’s prophesy about our Lord Jesus Christ: “and his name will be called wonderful, counselor, Mighty God, ever lasting Father, Prince of peace” (Isaiah 1:6). Another proof concerns the flame which went up towards the heavens from the altar. The angel of the Lord ascended in the flame, so Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, because we have seed God!” (Judges 13:20-21). However, his wife said to him, “if the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time” (Judges 13:23).

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### *“Today you will be with Me in Paradise”*

**Q :** *Is it true that the right hand thief was the first to enter Paradise as the Lord Jesus promised him: “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43)?*

**A :** The Lord Jesus promised the right hand thief that he will be with him in Paradise on the same day, but He did not promise him that he would be the first to enter Paradise. It is not plausible



that the repentant thief would be the first to enter before all God's prophets and fathers such as Moses, Noah, David Daniel, Abraham, Isaac Jacob.

***To explain this further:***

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave up His spirit on the cross at the ninth hour of Great Friday "Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour, then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, into your hands I commit My spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last" (Luke 23:44-46). Also, as we pray in the ninth hour from the Agpeya:


{O, Who tasted death in the flesh in the ninth hour for our sake, we the sinners, put to death our carnal lusts, O Christ, our God, and deliver us. Let my supplication draw close before You, O Lord; according to your word give me understanding. Let my petition come before Your presence; according to Your word revive me.....}

After the Lord Jesus Christ's death, He descended "into the lower parts of the earth" (Eph 4: 9) and He took the spirits of all the saints and prophets who died with the hope of resurrection. He took them with Him from the abyss and He entered with them into Paradise.

All of this occurred while the two thieves were still alive on their crosses as they did not yet die; {Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a High day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.} (John 19:31-33)

The two thieves died after the soldiers broke their legs and brought them down from the crosses during the eleventh hour of Great Friday.

During the period between the Lord Jesus Christ's death and the right hand thief's death, two hours elapsed between the ninth hour and the eleventh hour. The Lord Jesus Christ took all His prophets and saints who died on the hope of the resurrection, opened the paradise for them, and let them enter. Later, at the eleventh hour when the right hand thief died, the Lord Jesus brought him, too, into His paradise



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