



One of the alleged “contradictions” in the Bible is that there is a contradiction about when Jesus went to “Paradise”. Here is the claimed contradiction:

Did Jesus ascend to Paradise the same day of the crucifixion?

(a) Yes. He said to the thief who defended him, “Today you will be with me in Paradise” ([Luke 23:43](#))

(b) No. He said to Mary Magdalene two days later, "I have not yet ascended to the Father" (John 20:17)

The seeming problem here comes from the punctuation of **Luke 23:43** in most translations, which makes it appear as though Jesus went to "paradise" the day he died. **"He [Jesus] said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in paradise' (Luke 23:43).**

He didn't. Notice:

"Ancient texts were not punctuated. The comma could come before or after today"—Lamsa translation note on Luke 23:43

An accurate rendering of **Luke 23:43** is:

"I say unto thee this day: with me shalt thou be in paradise"—Luke 23:43 The Emphasized Bible, by J B Rotherham

Jesus, at **Luke 23:43**, told the repentant thief beside him that he would be with him in paradise in the future. Why?

Because Jesus was not in paradise himself that day. Where was he?

Jesus tells us: **"I was dead" (Revelation 1:18). "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3).** Therefore, Jesus was not alive, nor was he able to go anywhere, or do anything, after he died Friday afternoon

Death is the opposite, or absence, of life. **"There is no work and reasonings and knowledge and wisdom in Hades" (Ecclesiastes 9:10 NETS).** A dead person can't do anything. Was Jesus dead in Hades the day he died? Yes. Jesus was dead from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning when God resurrected him from the dead. Notice:

“His soul was not left in Hades” (Acts 2:31 NKJV), because on the third day, **“this Jesus God resurrected” (Acts 2:32 HCSB)**. At the point of Jesus’ being brought back to life on that Sunday morning, he was able to do something. **“Forty days [later] . . . Jesus . . . was . . . taken up into heaven” (Acts 1:3,11)**.

Thus, there is no contradiction in the Bible about when Jesus went to paradise.