

# A BIBLICAL Examination of HELL

DR. MAX D. YOUNCE



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**DR. MAX D. YOUNCE**

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*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Translation of the Bible.*

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008909452

**ISBN-13:** 978-0-9815225-1-7

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Printed in the USA

By:

**Morris Publishing**  
3212 E. Hwy. 30  
Kearney, NE 68848

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## THE REALITY OF HELL

I scream and cry in agony, and shed evaporating tears.  
You'd think my body would burn up, I've been here so many years!

There is no end in sight, we just keep adding to the crowd.  
My lying preacher is down here, too; and screaming just as loud!

He, and others, lied to me, baptism is not accepted.  
This is where I ended up because the Savior I rejected.

I'm not sitting in a corner, playing cards and drinking beer;  
Like the joke I used to tell to every listening ear.

The Devil is not the King of Hell. I'm told he'll be here, too.  
The all powerful God is in control and has his end in view.

Sadly, some here knew the Bible; but did not comprehend it's worth.  
They failed to believe Christ died for them while they were still on earth.

It's dark, there's excruciating pain, and shadows moving in the flame.  
I pass the time and gnaw my tongue until they call my name.

I've been told it will get worse after the Great White Throne.  
It all depends on what's in the books. I'm lost! I'll stand alone.

The cruelest tool is the memory of those who witnessed to me  
I remember how I ridiculed them, and failed the truth to see.

They told me Jesus died for me; if I only had believed.  
My sins would all have been forgiven, and Eternal life received.

The pain, the flames, and memory, are my most miserable fate.  
Hell is a real place, after all; and I have believed too late!

*"...behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation:..." (2 Corinthians 6:2)*

## INTRODUCTION

At a Wednesday evening service on January 12, 1983, a discussion evolved at the conclusion of the service from a statement I had made. I stated that Christ went to Paradise between His death on the Cross and His Resurrection three days later. One man stated he had heard from several preachers that Christ's spirit was remaining in Hell for all eternity to pay for our sins. Another thought Christ went to Hell to pay for our sins. Their thoughts could not be supported by Scripture and several requests were made for an exposition in writing on the subject of Hell.

This writing is the outcome of these requests. This is by no means an exhaustive study on this subject, but rather charts and comments to help clarify much misunderstanding concerning the subject of Hell.

We shall attempt to cover the following aspects to some degree concerning the subject of Hell:

- The mistranslation of the word "Hell."
- Show the various places of torment.
- What about the angels in Hell?
- The Great White Throne Judgment.
- Where did the saved and lost go in the Old Testament?
- Where is Hell located?
- Where do the lost go today?
- Is Hell real, or just a scare tactic?
- Where did Christ go when He died?
- Many other questions will be answered that people have asked about Hell from time to time.

I have also prepared seven charts which I believe will simplify and help clarify the Bible teaching on this important subject. The charts cover the following:

- Chart One shows the location of Hades.
- Chart Two shows the abode of the saved and lost of the Old Testament.



- Chart Three shows where Christ went between His death and Resurrection.
- Chart Four shows Christ anointing the Mercy Seat in Heaven during the first eight days after His Resurrection.
- Chart Five shows Christ's Ascension to Heaven with all the Old Testament Saints.
- Chart Six shows the lost in Hades going to the Great White Throne Judgment for judgment, then cast into the Lake of Fire.
- Chart Seven shows the Two Resurrections.

The subject of Hell is not the most pleasant to write or preach about, as all of us may have friends, relatives and loved ones who have not received Christ as Savior before they died. Nevertheless, the Lord has inserted much in His Word of the reality of this horrid place, warning the wicked of their eternal destiny should they reject Him. I hope this book will not only give us a more vivid understanding of Hell, but also a burning desire to win the lost to Christ.



# I. HELL IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

## *Hell in The Old Testament*

The word "Hell" appears in the Old Testament approximately 31 times and, without exception, is translated from the Hebrew word "sheol." This same Hebrew word is also translated "pit" three different times. "Pit", translated from "sheol," is found in Numbers 16:30,33 and Job 17:16. Hell is referred to as a "pit" three times, both being the same place.

Sheol is not "the grave." A mistranslation—"sheol" is also translated as "grave" approximately 25 times in the Old Testament; which has caused much confusion concerning the Doctrine of Hell. Jehovah's Witnesses utilize this translational error to the fullest, claiming Hell is the grave and nothing more. When we look at the Hebrew, we find that the word "gibrah" is properly used for "grave." "Gibrah" is translated throughout the Old Testament as "grave, burying place, and sepulchre," and correctly so. Sheol is never in any case in the Old Testament ever referring to a grave, burying place or sepulchre; but, rather a place located in the center of the earth. The grave, burying place and sepulchre houses our dead bodies, but Sheol is the compartment that contains the souls and spirits that will never die; and which were *in* those earthly bodies.

Here are a few of the places where the Hebrew word "sheol" is mistranslated as "grave" in the Old Testament. Beside the passages in parenthesis is the way it appears in the Revised Standard. The Revised Standard has transliterated; i.e., put the Hebrew word "sheol" itself in the English translation. There is one exception where "sheol" is translated as "pit" by the Revised Standard and that is Job 33:22. This would be correct, since Sheol is a pit located in the center of the earth.

1. Job 7:9. (RSV has sheol) *"As a cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more."*
2. Psalms 6:5. (RSV has sheol) *"For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?"*
3. Psalm 31:17. (RSV has sheol) *"Let me not be ashamed, O Lord; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave."*
4. Psalm 49:15. (RSV has sheol) *"But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me."*
5. Job 33:22. (Pit) *"Yea, his soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers."*

6. Isaiah 38:18. (RSV has sheol) *"For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee: they that go down into the Pit cannot hope for thy truth."*
7. 1 Samuel 2:6. (RSV has sheol) *"The Lord killeth and maketh alive; he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up."*
8. Hosea 13:14. (RSV has sheol) *"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: ... O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes."*

The correct Hebrew word for "grave, burying place or sepulchre" is "gibrah" and is never used in reference to Sheol or the Pit, located in the earth's core. In the manner of the Hebrew, "Sheol" is referring to its own place, and not that of the grave or sepulchre at any time.

Here are a few of the places where "gibrah" is properly translated in the King James as "grave, sepulchre and burying place:"

1. 1 Kings 13:30. *"And he laid his carcase in his own grave ..."*
2. 2 Samuel 3:32. *"And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the King lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner..."*
3. Psalm 88:5. *"Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more..."*
4. 2 Samuel 2:32. *"And they took up Asahel and buried him in the sepulchre of his father..."*
5. Genesis 47:30. *"But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burying place."*

I have taken a little time to point out this translational error, as it is imperative if one is to understand that the grave and sheol are entirely two separate places. If this is not brought into focus, then the mistranslation would lead one to believe that Hell is in the grave and nothing more. Again, I want to point out that this is the teaching of Armstrongism, Jehovah's Witnesses and many of the cults—that is why it is so important to understand the difference in the Hebrew words and; when they are and, are not, properly translated concerning this subject.

This is by no means an exhaustive word study; but a brief look to distinguish the difference between the words "grave" (gibrah) and "sheol" (Hell).

In the King James translation, without exception, everywhere in the Old Testament where the word Hell appears, it is always translated from the Hebrew "sheol".

1. Isaiah 5:14. *"Hell("sheol") hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp ... shall descend into it."*
2. Psalm 9:17. *"The wicked shall be turned into hell ("sheol"), and all the nations that forget God."*
3. Proverbs 7:27. *"Her house is the way to hell ("sheol"), going down to the chambers of death."*
4. Isaiah 14:15. *"Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell ("sheol"), to the sides of the pit."*
5. Deuteronomy 32:22. *"For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell ("sheol"), and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains."*

This is all that the lost have to look forward to when they die. How grateful we are that *"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son (Christ) that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

### ***Hell in The New Testament***

At this point it should be noted that the Old Testament "Sheol" (Hell) and the New Testament "Hades" (Hell) are the same place. It was located in the center of the earth and had two compartments; one was Paradise for the saved, and the other was Torment for the lost. This will be qualified later in the book. Read Luke 16:22-26. Here we find in Hades, a great gulf separated Torment for the lost and Paradise for the saved. Paradise is also known as "Abraham's Bosom."

Let me illustrate the importance of recognizing the two compartments of Sheol, as translated "Hell" in the Old Testament. In Psalm 139, David is praising God for his attributes of omniscience and omnipresence. Notice Verses 7 and 8, *"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in HELL (Heb. "sheol"), behold, thou art there."* The word "heaven" here is in the plural (Heb. "shamayim"). The "im" is the plural and should read *"If I ascend up into the heavens."* That is past the first heaven (our atmosphere), past the second heaven, (the planets), and on to the Third Heaven. David is

attesting to the fact that there is nowhere anyone can go to get away from the presence of God. Even if we should go past the planets, God is there.

Now we will go the other direction from the surface of the Earth, even to the center of the Earth where Sheol (Hell) is located, God is there. This is the basic point David is making; no one can escape the presence of God.

Now the statement David made that we are interested in, is this, *"If I make my bed in Hell ("sheol")..."* I have heard some say that David was lost and if he died then, his bed would be in Hell (Torment). I know I may be "splitting a hair"; but, this is why it is so important to understand that Sheol (English "Hell") had two compartments, Torment and Paradise. David here was a saved man, a "man after God's own heart;" and, if he was thinking deeper than the basic facts, he would have been thinking of making his bed in the Paradise side of Sheol, not the Torment side of Sheol (Hell).

In the New Testament the word "Hell" appears some 23 times and is translated from three Greek words. The three Greek words are "Hades," "Geenna," and "Tartaroo". Each one denotes a different or, separate, place of punishment. When the translators came to these three words in the Greek (all are referring to a place of torment), they used our one English word "Hell" which is the equivalent. It is equivalent as far as Torment is concerned; but, not as far as their location is concerned. This will be illustrated in Diagram One.

The three Greek words translated as "Hell" and where they appear in the Bible are as follows:

1. "Hades" translated "Hell" appears 10 times in the New Testament in the following places: Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15, 16:23; Acts 2:27,31; Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14.
2. The Greek word "Geenna" is translated "Hell" 12 times in the New Testament in the following places: Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15,33; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5; and James 3:6. Of these 12 times, it is spoken of 11 times by the Lord Jesus Christ in the Gospels, and once by James in chapter 3, Verse 6.
3. The Greek word "Tartaroo" appears only once in the whole New Testament and is translated "Hell" in 2 Peter 2:4. This is a separate place where the most wicked angels are kept and reserved unto judgment. They will be brought out of Tartaroo and cast into the Lake of Fire, where they will remain in torment forever.
4. "Hades" is translated once as "grave" in 1 Corinthians 15:55 and is a mistranslation.

With this basic information, we are now ready for Diagram One.

# DIAGRAM ONE

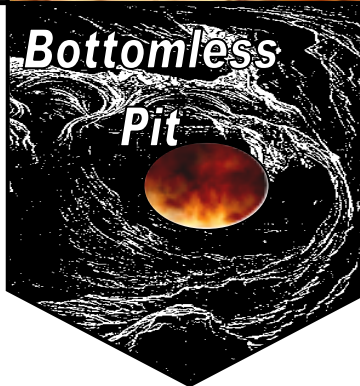
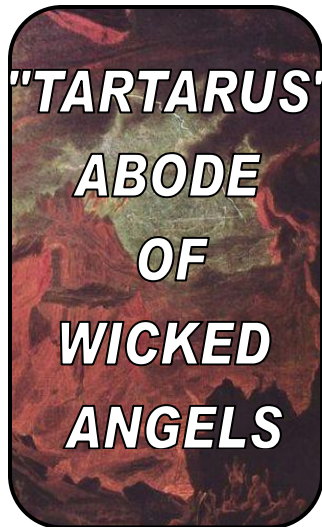
- A. ISAIAH 5:14 – *“Therefore hell (“sheol”) hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: ...”*
- B. PROVERBS 27:20 – *“Hell (“sheol”) and destruction are never full; ...”*

## GROUND SURFACE

PSALM 16:10  
OLD TESTAMENT

same

ACTS 2:27  
NEW TESTAMENT



## II. COMMENTARY ON DIAGRAM ONE

### *The Location of Sheol and Hades*

Sheol and Hades are both the same place, "Sheol" the Hebrew word and "Hades" the Greek word. This is substantiated by the same Scripture appearing in the Old Testament and the New Testament. In Psalm 16:10 we are told concerning Christ "**For thou wilt not leave my soul in Hell** (Hebrew, "sheol"), *neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy one (Christ) to see corruption.*" Notice that Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, speaking to the Jews quotes this same Scripture in Acts 2:27, "*Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell* (Greek, "Hades"), *neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One (Christ) to see corruption.*" The last part of this verse stating that Christ would not see corruption, is referring to His Resurrection. This is made clear by Acts 2:31, "*He (David) seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell* (Hades) *neither His flesh did see corruption.*"

Now, we are going to see how the NIV perverts a great doctrinal truth of God's Word. They mistranslate the Hebrew "Sheol" and Greek "Hades" in these three verses as "GRAVE" instead of "HELL". Here is the comparison:

#### A. Psalm 16:10

**KJT** *"For thou wilt not leave my soul in HELL (Hebrew "sheol") ... "*

**NIV** "because you will not abandon me to the GRAVE..."

#### B. Acts 2:27 - Peter Quoting Psalm 16:10.

**KJT** *"Because thou wilt not leave my soul in HELL (Greek "hades") ... "*

**NIV** "...because you will not abandon me to the GRAVE..."

#### C. Acts 2:31

**KJT** *"He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul (his person) was not left in HELL (Greek 'hades'), neither his flesh (body) did see corruption."*

**NIV** "Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the GRAVE, nor did his body see decay."

The NIV in their mistranslation of GRAVE, instead of HELL, puts Christ's body and soul in the grave for three days and three nights. This erroneously teaches the same

damnable doctrine as Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, and other cult religions. This perversion by the NIV contradicts Christ's own testimony that *"Today shalt thou be with me in PARADISE."* (Luke 23:43) Matthew 12:40, previously quoted, states that Christ—upon death—would descend into the *"heart of the earth."* This was the person of Christ—not His body, as it was in the tomb. Ephesians 4:9 agrees:

*"Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?"*

One does not have to know any Greek or Hebrew to be able to look this up for themselves. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* or *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* will substantiate the foregoing. If a layman can look this up and verify it; then, will you tell me how a "hundred scholars" can accidentally come up with a "misnomer" like this, which entices its readers to accept a false doctrine. Personally, I believe this was done deliberately and deceitfully.

When Christ died on the Cross; His soul and spirit went to Hades, being separated from the body, which went to the tomb. This verse, both in Psalms 16:10 and Acts 2:27, 31, state the soul and spirit of Christ would not remain in Hades, but would unite with His resurrected body after three days. The phrase *"that His body would not see corruption,"* is significant in that putrefaction and odor sets in on the fourth day. An example of this can be seen in the death of Lazarus who had been in the grave four days. In John 11:17 we are told that,

*"Then when Jesus came, he found that he (Lazarus) had lain in the grave four days already."*

Notice in Verse 39 that,

*"Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days."*

The fact that the body of Christ was not to see corruption" plainly meant that the body of Christ would be resurrected before the fourth day. He would not remain in the tomb to the fourth day.

We are not going to exhaust all the Scripture concerning the location of Sheol and Hades, but only give a couple to substantiate clearly where it is located.



### 1. Matthew 12:40 - Jonah

*For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

Acts 2:27 says that Christ went to Hades and, here, we are told He went to the heart of the Earth; so, Hades is located in the heart (middle or center) of the Earth.

### 2. Isaiah 14:9 - "Hell From Beneath..."

Here Isaiah is speaking concerning the fall of Babylon. *"Hell ("sheol") from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming..."* The word "beneath" here is the Hebrew word "tachath." It comes from a Hebrew root word meaning "to depress, the bottom, below and underneath." In other words, Sheol is located depressed, below, underneath and in the bottom of the Earth. (1)

### 3. The Two Compartments Within Sheol and Hades.

Within Hades, we learn from Luke 16, there are two compartments separated by a tremendous gulf. Prior to Christ's Ascension back to Heaven in Acts 1:11, both saved and lost went to one of the two compartments in Hades. The gulf separated the two places; which are called a place of torment (for the lost), and "Abraham's Bosom," or, Paradise for the saved. We must emphasize that Sheol and Hades are all-inclusive of both places. Only the context of the Scripture will determine whether a person went to Torment or Paradise within Hades.

Now in Luke 16 we find a Christian by the name of Lazarus who was very poor, financially; but when he died he went to the Paradise side of Hades. Here is the record in Verse 22, *"And it came to pass, that the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom..."* This is also the compartment where Christ went for three days and nights before His Resurrection. Notice in Luke 23:43 when Christ was speaking to the thief on the cross, who had trusted Him as Savior.

*"And Jesus said unto him (the thief), Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."*

Remember, no saved in the Old Testament ever went to Heaven; but, rather, to the Paradise side of Sheol and Hades.

Further, in Luke 16 we are told of a lost man who was very rich, but lost, and who went to the Torment side of Hades. Here is the record in verses 22b - 24.

*"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (22) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (23) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." (24)*

What a sad condition of the reality of what a lost person has to face when they die! Their joking about the Bible, their mocking of Christ, their evolutionary trash they have propagated, their taking of the Lord's name in vain, and their exalted opinion of themselves that they are their own god, will all come to an end. At death, they will be cast into this awful place of torment. Truly, they have played the fool as God has said in Psalm 14:1,

*"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Little realizing, until it is too late that, "The wicked shall be turned into Hell ("sheol"), and all the nations that forget God." (Psalms 9:17)*

We are now told that, within Hades, between Paradise and Torment, that there is a tremendous gulf separating the two places; so, that no one can go from one place to the other. Here is the record in Verse 26.

*"And beside all this, between us (Abraham and Lazarus) and you (lost men), there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."*

When the lost man realized there was no hope now for him, as his eternal destiny was sealed in this place of torment, he then interceded for his five brothers that were still alive. In Verses 27 and 28 we have the account.

*"Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldst send him to my father's house: (27) For I have five brethren: that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment." (28)*

This man was now a believer; but, it was too late for himself, so he prays that someone would tell his brothers. The Hebrew word for "pray" in Verse 27 brings out the strength of this man's feelings. The usual Greek word for "pray" when used in worship to God is "proseuchomai." But here a different word is used for pray, which is "erotao." This word means "interrogate, desire and entreat." In police work, interrogate means you keep asking in various, different, ways until you get what you want; which is the truth. You are persistent with a strong desire. The Greek word for "pray" lets us know that this man was more than just casually asking Abraham; but had a strong desire, persistently

asking in various different ways to persuade Abraham to send someone to warn his five brothers.

His persistence is recorded in Verse 30 after Abraham had just said to him, *"...They (his brothers) have Moses and the prophets: let them hear them."* Here is his reply, *"and he said, Nay, Father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent (change their mind)."* No doubt he was still trying; but to no avail, for Abraham closed the conversation when he told him,

*"If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. "*

This is a true and literal account of the conversation between a lost man in the Torment of Hades and Abraham in the Paradise side of Hades. A true account of where they were and what they said. Now let us briefly analyze some important facts from Luke 16:19-31:

1. Hades has two compartments: one is Paradise and the other is Torment.
2. They are separated by a large gulf.
3. No one can pass from Torment to Paradise.
4. The lost and saved went immediately to their respective places.
5. They were taken there by the angels of God.
6. In Torment this man had a tongue, could feel the flames of Torment, could talk, could think and reason. He had all the attributes in Hades that he had on Earth.
7. He possessed a spiritual or soulish body which had sensitivity and reasoning; but could not be annihilated by the flames of Torment. We might point out that this is not his resurrected body unto damnation, which he will have when he is later cast into the Lake of Fire. This will be illustrated on Diagram Six.
8. No one will go back from Paradise to talk with those still alive on the Earth, as this lost man had requested.
9. Moses and the prophets did record the death, burial and Resurrection of Christ in the Bible. Since Christ did come back from the dead, there are those who will not believe it; neither would they if someone also came back today.
10. A doctrinal consideration—many claim this is a parable, but one will find that

no parable ever uses a proper name. There are no exceptions. Hypothetically, if this were a parable, then the reality of Hell would be much worse, for parables are given to illustrate a Biblical truth.

We can only thank God for telling us of this awful place that we have been delivered from by trusting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. He gave His life to save ours—what a Savior!

### ***"Tartarus"***

"Tartarus," a verb, is translated Hell only once in the New Testament. It is found in 2 Peter 2:4:

*"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (tartarus), and delivered them unto chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."*

Now concerning the same angels, mention is made again in Jude 6:

*"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day (Great White Throne Judgment)."*

The exact location of Tartarus is not known. This place is not Sheol or Hades, or the eternal Lake of Fire; which is the same place as "Geenna" or Gehenna in the Greek. These are all separate places.

In Matthew 25:41 we learn that, eventually, the lost and the wicked angels will be together in their final place of torment, which is the everlasting Lake of Fire. This place was originally created by God for the Devil and his angels, prior to God's creating man on the Earth. Since Adam plunged the whole human race under sin and its condemnation, those who do not escape by the blood of Christ will share their eternal torment with the ones it was created for.

*"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed (lost), into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*

Even though the exact location is not given, we have located it under the Earth's surface, so we may refer to it from time to time on our diagram.

### ***"Gehenna."***

"Gehenna" is translated "Hell" correctly. It is properly translated 12 times, eleven

of which are spoken of by Christ, himself, in Matthew, Mark and Luke. It is recorded one other time in James. This is the final abode of the wicked, and the Devil and his angels. Here are the passages:

1. **Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15,33**
2. **Mark 9:43,45,47**
3. **Luke 12:5**
4. **James 3:6**

This Hell (Greek, "gehenna"), the final continuous torment, is a condition of unspeakable misery. Other than called Hell, many other references are made to this same place. Here are a few:

1. **Mark 9:46.**

*"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."*

2. **Revelation 21:8.**

*"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*

3. **Matthew 8:12.**

*"But the children of the Kingdom, shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

These "children of the Kingdom" are Jews, not the church. They are called children, yet not saved. These in the Old Testament up to Calvary, who have rejected the Messiah, will be cast into outer darkness at the end of the Tribulation.

4. **Matthew 13:42.**

*"And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

5. **Luke 3:17.**

*"Whose fan is in his (Christ's) hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat (the saved) into his garner: but the chaff (the lost) will he burn with fire unquenchable."*

This takes place at the end of the Tribulation when Christ judges the nations.

6. **Jude 13b.**

*"...to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."*

7. **Revelation 14:9,10,11.**

*"...If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark ("666") in his forehead, or in his hand, (9) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.(10) And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever: and they have no rest day or night..." (11a)*

8. **2 Thessalonians 1:8.**

*"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

9. **2 Thessalonians 1:9.**

*"...Punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power."*

### ***Bottomless Pit***

The Bottomless Pit does not appear in the Old Testament. This is found seven times in the New Testament and, in all cases, translated from the Greek word "abussos" or abyss. It is properly translated, as the Greek word means, "depthless, deep or bottomless." It is a separate place of its own. The exact location is not given, but many scholars believe it is an extended compartment of the Torment side of Hades. Whether this is true or not, no one really knows. *Vine's Expository Words of The Greek New Testament* states "It describes an immeasurable depth, the underworld, the lower regions,

the abyss of Sheol." We have shown it as connected to Torment of Sheol in our diagrams for further references.

Here is where it is found in the New Testament, all being in the book of Revelation: Revelation 9:1,2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3

In Revelation 20:7, this bottomless pit is also called a prison. This pit is locked and controlled by God, who sends His angels to unlock it at His discretion. It contains smoke, as of a great furnace, ungodly creatures called locusts, the Beast (Anti-Christ) and Satan, himself, when he is confined there a thousand years.

#### **A. The Key To The Pit. (Revelation 9:1 and 20:1)**

*"And the fifth angel sounded and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth; and to him (angel) was given the key of the bottomless pit." (9:1) "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit, and a great chain in his hand." (20:1)*

#### **B. Locusts and Smoke. (Revelation 9:2,3)**

These creatures are released to torment people on the Earth for five months during the Tribulation Period. Here is the word:

*"And he (the angel) opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.(2) And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power." (3)*

These locusts are not to kill (Verse 5), only torment those who have not the seal of God in their foreheads (Verse 4).

*"And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them." (Verse 6)*

We have no idea what is in the underworld or what the future holds, but God was gracious enough to reveal to us about *this* place and *these* creatures. This takes place during the 7-Year Tribulation Period at the blowing of the Fifth Trumpet of Judgment.

#### **C. The Antichrist or The Beast. (Revelation 11:7)**

In Revelation 11, God's two witnesses preach for 3-1/2 years (Verse 3) and finish their testimony (Verse 7). They are allowed by God to be killed in Jerusalem (Verse 8)

and their bodies put on public display for 3-1/2 days (Verse 9). They are resurrected and then ascend directly to Heaven (Verses 11,12). The one who kills these two witnesses of God is none other than the Antichrist, himself. He is called the Beast in Verse 7 as this describes his character; and he comes out of the bottomless pit. Here is the record,

*"And when they (the two witnesses) shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."*

#### **D. Satan in the Bottomless Pit. - Revelation 20:2,3,7**

When Christ comes back at the end of the Tribulation Period, He judges the nations in Matthew 24 and 25 in preparation for setting up the earthly Messianic Kingdom for 1,000 years. At this time, He confines Satan, himself, in chains to the Bottomless Pit for 1,000 years. After the 1,000 years, he is loosed for a short season and then cast into the Lake of Fire. Here is the record,

*"And he (the angel) laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, (2) And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled, and after that he must be loosed a little season.(3)And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison." (7)*

A man told me once that he thought Satan was chained today. If that is true, it must be an awful long chain! Another person was kidding me and said he thought Satan was chained to him! No, he will not be chained (confined) until the end of the 7-Year Tribulation.

We have identified Sheol and Hades, Tartarus, the Lake of Fire (Gehenna) the Bottomless Pit, Torment and Paradise. Now, check Diagram One as a refresher of these various places. Once the believer has a mental picture of these various places, it becomes much easier to discern the various Scriptures that relate to the subject of Hell. We are now ready for Diagram Two on Page 26.



***The Rich Man And Lazarus***  
***Luke 16:19-31***

**T**here was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: (19)

**A**nd there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, (20) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. (21)

**A**nd it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (22) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (23)

**A**nd he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. (24)

**B**ut Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. (25)

**A**nd beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. (26)

**T**hen he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: (27) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. (28)

**A**braham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. (29) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. (30)

**A**nd he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. (31)

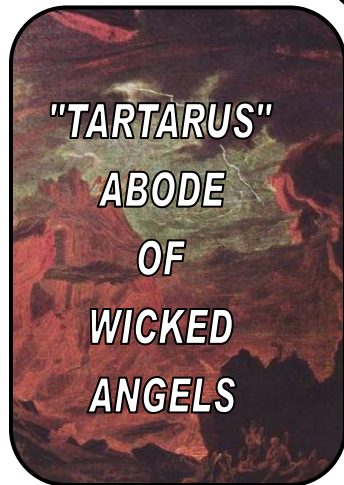
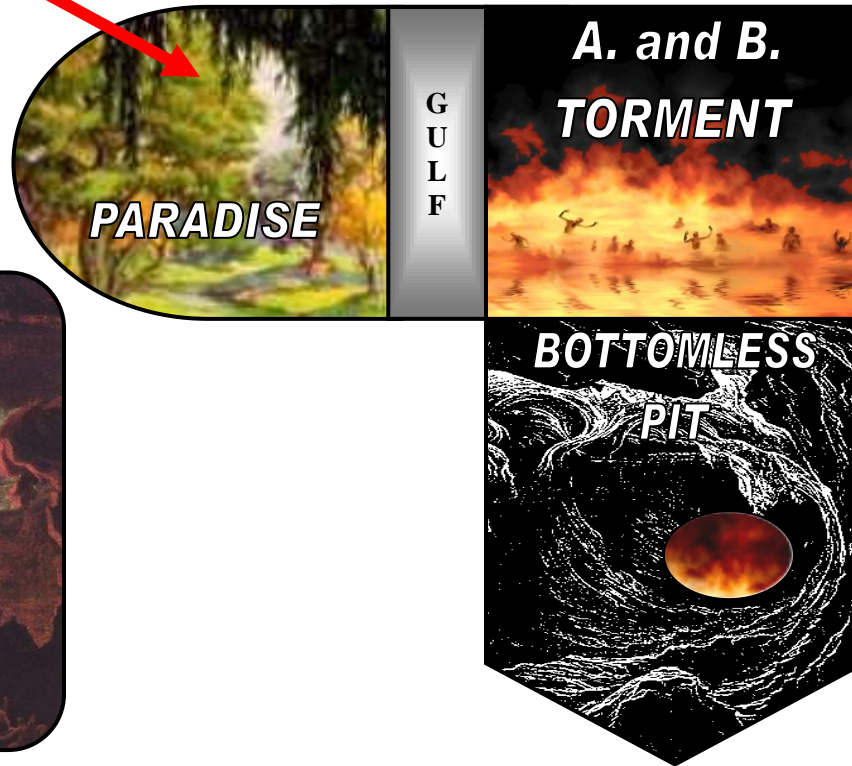
## DIAGRAM TWO

1. MATTHEW 12:40
2. PSALM 16:10
3. LUKE 23:43



GROUND SURFACE

“SHEOL” – “HADES”



### III. COMMENTARY ON DIAGRAM TWO

#### *Where Was Christ Three Days And Three Nights Prior To His Resurrection?*

In discussing this subject with many people, I have been amazed at the various ideas they have put forth concerning Christ's whereabouts during these three days and nights. Some thought He just plain went to Hell and was burning in Hell for us. Others said they believed His spirit would remain in Hell for all eternity as payment for our sin. Some thought He was unconscious in the tomb during that time, while others believe exactly what the Bible teaches.

We want to recapitulate briefly over Matthew 12:40 concerning the length of time Christ was in Paradise:

*"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Hades)."*

Now in Acts 2:27 we have seen that Christ went to Hades:

*"Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (Hades), neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."*

Even though it is clearly stated that He went to Hades, we still are not told whether He went to Paradise or Torment. The answer *is* given, though, when we examine what Christ told the thief on the cross. This man believed that Christ was the Messiah and Savior. Here are his words in Luke 23:42,

*"And he (the thief) said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."*

Here is the Lord's reply, which separates all skepticism from truth.

*"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." (V.43)*

The Bible clearly states that Christ went to the Paradise side of Hades, separated from His body, which was in the tomb. Some have tried to say that Christ preached during this time to those in Torment, giving them a second chance. The verse they use to support this is found in 1 Peter 3:19,

*"By which also he (Christ) went and preached unto the spirits in prison."*

It is unbelievable to what extremes some will go to mutilate the Word of God, extracting one verse and trying to make it fit their own ideologies. If this were true, then it would contradict Luke 23:43; for the lost are in Torment, not Paradise. Now let us look at 1 Peter 3:19 and 20 together to understand the context:

*"By which also he (Christ) went and preached unto the spirits in prison. (19) Which sometimes were disobedient, when once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." (20)*

In also referring to Genesis 6:3, we find that God waited 120 years before sending the Flood. The purpose of the Flood judgment was that...

*"...God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5)*

In other words, Christ, through the Holy Spirit in Noah, preached to those imprisoned in their sin, and warned them of the judgment (Flood) which was to come in 120 years.

The Scriptures in 1 Peter 3 are referring to the Flood, and have no reference to where Christ went when He died. There are no second chances after death. A person's destiny is determined while he is living and he cannot reverse it after he dies. In Matthew 25:46 we are told...

*"And these (the lost) shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."*

If one could ever be saved after they die, then "everlasting" would cease to be "everlasting." One might also consider the rich man in Torment in Luke 16. This man believed after he was *there*, as he wanted someone to go back and warn his five brothers. Even though he believed, he still could not get out of Torment.

We continue with Diagram Three on Page 30.



***"Touch Me Not.."***  
***John 20:11-17***

*B*ut Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, (11)

*A*nd seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. (12)

*A*nd they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. (13)

*A*nd when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. (14)

*J*esus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. (15)

*J*esus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. (16)

*J*esus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

# DIAGRAM THREE



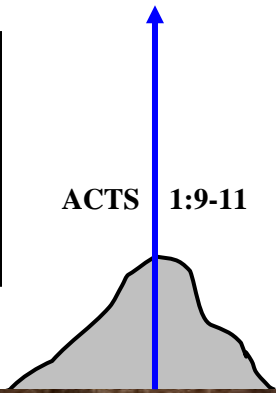
MERCY SEAT

**CHRIST ANOINTING THE HOLY PLACE**  
 (Hebrews 8:1-6; 9:12a; 23, 24)

- A. Appears to Mary, "Touch me not."  
 (John 20:16,17)
- B. **Appears to Thomas and Disciples**  
 (John 20:26)

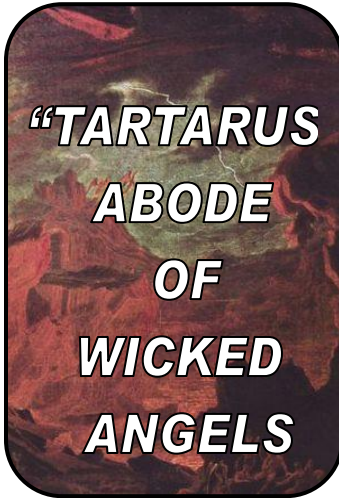


A. 3  
 B. 8

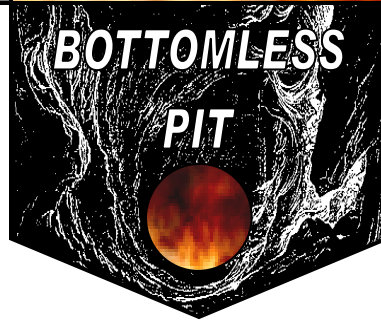


PENTECOST

10 DAYS



G  
U  
L  
F



## IV. COMMENTARY ON DIAGRAM THREE

### *Christ Anointing The Mercy Seat*

Please take a moment and view Diagram Three. The first few days immediately following the Resurrection, Christ did something which is rarely mentioned, and which makes it possible for the Christian to now go to Heaven. Let me restate that the Old Testament saved never went to Heaven, but to Paradise in Sheol. In the Old Testament, sins were never taken away, but only covered. This is the meaning of the Old Testament word "Atonement," as a covering. "Atonement" is not a New Testament word; since our sins are no longer covered by a blood sacrifice, but taken away by the blood of Christ. The word does appear only once in the New Testament, but is a mistranslation. It is found in Romans 5:11:

*"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the ATONEMENT."*

"Atonement" in this verse is translated from the Greek word "katallage" which means "exchange or reconciliation." It is properly translated "*reconciliation*" in 2 Corinthians 5:18,19. Christ did not cover our sins with His shed blood, but took them completely away. In other words, at salvation, we are reconciled to God as our sins are exchanged for the righteousness of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 we are told:

*"For he hath made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (read Hebrews 9:26)*

When the animal blood in the Old Testament was applied to the Holy Place within the Temple or Tabernacle, it covered the sins of the people. But for the saved to go to Heaven, the Holy Place there in Heaven must have the blood of Christ applied. This is made clear from Hebrews 9:22,23:

*"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. (22) It was, therefore, necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these (animals)."(23)*

The earthly Tabernacle was patterned after the heavenly Tabernacle. The earthly was only a shadow of the heavenly (Hebrews 8:4,5). The lamb sacrifice in the Old Testament was only a shadow or type of the Perfect Lamb (Christ) which would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Therefore, the Old Testament lamb sacrifice made by faith would cover sin, but would never take the person to Heaven. You see, Christ, the Perfect Lamb of God, had to apply His own blood to the Holy Place in Heaven

before anyone could enter. This is why all the saved, prior to Christ's Ascension, went to Paradise in Sheol. Here is the record in Hebrews 9:11,12:

*"But Christ, being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle (the one in Heaven), not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building. (11) Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his (Christ's) OWN BLOOD he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." (12)*

With this background it becomes easy to comprehend the conversation between Christ and Mary after the Resurrection, as recorded in John, Chapter 20, where we find Mary at the tomb crying,

*"Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him."*

In Verse 13, *"When she turned around,"* the Lord immediately spoke to her and instructed her not to touch Him. The reason is given in Verse 17:

*"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God and your God."*

The Lord Jesus would not allow Himself to be touched by human hands, until He ascended to Heaven and purified the Holy Place within the Temple with His own precious blood.

Notice that, after eight days He appears again to His disciples; but, this time, "Doubting Thomas" is with them. Previously the disciples had told Thomas about Christ being resurrected, but he would not believe it unless he saw Him. Now the Lord Jesus tells him in Verse 27 to...

*"...Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless (weak in the faith), but believing."*

Somewhere within that eight days, He ascended to Heaven, anointed the Mercy Seat with His own precious blood, and returned to Earth.

In studying all the Gospels concerning the event immediately following the Resurrection, one would find a lot of people coming to, and leaving the tomb. Between Christ's appearances to Mary and Thomas, He had appeared to others, including the eleven disciples. (John 20:19,21,24.) It appears that Christ's Ascension to anoint the Holy



Place probably took place immediately after talking to Mary and asking her to "...Go tell my brethren..." concerning His Resurrection.

We are told in Leviticus 17:11, "*For the life of the flesh is in the blood...*" As our physical life is found in the blood; so our spiritual life is found in the blood of another, the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"Forasmuch as ye know, that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* (1 Peter 1:18,19)

We were born a sinner, under the condemnation of God's wrath. One does not become a sinner because they sin; but, rather, sin *because they are born a sinner*.

*"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified (declared righteous) by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."* (Romans 5:8,9)

He gave His life to save ours. If you have not received Christ as your Savior, I hope you will do it right now, before it is too late.

One more portion of Scripture we should like to point out, which is found in John 14:1-3:

*"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

Many times I have heard preachers say that, "If God could create this beautiful Earth in six days, how beautiful must Heaven be since Christ has been preparing it for us for almost 2,000 years!" I know what I am about to say is going to spoil many a good sermon, but this is not what our Lord is referring to here. Remember, Heaven is already created. In Verse 2, "*are many mansions*" is in the past tense, showing they already existed when Christ spoke. Here Christ is referring to the Cross; then, His anointing the Mercy Seat in the Holy Place with His own blood; thus making it possible for us now to go to Heaven. Remember, prior to this, all the saved went to Paradise in Hades. This portion of Scripture has a double reference: His death on the Cross, and His blood in the Holy Place. Now when a Christian dies, as Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 5:1,

*"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have*

*a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*

Therefore, the Christian can boldly say,

*"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:8)*

Since the Lord has prepared a place for us by His death on the Cross and anointing the Holy Place with His blood, His promise will be fulfilled,

*"...that where I am, there ye may be also,*

*"And" so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:17b,18)*

We are now ready for Diagram Four, which continues on Page 36.



*"He Led Captivity Captive"  
Ephesians 4:7-10*

***B**ut unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (7)*

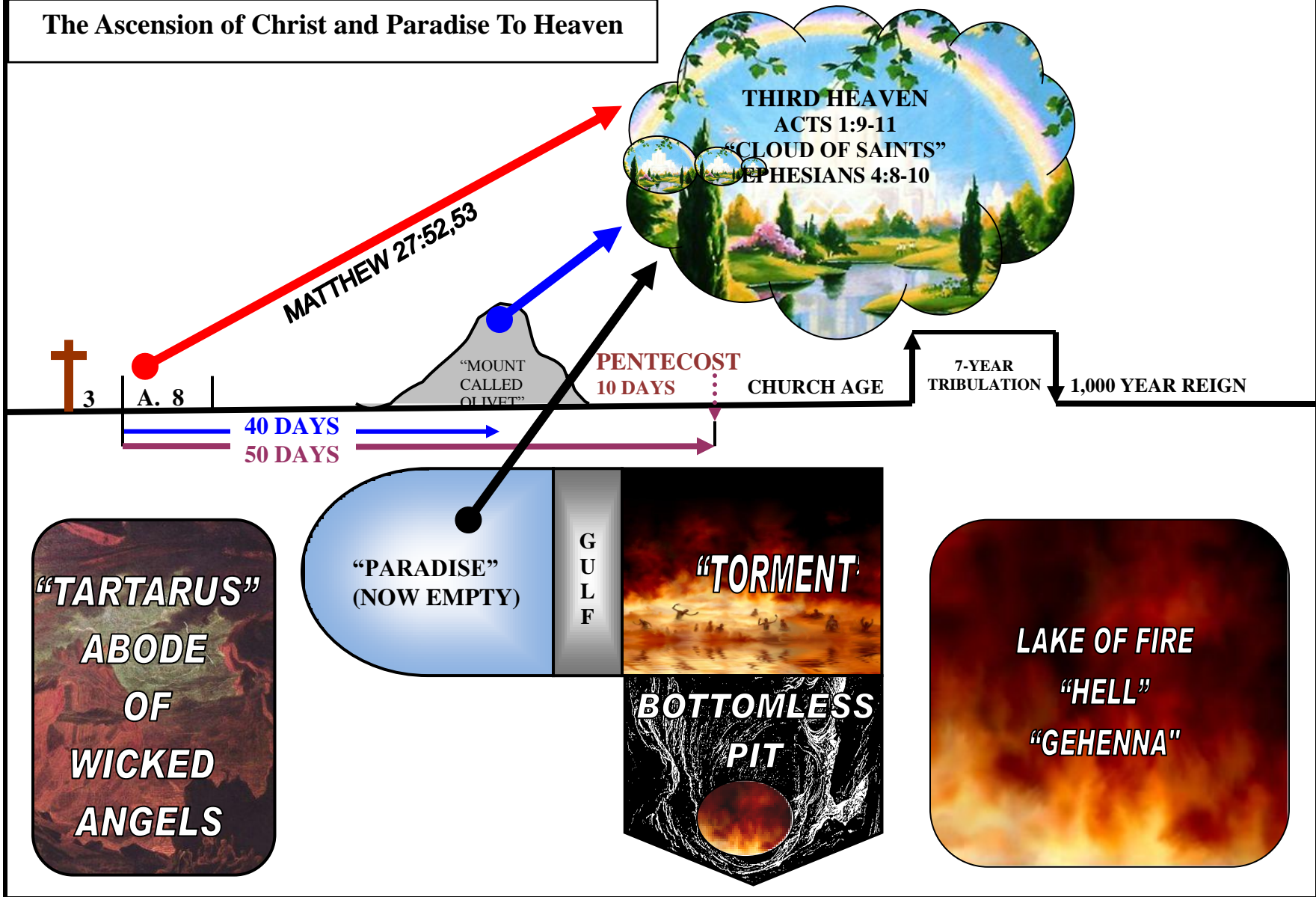
***W**herefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (8)*

***N**ow that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (9)*

***H**e that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

# DIAGRAM FOUR

## The Ascension of Christ and Paradise To Heaven



## V. COMMENTARY ON DIAGRAM FOUR

### *The Ascension of Christ and Paradise to Heaven.*

It is important to take a moment and observe this diagram before proceeding.

The fifty days seen on the diagram are fifty days from Christ's Resurrection to the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost was the day the Holy Spirit was promised by Christ to come and indwell the believer. Pentecost is the Greek word "pentekostos" and means "fiftieth."

The forty days is the length of time from the Resurrection to His Ascension from the "*mount called Olivet.*" Notice Acts 1:3:

*"To whom also he shewed himself (Christ) alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God."*

It was during this forty days that He made many appearances, which were the infallible proofs, attesting to the indisputable fact of His Resurrection. The Apostle Paul amplified on this when writing to the Corinthians. Here is the record:

*"And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas (Peter), then of the twelve. After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present (about 57 A.D.), but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James: then of all the apostles: and last of all he was seen of me... (Paul)." (1 Corinthians 15:4-8.)*

At the end of forty days, He assembled with the apostles whom he had chosen (Acts 1:2) at the "*mount called Olivet,*" which was less than a mile from Jerusalem. Here, before His Ascension, He instructed them "*...not to depart from Jerusalem, but wait (10 days) for the promise (i.e. the Holy Spirit) of the Father...*" Again, Pentecost means "fifty." Christ had appeared for forty days before ascending to Heaven, leaving ten days before Pentecost would come.

Now, after instructing the apostles, He ascended to Heaven.

*"And when he (Christ) had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men (angels) stood by them in white apparel." (Acts 1: 9,10)*

We believe this is when Christ emptied the Paradise side of Hades, transferring all the saved in Paradise to Heaven. Now, for the record as found in Ephesians 4:8-9:

*"Wherefore he (Christ) saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now he that ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (Paradise)." (See Luke 23:43)*

Those in Hades are referred to as being in captivity, because they were limited to the Paradise side of Hades. Remember, they were not permitted access to Heaven until Christ anointed the Holy Place. They remained there until Christ's Ascension. He would then lead them, Himself, into the glories of Heaven unlimited. This could very well be the Cloud of Saints, emptying Paradise on their way to Heaven. Further evidence of this is found in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 12, where Paradise is referred to as up, and no longer in Hades. Notice Verse 3 and 4:

*"And I knew such a man, whether in the body or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth); How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words..."*

Approximately 25 years after the Resurrection of Christ, Paradise is now referred to as up. After the Rapture, the Tribulation Saints who die for Christ are seen by John *in Heaven*. Not only did John *see* them in Heaven, he also *heard* them talk. Here is the account found in Revelation 6:9,10,

*"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"*

Here John not only sees them in Heaven, but also hears them talking. Here the omniscience of God is seen as He shows forth History before it ever takes place. Our books record History *after* it happens, but God writes it *before* it happens. That is the difference between the mind of God and the mind of man; one is infinite and the other is finite.

Revelation 6:9,10, along with Luke 16:19 through 31, and many other Scriptures annihilate the damnable doctrine of soul-sleeping which is adhered to by the cult religions.

Before we leave Diagram Four, would you please take notice of the Letter A and where it is located. It appears just after the Resurrection of Christ. There is an

interesting portion of Scripture found only in the Gospel of Matthew in Chapter 27, Verses 52 and 53:

*"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints (saved) which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city (Jerusalem), and appeared unto many."*

These are the only Scriptures I know referring to this incident. Allow me to digress for a minute to the Old Testament, which may give us a better understanding concerning these two verses. In the Old Testament, the Passover Feast which occurred in the first month (religious, not civil) on the 14th day, was fulfilled by Christ's death on the Cross as our Passover Lamb (Leviticus 23:5). The Feast of First Fruits took place on the first month on the 17th day. This, prophetically looking, was fulfilled when Christ arose from the dead. In 1 Corinthians 15:20 we are told,

*"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept."*

Now, going back to the Feast of First Fruits in Leviticus, Chapter 23, in Verses 10 and 11 we read,

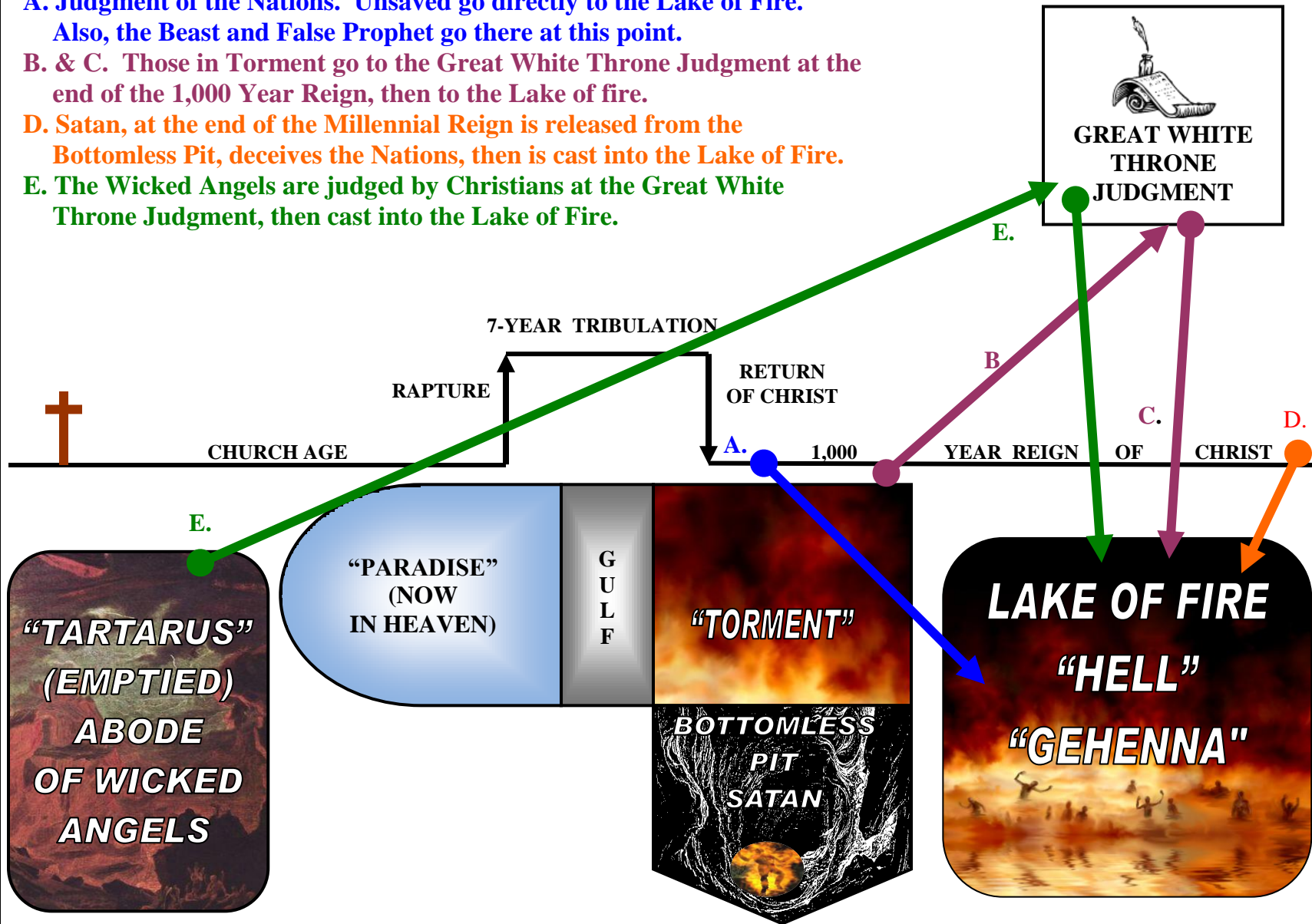
*"...and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you..."*

The word "sheaf" is from the Hebrew word "omer" which means "a measure of corn, barley and etc." In other words, at the Feast of First Fruits (the first harvest), they would take a small portion of the harvest, give it to the priest, who in turn would offer it to the Lord on their behalf for His acceptance. As Christ's Resurrection fulfilled the Old Testament Feast of First Fruits, so did those who were resurrected in Matthew 27:52,53, fulfill the sheaf offering, given to the priest who offered it to the Lord. Christ, our High Priest, and the First Fruit by this Resurrection, offered these resurrected Saints as a sheaf offering to the Father upon His return to Heaven. These, along with those in Paradise, were taken into Heaven where they await the consummation of the Church Age (Rapture), when they will return with Christ at the end of the 7-Year Tribulation Period to reign with Him a 1,000 years in the Kingdom.

Let us now move on to Diagram Five.

## DIAGRAM FIVE

- A. Judgment of the Nations. Unsaved go directly to the Lake of Fire. Also, the Beast and False Prophet go there at this point.**
- B. & C. Those in Torment go to the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the 1,000 Year Reign, then to the Lake of fire.**
- D. Satan, at the end of the Millennial Reign is released from the Bottomless Pit, deceives the Nations, then is cast into the Lake of Fire.**
- E. The Wicked Angels are judged by Christians at the Great White Throne Judgment, then cast into the Lake of Fire.**





## VI. COMMENTARY ON DIAGRAM FIVE

### *The Lake of Fire*

This diagram brings us down to the final end of this Earth after man's existence of approximately 7,000 years. Remember, the Lake of Fire and Brimstone is the final eternal torment of all the lost. This also includes Satan, his angels, the Beast, the False Prophet, and the most wicked angels chained in Tartarus. I have marked the diagram with A, B,C, D and E. We shall examine each of these in order.

### *The End of The 7-Year Tribulation Period.*

(Locate A.) This is at the end of the 7-Year Tribulation Period when Christ comes back with all the Saints (Old Testament and Church Age) to set the Kingdom up for 1,000 years. Just prior to the Kingdom being established, Christ judges the nations. In 2 Timothy 4:1 we read:

*"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick (Greek "zao", i.e. "the living") and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom."*

At this judgment, the lost will be cast directly into the Lake of Fire. They do not go to Torment in Hades, nor do they pass through the Great White Throne Judgment. The account is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. In chapter 25, Verses 31-34 we read:

*"When the son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he (Christ) sit upon the throne of his glory:(31) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep (saved) from the goats (lost):(32) And he shall sit the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.(33) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come ye, blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (34)*

The saved, who are alive at the end of the Tribulation, go right on into the Kingdom. These are the sheep on His right hand. The goats (lost), these are the ones who were deceived by the Anti-Christ, receiving his mark of 666. Their plight is recorded in Verse 41:

*"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*

Their entire judgment is here, so there is no need to pass through the Great White Throne Judgment. Picture yourself, if you were lost, listening to the King of Kings and

Lord of Lords thunder these devastating words, knowing the next second you would plunge into the everlasting Lake of Fire. How grateful we are for a Savior who loved us while we were a sinner.

This same judgment is also described in Matthew 24:39-41.

*"..so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken (lost), and the other left (saved)."*

These verses, many times, are used in reference to the Rapture; but, in essence, have nothing to do with the Rapture at all. In fact, what takes place at the Rapture is exactly the opposite of what takes place here. A basic principle to remember is that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John always, without exception, refer to the Revelation of Christ to the Earth, and never the Rapture. They knew nothing of the Rapture as this was a mystery, later revealed to the Apostle Paul. Notice in Verses 40 and 41, the ones *left* are the saved who are left to reign with Christ in the Kingdom. The ones *taken* are the lost, taken to judgment. These are same as Christ cast into the everlasting fire in 25:41. As we have said, this is just the opposite of what happens at the Rapture. Notice in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, which *is* speaking of the Rapture:

*"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

You see, at the Rapture, those *taken* go to Heaven, but in Matthew those *taken* go to everlasting fire. At the Rapture, those *left* go through the Tribulation judgment, whereas those *left* in Matthew go on into the Millennial Kingdom here on the Earth.

Other references to this judgment: Joel 3:1-3;12-16; Zechariah 14:1-12; Revelation 19:11-21; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 1:7; 2 Timothy 4:1;

A more terrifying account of those cast into the Lake of Fire is recorded in Zechariah 14:12. The whole chapter is in reference to Christ's return and setting up the Kingdom. Now Verse 12 ...

*"And this shall be the plague..."*

(Plague is the Hebrew "maggephah", and by analogy means: "defeat, slaughter or stroke." In other words, those I am about to describe will be defeated, with a stroke, in a great slaughter.)

*"Wherewith the Lord will smite all the people who have fought against Jerusalem; Their (the lost) flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their*

*eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongues shall consume away in their mouth."*

Personally, from reading many accounts of the atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I can easily picture what literally occurred here. A very graphic description of the lost as they enter the Lake of Fire. This is a far cry from the jokes, laughter and sneers made about Hell today.

***Lost From Torment Go To Great White Throne Judgment,  
Then To Lake of Fire.***

(Locate B and C.) No saved are involved here, only the lost in Torment of Hades. The line B runs from Torment to the Great White Throne Judgment Seat and from there to the Lake of Fire. This judgment takes place at the end of the 1,000 Year Reign of Christ. The heavens and this old Earth are about to flee away and a New Heaven and Earth established (Revelation 21:1). Now the record in Revelation 20:11:

*"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."*

The Great White Throne is only for the lost, no saved ever appear here for judgment. Here is where the lost receive their resurrected bodies before entering into the Lake of Fire. In Revelation 20:13,14 we read:

*"And the sea gave up the dead (bodies) which were in it; and death (bodies in the grave) and hell (Hades - soul and spirit in Torment side) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell (Hades) were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death."*

Those in Torment in Hades (their soul and spirit) unite with their resurrected body out of the grave, and stand at the Great White Throne Judgment. This is what John was speaking about in John 5:29:

*"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."*

The reason for this being, that no physical body could ever withstand the literal fire of Hell without the body being consumed. God has provided a resurrected body for the lost that will suffer all the torment and flames of Hell, but will never be consumed. What a contrast! Our resurrected bodies will never see pain, sorrow or death again (Revelation 21:4), while the resurrected bodies of the lost will never cease from enduring the pains of hell fire.

Years ago, when I was on the Police Department, I was called to investigate a tragic situation. A young boy, about 13, had taken a gas can and was stealing gas from a railroad truck. Some of the gas had saturated his clothing. They were a poor family, and some of you may remember the old coal pot-bellied stoves with the isinglass window in the front of it. These usually sat in the living room. This is what this family had.

When the boy came home from the railroad yard he went right over to the stove and opened the door, then becoming a human torch! I recall them telling me at the hospital emergency room that there was nothing they could do to save him, and he would die very shortly. As I was standing beside his bed he suddenly let out a terrifying scream and then lapsed back into unconsciousness. He did this several times before dying. In Hell there will never be a time of unconsciousness. The excruciating torment will be experienced every second of every minute of every hour, for all time and eternity!

Now, back to Verses 13 and 14,

When the lost are judged according to their works, it is not to determine if they go to Hell, but rather the degree of punishment in Hell for eternity. This judgment of works is to the lost what the Judgment Seat of Christ is to the Christian. The position of Heaven, or Hell, is determined by a person's acceptance or rejection of Christ as Savior. (Ephesians 2:8,9) Their rewards in Heaven, or degree of punishment in Hell, are determined by their works. Concerning the Christian being rewarded in Heaven for his works, we are told in 2 Corinthians 5:10:

*"For we must all (the Christian) appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."*

Paul is speaking in 1 Corinthians 3:14,15 in reference to the Christian's being rewarded or suffering loss of rewards for his work.

*"If any man's (Christian's) work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's (Christian's) work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."*

Now let us go back to Revelation 20:12 where we learn more about the lost being judged at the Great White Throne.

*"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life (also called the book of the living): and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books (plural), according to their works."*

## ***The Books***

We are told there is the Book of Life, and "the books" which will judge the lost. These books have recorded the deeds of every person from the time they were born until they die. Every thought, every opportunity they had to be saved, every curse word, every illegal act and etc., is recorded in the books. I have been asked why God waited clear until the end of the Earth before having the judgment. I believe a satisfactory answer can be given.

As a person passes through life, they have a tremendous influence upon others. Take an atheistic school teacher who has the influence over thousands of students during their teaching career. Many of those children will grow up rejecting Christ because of their teachings. Now, say those people teach their children what they had been taught and so on down the line. No one really knows how far the teachings of that school teacher will travel. That is the reason a lost person is not judged for his works when he dies. But at the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of this world, each person will receive their reward according to the influence of their life through all the generations and ages to come; then are cast into the Lake of Fire.

## ***The Book Of Life***

The Book of Life has recorded in it the name of every person ever born. In other words, everyone has an equal opportunity. When a person receives Christ as Savior, their name will remain in the Book of Life forever. When the lost die without Christ, their name is blotted out of the Book of Life. Therefore, the Book of Life is an indictment and conviction upon the lost that their sentence to the lake of fire is fair and justified. In Revelation 2:15 we are told:

*"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

For those who may endorse predestination; i.e., that God predestinated these to be lost and others to be saved, may I draw your attention to Psalm 69:22-28. If you will take a moment to read Verses 25-27, you will find, unequivocally, this is speaking of the lost. Now concerning their fate, let me quote Verse 28.

*"Let them (the lost) be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous."*

In order to be blotted out of the book, they must be written *in* the book. You see, ***"The Lord was not willing any should perish..."*** (2 Peter 3:9), so all names are recorded in the "book of the living." When one dies without Christ, their name is then blotted out and this book stands as an everlasting record at the Great White Throne Judgment of their

rejection of Christ.

### ***What About The Christian?***

The Christian has been promised that his name will never be blotted out of the book of life. Notice in Revelation 3:5 where we are told that...

*"He that overcometh (the Christian) the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life; but I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."*

Now in 1 John 5:5 we are told how we overcome:

*"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the son of God."*

What a security we have in Christ, a promise that our name will never be blotted out of the Book of Life. Now back to the lost.

Can you imagine the horrified look on the faces of the lost as they stand condemned, face to face with God. They had laughed at Him, made jokes about His Word, the Bible, used His name in vain, ridiculed Christians; but, now it has all ended and they are now face to face with their Creator. No doubt they will bow and confess to God before they plunge into Hell. Here is the record in Romans 14:11, which is a quote from Isaiah 45:23:

*"For it is written, As I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."*

The Christian bows and confesses Christ willingly; but, here, the lost are made to do so. Christ wanted to be their Savior, but they rejected him. Now He stands at the Great White Throne to be their Judge.

Some time ago Dr. Al Lacey told of a true story which I believe illustrates the situation at the Great White Throne judgment.

"The Bible is your friend or your judge. There was a man who had committed several crimes and each time the same attorney pulled some strings, and by a clever defense got the man off. He left town and was gone several years and came back to his home town. He was in a bar and got into an argument. He left to get a gun and returned and shot the man while he was sitting on the bar stool. He couldn't find his previous attorney's name in the yellow pages and figured he had moved or died. He secured another attorney and was found guilty. When the judge had come out to try the case, it was the attorney who had represented him before. When he approached the bench for sentencing, the judge made this statement. "I once was your friend and

your attorney who got you off, but now I am not your friend, but your judge." The judge sentenced him to die in the electric chair, and he did."

You see, Christ is your friend who died on the Cross to pardon your sins, but if you reject him—He will be your Judge at the Great White Throne judgment.

***Satan Cast Into Bottomless Pit During Millennium;  
His Ultimate End, The Lake of Fire.***

(Locate A and D.) Satan. It is imperative to understand some of Satan's last activities before his final doom. Take a moment and review Diagram 5 reference the Rapture, Tribulation and 1,000 Year Kingdom of Christ.

After the Rapture of the church immediately begins a 7-Year Tribulation Period, with the last 3-1/2 years known as the Great Tribulation. During this whole period of time, God is sending His judgments upon the Earth. The minute details are all recorded in the Book of Revelation, from Chapter 6 to 19. After the Rapture, Satan, who has personally indwelt a human being, is known as the Antichrist. He seeks to counterfeit God and in the middle of the Tribulation Period (3-1/2 years after the Rapture), enters the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and declares himself to be God. The record is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:4:

*"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."*

The Antichrist now is worshipped as God, and seeks to control this world for the last 3-1/2 years before Christ returns to the Earth. He is the one-world ruler and demands all to receive his mark of 666 on their foreheads or right hand. If one refuses, they can neither buy or sell; and, without doubt, will be exterminated. The record in Revelation 13:16, 17,18 tells us:

*"And he (Antichrist) causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.... for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore (a score is 20) and six." ("666").*

During this time, the Christians will witness for Christ, and refuse to join forces with the Antichrist by rejecting his mark of 666. Those the Antichrist can apprehend, he will put to death by decapitation. Here is the record in Revelation 20:4:

*"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were BEHEADED for the witness of Jesus, and for*

*the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*

Speaking of this time Christ said, *"and except these days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake (Israel), those days shall be shortened."*

Christ then returns to this Earth to set up the Kingdom for 1,000 years. Revelation 20:1,2 substantiates this ...

*"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years."*

Now, after the 1,000 years, Satan is let out of the pit and given his last chance to deceive whoever he can. The account is rendered in Revelation 20:7,8:

*"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations, which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."*

May I inject a question many times asked, and that is, "Where do these people come from?" I thought those with Christ were all in their resurrected bodies. The answer is, No! It is true though, that at Christ's return to Earth all the Old Testament Saints will receive their resurrected bodies, and will reign in the Kingdom with these bodies. But, you will recall when Christ judged the nations, the ones taken were cast into the Lake of Fire; however, the ones left were left to reign in the Kingdom, in their physical bodies. These were all Christians and will bear children just as we do today. This will go on for a thousand years. The same occurs in the Millennium as it does today; not all the children of Christian parents become Christians. So, at the end of the Kingdom Age, there will be many who have rejected Christ; just as we have today. In fact, the amount is staggering as illustrated by Verse 8:

*"...the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."*

The end of those deceived by Satan in this short period of time is recorded in Verse 9. If you will recall in Verse 8, Satan gathers them together to go to battle. With his army of the lost, he makes his attack towards Jerusalem and then the end comes.

*"And they (Satan's army) went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city (Jerusalem): and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."*



We have now reached the final end of Satan. In Revelation 20:10 we are told:

*"And the devil (Satan) that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."*

### ***Wicked Angels From Tartarus Cast Into The Lake of Fire.***

(Locate E.) (2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6,7) As you recall, this is the location (Tartarus) where the most wicked angels are chained awaiting their final judgment, then the Lake of Fire. We do not have a multiplicity of details concerning this as we do other things. We shall attempt to correlate what we are told.

We do know for certain that these angels will be taken out of Tartarus and placed in their final torment, the Lake of Fire. You will recall that Hell (Greek, "Gehenna") is the Lake of Fire. Matthew 25:41 lets us know that the Lake of Fire was originally prepared for Satan and his angels.

*"...Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*

We learn from 1 Corinthians 6:3 that the Christians from this Church Age are going to judge them.

*"Know ye not that we (Christians) shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?"*

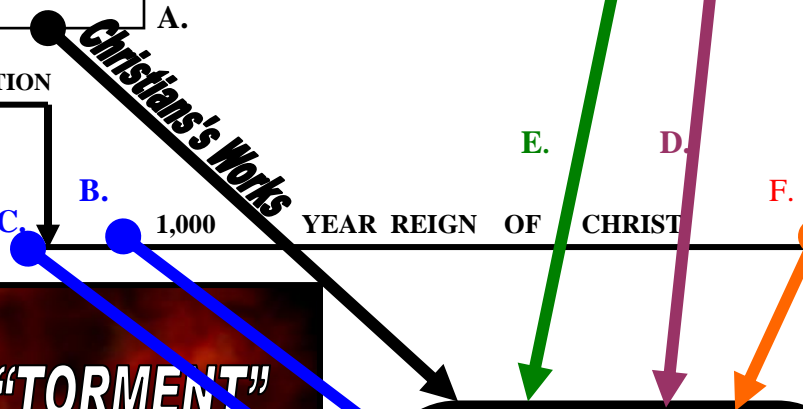
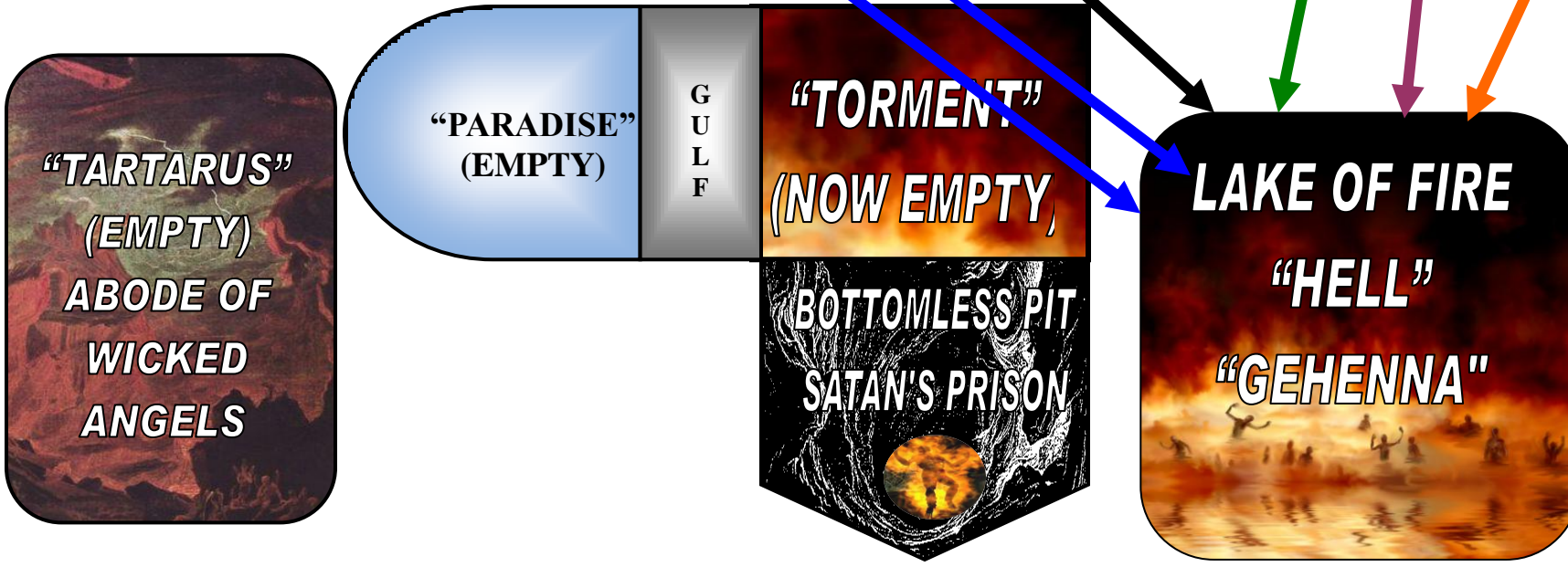
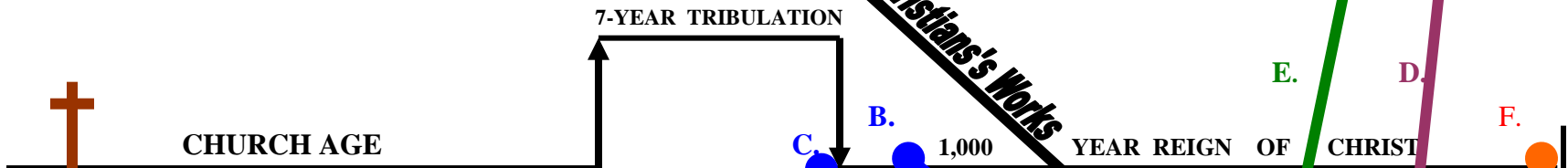
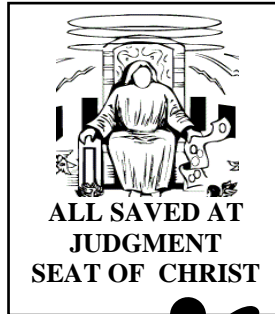
We are not told where this judgment takes place; but, many scholars believe it will be at the Great White Throne Judgment. I, personally, believe this; because this is the final judgment before the creation of the New Heavens and Earth. It would seem logical that God would have everything disposed of concerning judgment, before establishing the New Heavens and Earth.

The question naturally arises, "How would we be able to judge the angels exactly as God would?" If the Christian made this judgment now, in his human body, I doubt very much if we could. We would have to contend with the influence of our old nature, judging them as we do judging things concerning our own lives. As a Christian, one would dare not say he always, without exception, does what he should or makes the right decisions. But at the Great White Throne Judgment, the Christian will not be influenced by the old nature, because we will not have it. We will be in our resurrected bodies and will have the mind of Christ by the Holy Spirit, with no influence to the contrary. We will look at the angels in judgment exactly as Christ would, therefore our judgment would be the same as Christ's.

And now we continue to Diagram Six.

# DIAGRAM SIX

- A. Works of Christian to be burned.
- B. Lost at Judgment of Nations.
- C. Beast & False Prophet at the end of the Tribulation.
- D. All Lost from Great White Throne Judgment.
- E. Wicked Angels
- F. Satan at the end of the Millennial Reign.



## VII. COMMENTARY ON DIAGRAM SIX

### A. A Summarization.

(Locate A.) At this point we want to recapitulate over all that are going to enter the Lake of Fire. There is one thing we have not covered so far, and it concerns the Christian's works that are to be burned. The Christian will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ after the Rapture, where he will receive his rewards. A Christian's life consists of good works, which are described in 1 Corinthians 3:12 as "*gold, silver, and precious stones.*" The bad works of a Christian are described in the same verse as "*wood, hay and stubble.*" Concerning the bad works, Verse 15 states that ...

*"If any man's (Christian's) works shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved..."*

The Scripture is clear and simple that a Christian can have works that are displeasing to the Lord, but he is still saved. He will not be rewarded for them as they will be burned. So the sin (bad works) in a Christian's life does not cause loss of salvation; but loss of rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. We believe these works could very well be burned or destroyed in the Lake of Fire. To go along with this, a very interesting portion of Scripture is found in Matthew 5:28-30:

*"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Hell."*

The word "Hell" in Verse 29 and 31 is the Greek "Gehenna," the eternal Lake of Fire, not Hades. We know that the earthly body is never cast into hell. If that would be the case, there would be no need for a resurrected body. The members of the body are used to represent the works done *with* the body. In other words, "*...if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee...*", does this refer literally to cutting off your hand? The answer is, No! But the Lord is telling us to sever our hand or eyes from the direction that is causing us to sin. The sin would then be burned in Hell causing the Christian to suffer loss of rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:15).

Remember, we serve the Lord with all the members of our body. If we are dedicated to the Lord, then all members of our body are partakers in serving Him. If one has a bad temper, he should "cut off", that is, "keep his mouth shut" until he controls his

temper. If one is looking with lust at the opposite sex, then they are to pluck out their eye or, rather, move it in another direction.

In 2 John 8 we are told:

*"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a FULL REWARD."*

Let us use ALL of our body to serve the Lord for a full reward. Let us be careful not to yield any part that is going to produce works that will burn, causing the Christian to suffer loss of rewards. Remember, it is not this physical body that will be cast into Hell, but the works it produces.

### **B. The Judgment of the Nations by Christ.**

(Locate B.) The Judgment of the Nations by Christ. The lost cast into the Lake of Fire. (Matthew 25:41)

### **C. The Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire**

(Locate C.) The Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Tribulation at the coming of Christ. (Revelation 19:11-21)

### **D. The Lost In Torment Go To The Great White Throne Judgment, Then To Hell.**

(Locate D.) All the lost from out of torment in Hades to the Great White Throne Judgment, then to Hell. (Revelation 20:11-15)

### **E. Wicked Angels From Tartarus To Great White Throne Judgment, Then To Hell.**

(Locate E.) The wicked angels out of Tartarus, to the Great White Throne Judgment, then to Hell. (Matthew 25:41)

### **F. Satan, And The Lost He Deceived, Are Cast Into The Lake Of Fire.**

(Locate F.) At the end of the Millennium, Satan and the lost he deceived are cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:10)

Diagram Six is only for a brief review, or a refresher of what we have covered thus far. We now proceed to Diagram Seven on Page 54.

*He Lives!*

A sense of darkness filled the scene  
And all it symbolized  
Of death, despair and vanished hopes  
And dreams unrealized!  
All hope had fled, They thought Christ was dead!  
And they felt victimized.

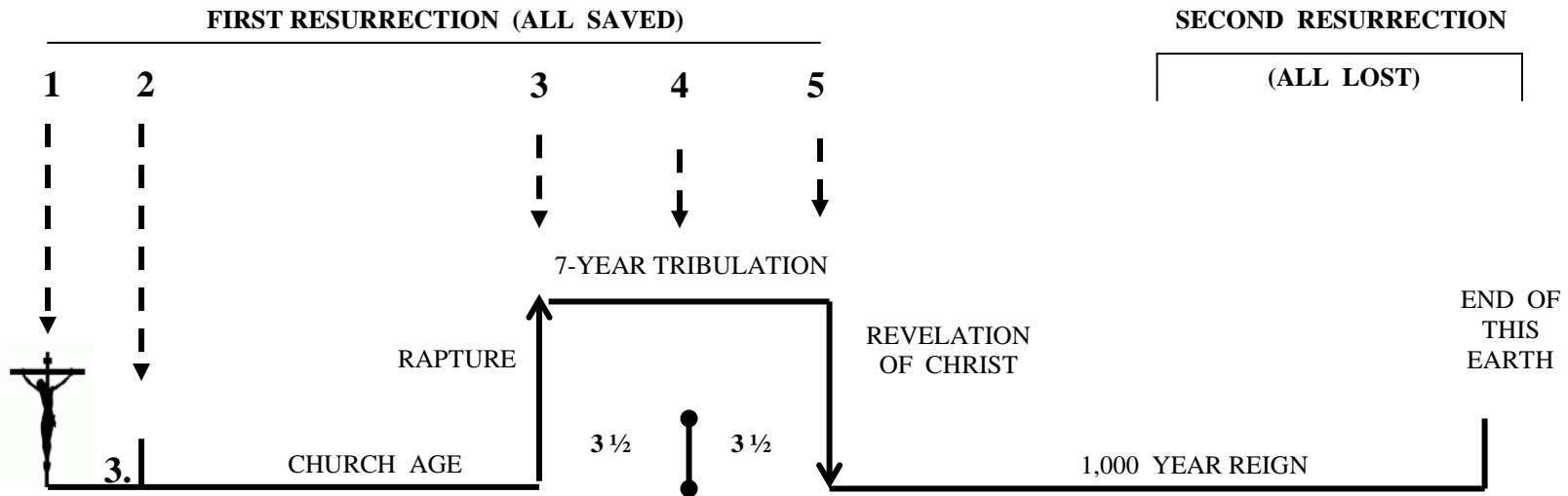
Yet while they in confusion grieved,  
The Lord Himself drew near;  
He walked with them and talked with them  
Dispelling all their fear!  
Of Him they learned – their spirit burned;  
And grief gave place to cheer!

How often as we travel on  
(If judging by our gloom).  
We act as though the Lord were dead  
And Christ were in the tomb!  
We moan and sigh and wonder why  
We are resigned to doom.

He rose! He lives! He reigns on high!  
Though powers fierce assail,  
Christ is the mighty Conqueror!  
Through Him you may prevail.  
Let Him draw near – your spirit cheer  
His purpose will not fail.

-- Marie L. Olson, From *Out Of My Treasure*, Edited by Don Earl Boatman

## DIAGRAM SEVEN



### I. TWO RESURRECTIONS

1. Daniel 12:2 (Saved & Lost).
2. John 5:29 (Saved & Lost).
3. Acts 24:15 (Saved & Lost).

### II. FIRST RESURRECTION

1. Christ Resurrected (First Fruits).
2. Matthew 27:52,53, some resurrected after His resurrection (Sheaf Offering to God).

3. Rapture. Those who have died and those alive (The Harvest).

4. Two Witnesses resurrected in middle of the Tribulation.

5. Old Testament and Tribulation Saints resurrected to reign with Christ in the Kingdom (The Gleanings.).

### III. SECOND RESURRECTION

1. All lost resurrected to Great White Throne Judgment, then cast into the Lake of Fire.

## VIII. COMMENTARY ON DIAGRAM SEVEN

### *The Two Resurrections*

We are not going into an exhaustive analysis of the resurrections, but a brief summary which may help as a supplement. In Daniel 12:2 we have the first mention of two resurrections, “some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt.”

*“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”*

Now, as we turn to the New Testament, in John 5:28,29 we again have the two resurrections mentioned.

*“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”*

*And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. (Acts 24:15)*

The First Resurrection consists of ALL SAVED and is composed of 5 separate resurrections. The Second Resurrection, which is the Resurrection of Damnation, consists of ALL LOST resurrected to the Great White Throne Judgment.

### *First Resurrection, All Saved*

#### **1. The Resurrection of Christ - First Fruits.**

(Locate #1 on Diagram 7.) The Resurrection of Christ, who is the first fruits of them that arose. (1 Corinthians 15:20,23)

#### **2. Saints Resurrected After Christ's Resurrection - Sheaf Offering To God.**

(Locate #2 on Diagram 7.) A group of saints resurrected after Christ's Resurrection. They appeared in Jerusalem and were offered by the Lord as a sheaf offering to God. (Matthew 27:52,53; Leviticus 23:10,11.) They are in Heaven and will return with Christ to set up the Kingdom.

#### **3. The Resurrection At The Rapture - The Harvest.**

(Locate #3 on Diagram 7.) This is the resurrection at the Rapture. Those resurrected are the Christians who have died between Pentecost and the Rapture. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1

Corinthians 15:51-54) They meet Him in the air on the way to Heaven, then return with Christ at the end of the tribulation.

#### **4. The Resurrection Of The Two Witnesses**

(Locate #4 on Diagram 7) This is the resurrection of the Two Witnesses in the middle of the Tribulation Period. Their testimony during the first 3-1/2 years is now finished. They are allowed to be killed and their bodies put on display in Jerusalem for 3-1/2 days. After that, they are resurrected and ascend up to Heaven. (Revelation 11:1-12) These would represent the gleanings of the harvest of resurrected bodies of the saved. They will return with Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

#### **5. Old Testament And The Martyred Saints Of The Tribulation - The Gleanings**

(Locate #5 on Diagram 7.) This is the resurrection of all the Christians martyred during the 7-Year Tribulation Period. They are resurrected to reign with Christ in the Kingdom. (Revelation 20:4,6)

Try to memorize the five parts of the First Resurrection, it will help you as you study the Scriptures. Remember, the First Resurrection consists of only the SAVED, none of the lost are included.

#### ***Second Resurrection, All Lost***

There are no saved here, all lost. In Revelation 20:5 we are told,

*"But the rest of the dead (the lost), lived not again until the 1,000 years were finished."  
(See Revelation 20:11-15).*

Torment of Hades is now emptied at the end of Christ's reign. They appear before the Great White Throne Judgment, then to Hell ("Gehenna").

Diagram Seven was only inserted to give the reader an overall view of the resurrections of the saved and lost, as they relate to their respective places. It must be noted that there is no one general resurrection of the saved and lost at the same time. The five separate resurrections, which complete the First Resurrection, fulfill what Paul was referring to in 1 Corinthians 15:20 and 23:

*"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." (20)  
""But every man-in his own order..."(23)*

#### **Exception: All Christians At The End Of The Millennium.**

Note: ONE EXCEPTION: Notice on Diagram Seven, at the end of the Millennium. At this point, the heavens and the Earth are destroyed and in 2 Peter 3:10 we are told that:



*"...In the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (3:10) "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Peter 3:13) (Also see Isaiah 65:17)*

You will recall that the Millennial Kingdom is started with all saved people in their human bodies (Matthew 25:34), who will bear children during the Millennium. We have no record of these or any other Christians dying during the Millennium. Longevity will, no doubt, be extended as it existed prior to the Flood and a short time after. The Christian during the Millennium will still possess the old, Adamic nature, just as we have today. So to dwell in the New Heaven and New Earth *"wherein dwelleth righteousness,"* their sinful bodies must be exchanged for new resurrected bodies.

All Christians at the end of the Millennium will have a resurrection, exchanging their terrestrial bodies for a celestial body (1 Corinthians 15:40.) In 1 Corinthians 15:53 we are told,

*"For this corruptible (dead) must put on incorruption (bodies that can never decay), and this mortal (those alive) must put on IMMORTALITY (bodies that will never taste death).*

We are told why in 1 Corinthians 15:50,

*"Now this I say, brethren, that FLESH and BLOOD cannot inherit the kingdom of God..." (Also read Philippians 3:20,21).*



## IX. DIFFICULT SCRIPTURES AND QUESTIONS

It is not my intention to expound with a full exposition on the Scriptures and questions we are going to list. In my years as a pastor, many questions have been asked in relation to our subject. I thought it might be of help to cover some of the most often asked with a brief explanation, which might help the reader should they desire to pursue a more intensive study.

### 1. **Matthew 10:28.**

*"...but rather fear him (Christ) which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* Does the word "destroy" mean no consciousness in Hell? The answer is, No. The Greek word for "destroy" here is "apollumi" and has no reference to annihilation. There is another Greek word used for that, which is "kataluo." "Kataluo" means "come to naught, dissolve, or disintegrate" as used in Matthew 5:17, reference the law. Destroy in Matthew 10:28 only has reference to punishment of soul and resurrected body in Hell (Gehenna, the Lake of Fire).

### 2. **Matthew 23:33.**

*"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell (Lake of Fire)?"* Serpents and vipers are descriptive of the character of the false leaders and teachers of the Jews.

### 3. **Many Say That Hell Is On This Earth.**

Hell is not on this Earth, as we have shown from our previous study! We might bring to mind that in Hell there are no saved. There are now saved people on the Earth. There are no churches in Hell, there are here. No one can be saved in Hell, many are being saved today. No, Hell (literally) is not on this Earth now, nor ever will be.

### 4. **Matthew 16:18.**

*"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and (but) upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell (Hades-Torment) shall not prevail against it."*

Peter is the Greek, "petros," meaning "a small piece of rock". The word "rock" is the Greek word "petra" meaning a "solid rock," (Christ, see 1 Corinthians 10:4). The Greek word for "and" can also be translated "but," and should be in this case. Gates are used for opening and shutting, as Torment of Hades has gates that will open to let one in, and shut to keep them there. When we add all this together, it literally means thus,

*"Peter, you are just a man (piece of rock) but upon Christ (the Solid Rock) I will build my church (i.e. all believers within the Body of Christ) and the gates of Hades (Torment side) will never close upon the Christian."*

## **5. 1 Corinthians 15:55.**

*"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"* Jehovah's Witnesses jump on this verse and are quick to point out that the word "grave" is from the Greek "Hades." Therefore, their doctrine is that when a person dies, body, soul and spirit go to the grave. We have found in our previous study that Hades is in the center of the Earth, having two compartments—one Paradise, the other Torment—with a conversation from both sides going on. This would hardly be true of the grave. If this were to happen in the grave, the next time I preach a funeral some one else will have to finish it; because if the corpse has anything to say, I am leaving! Here, it is simply a mistranslation. We might make mention that many of the Greek manuscripts have the same Greek word for "death" and "grave," which is "thanatos." It would then read "O death, where is thy sting? O death, where is thy victory?"

## **6. What About Jonah?**

When Jonah died, did he stay in the fish's belly? In Jonah 2:1,2 we read, *"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord out of the fish's belly"* (Hebrew, "m-e-ah" and literally means "abdomen"). *"...I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me: out of the belly of hell ("sheol") cried I, and thou heardest my voice."* The word "belly" as we have shown, comes from two different Greek words. In other words, when Jonah went into the fish's stomach, he was alive and prayed, then died. His soul and spirit went to Sheol where he again talked to the Lord. After three days and nights he was restored to life, just as Lazarus was in John 11. In Matthew 12:40, Jonah becomes a type of Christ. Jonah was resurrected back to life after three days in the fish's stomach where his body had died. This was not his resurrected body, only his physical body brought back to life.

## **7. What About Enoch?**

Jude 14 and Genesis 5:22-24. *"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not (he left): for God took him."* The body of Enoch died. (Genesis 3:19; Romans 6:23a) God simply took him from the Earth and put him in Paradise of Sheol. He will later receive his resurrected body.

## **8. What About Purgatory?**

There is no such place at all! It was instituted by the Roman Catholic Church in

593 A.D. and is used as a gimmick to obtain money. Purgatory cannot be found anywhere, including the Roman Catholic Bible. Let their own words speak for themselves:

"Those are punished for a time in purgatory, who die in the state of grace but are guilty of venial sin, or have not fully satisfied the temporal punishment due to their sins. There is need for persevering prayer for the repose of the souls of all those who die after reaching the use of reason, except those who are canonized or beatified by the church (Roman Catholic)." (Father Connell's New Baltimore Catechism #3, PP. 105, 106). "The prayers of the faithful on earth and Masses here celebrated assist the progress of the soul through the pains of purgatory." (Collier Encyclopedia, Volume 8, PP. 314)"

Even though not admitted, almost all the Catholics I have asked, verify the fact that money is expected to be given to the church for the prayers of the priest and the Masses performed.

The Word of God refutes this whole scheme in Psalm 49:6,7:

*"They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him."*

## **9. What About Elijah?**

2 Kings 2:11, *"...and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."* Remember, there are three heavens. The atmosphere above us, the second heaven where the planets are located, and beyond this is the Third Heaven, the abode of God. (2 Corinthians 12:2) We know that this human body cannot inherit the Kingdom of God from Genesis 3:19 and 1 Corinthians 15:50 ...

*"...for dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return." (Gen. 3:19) "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood (our bodies) cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." (1 Cor. 15:50)*

Elijah was taken up, as he did not die the natural death from old age or sickness and etc. He did not enter the third heaven, because our natural bodies cannot enter the Kingdom of God. *When* he separated from his natural body we do not know. *When* he went up, he was then translated to Paradise of Sheol, where all the Old Testament saints went.

## **10. Where Does Luke 3:17 Take Place?**

*"Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable."*

This is the same as the Judgment of the Nations spoken of in Matthew 25. This occurs at the end of the Tribulation Period, just before the Kingdom is established. The "wheat" is the saved and the "garner" is the Kingdom. The "chaff" is referring to the lost.

## **11. Ecclesiastes 3:21.**

*"Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"*

It must be recognized in studying Ecclesiastes that Solomon, the writer, is many times speaking from the unregenerate or carnal viewpoint; just as a carnal Christian today can develop his own reasoning contrary to God's word, if he is not daily studying the Bible. So keep in mind that many times in Ecclesiastes, it is Solomon expressing by his own reasoning instead of speaking the mind of God by the Holy Spirit.

We see in Verse 3:18, below, that Solomon is doing his own reasoning and speaking.

Returning to 3:21, notice that the spirit of the beast goes downward to the Earth. Period! The spirit of a beast is connected to his body. The spirit dies with the body as there is no life after death for animals. The spirit that goes upward does not go to Heaven but unto God for disposition. This is made clear from 12:7...

*"Then shall the dust (body) return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."*

After death, one is in the hands of God to be placed into the Paradise of Sheol or the Torment of Sheol. (Also Ecclesiastes 8:8)

## **12. Ecclesiastes 9:4.**

*"For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion."*

"Dog" here is used as a metaphor for the vilest person. The lion, being the noblest of animals (Proverbs 30:30). In other words, the noblest who die unconverted have no hope; while the vilest, as long as they have life, have hope and can be saved.

### 13. Ecclesiastes 3:18 .

*"I said in mine heart (Solomon's reasoning) concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts."*

This is one of the favorite verses used by Jehovah's Witnesses, saying that we go to the grave the same as an animal, body and soul. The "beast" here is referring to the unregenerated man. That his old nature is sin (Romans 3:23) and that the old body will die (Romans 6:23). The word "beast" is descriptive of his character. When he views himself as God does, then he will recognize the need of a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### 14. What About Babies That Die?

Roman Catholics, some Lutherans, and a few others teach that babies must be baptized. Here is the record:

"Children should be baptized as soon as possible because baptism is necessary for salvation. Infants who die without baptism of any kind do not suffer the punishments of those who die in mortal sin. They may enjoy a certain, natural happiness, but they will not enjoy the supernatural happiness of heaven." (Father Connell's New Baltimore Catechism, pp. 189, #324)

Remember, this is their church doctrine, not the Word of God.

When a baby dies, their soul and spirit goes to be with the Lord, while the body goes to the grave. As sweet as babies are, they still are born with a sinful body. Did you ever have to teach your baby to do things wrong? No. Then who taught them? The answer is, they are born with the old Adamic nature, the same as you and I. As sweet, cute, and lovable as babies are, they cannot take their bodies to Heaven. In Romans 3:23 we are told "*The wages of sin are death...*" Since the baby has not reached the age of accountability to perform the desires of this nature, he will go to Heaven.

When children reach an age to understand fully what they are doing and can comprehend that Christ paid for their sin, they become responsible for their decision to accept or reject Christ. There is no set age given in the Bible as it varies with the child. Baptism has absolutely nothing to do with determining the destiny of a child. If that child has not reached the age of accountability, it will automatically go to Heaven upon death. In 2 Samuel 12:18 we find that David and Bathsheba's child died on the seventh day. Then in Verse 23 we find that David said "*I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me,*" showing that the child went to Paradise in Sheol. Psalm 23:6 tells us that David expected to " *dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*"

Concerning infants, here is Dr. Luke's account in Chapter 18, Verses 15,16:

*"And they brought unto him ALSO infants, that he would touch them...(15). But Jesus called unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. (16)" (Luke 18:15,16).*

Notice! Christ said, "Touch them," not "Baptize them"! The Greek word for children in Verse 16 is "paidion" and is used of both infants and young children. Our Lord summoned both the mothers with infants and those with young children. To these He stated, "...for of such is the kingdom of God". Should one of these infants die unbaptized, Christ assures the parents that they belong to the Kingdom of God.

Now, for those who have reached the age of accountability, the Word of God is perfectly clear! In Romans 14:;12 we are told:

*"So, then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." This is why it is so important to "...train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)*



*SPEAK OUT FOR JESUS*

You talk about your business,  
Your Bonds and stocks and gold;  
And in all worldly matters  
You are so brave and bold.  
But why are you so silent  
About salvation's plan?  
Why don't you speak for Jesus,  
And speak out like a man?

You talk about the weather,  
And the crops of corn and wheat;  
You speak of friends and neighbors  
That pass along the street;  
You call yourself a Christian  
And like the Gospel plan.  
Then why not speak for Jesus  
And speak out like a man?

Are you ashamed of Jesus  
And the story of the cross,  
That you lower his pure banner  
And let it suffer loss?  
Have you forgot His suffering?  
Did He die for you in vain?  
If not, then live and speak for Jesus,  
And speak out like a man.

—Unknown



## X. FINAL ANALYSIS

### *GOD'S PUNISHMENT*

Satan would like nothing better than to convince you that Hell does not exist. That it is just imaginary and a scare tactic used by churches and religious people to frighten you into going to church. With all the imaginations and jokes put aside, we find from God's Word that Hell is a real, literal, place. Call it a scare tactic if you want, but nevertheless, it still exists. Since we have already looked at the theological aspect of Hell, Sheol and Hades, the temporary; and Gehenna, the permanent residence—both torment; we will now look only at the context of the verses referring to these places.

We are eternally indebted to the Lord for giving us so much detail concerning the eternal destiny of the lost. We are going to list a few of the places that record God's judgment upon the lost.

**1. Psalm 9:17.**

*"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."*

**2. Job 21:30.**

*"That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath."*

**3. Proverbs 15:11.**

*"Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?"*

**4. Proverbs 15:24.**

*"The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath."*

**5. Proverbs 27:20.**

*"Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied."*

**6. Isaiah 5:14.**

*"Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall*

*descend into it."*

**7. Isaiah 14:9.**

*Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations."*

**8. Isaiah 28:15.**

The reasoning of man.

*"Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge (i.e. judgment) shall pass through, it shall not come unto us..."*

Now God answers their reasoning,

*(Isaiah 28:18) "And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it."*

Isn't this characteristic of the cults who make a covenant with Hell by reasoning away its existence, but at the judgment they will be swept away into the reality of God's Word concerning Hell.

**9. Isaiah 66:24.**

*"And they shall go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; And they (lost) shall be an abhorring unto all flesh."*

**10. Psalm 11:6.**

*"Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup."*

**11. Ezekiel 31:16.**

*"I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him (Assyria) down to hell with them (lost) that descend into the pit..." ("sheol")*

**12. Ezekiel 32:27.**

*"... the uncircumcised which are gone down to hell with their weapons of war..."*

**13. Luke 16:23,24.**

*"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,...And he cried and said... send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame."*

If this man would only have lifted up his eyes to Christ on earth, he would not be lifting them up in Hell. I hope, Dear Reader, that if you are not saved, you will right now trust Jesus Christ as your Savior, before it is too late.

**14. 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9.**

*"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power."*

**15. 2 Peter 2:9.**

*"The Lord knoweth how to ... reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."*

**16. Revelation 14:11.**

*"And the smoke of their (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."*

**17. Matthew 25:30.**

*"And cast ye the unprofitable seroant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (unbearable pain).*

**18. Matthew 25:41.**

*"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"*

**19. Revelation 20:15.**

*"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

**20. Revelation 21:8.**

*"But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*

What a terrifying account concerning the lost. God is a just God, and His judgment upon the sinner is more than justified. But another attribute of God is His love for the sinner. God, therefore, provided a substitute for you and I. The Lord Jesus Christ took on human flesh and made the payment for the sins of the world. This is the only provision God made for you and I. We have just viewed God's judgment for the sinner; now, let us view God's judgment on Christ as our provision for sin.

***GOD'S PROVISION***

**1. John 3:16.**

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

**2. 2 Corinthians 5:21.**

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

**3. Isaiah 53:4,5.**

*"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."*

**4. Isaiah 53:6.**

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;*

*and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."*

**5. Philippians 3:9.**

*"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"*

**6. Revelation 22:17.**

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."*

**7. Colossians 1:14.**

*"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"*

**8. Titus 2:14.**

*"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*

**9. Hebrews 9:26.**

*"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."*

**10. Hebrews 10:12,14.**

*"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." (12) "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."(14)*

**11. Ephesians 1:7.**

*"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"*

**12. Ephesians 2:8,9.**

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

**13. 1 John 5:13.**

*"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

**14. Revelation 1:5.**

*"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood."*

**15. John 6:47,51.**

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." (47)  
"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (51)*

**16. John 5:24.**

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death unto life."*

**17. John 10:28.**

*"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."*

**18. John 11:25,26 .**

*"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"*

**19. Acts 15:11 and 16:31.**

*"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." (15:11) "And they said, Believe on Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (16:31)*

**20. Acts 13:38,39.**

*"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."*

The Lord in 2 Peter 3:9 is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance* (Greek, "metanoia", "a change of mind")." If you have never received Christ as your Savior, then the Lord wants you to change your mind. He has expounded upon Hell, written in minute detail concerning His death, burial and Resurrection; now the choice is yours. Your decision will last for all eternity, whether in Heaven or Hell. This is one decision you live by or die by and, upon death, it becomes irreversible. I hope that reading the Scripture concerning Hell will persuade you to receive by faith, God's provision for your sin, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now let us examine God's promises to those who are saved.

### ***GOD'S PROMISE***

As a Christian, the child of God has everything to look forward to. Even at death, he is assured he will be in the very presence of Christ in the glories of Heaven. 2 Corinthians 5:8, *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."* (See John 5:24)

#### **A. The Future**

**1. The Promise Of Everlasting Life.**

*(John 3:16) "We will "never perish" (Hell) but have everlasting life."*

**2. The Promise Of Deliverance From The Tribulation.**

1 Thessalonians 1:10 promises we will never have to go through the 7-year tribulation period here on Earth.

*" ... even Jesus which delivered us from the wrath to come," (the Tribulation Period). (Also Revelation 6:16,17.*

**3. The Promise Of The Rapture.**

*"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..."(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51,52)*

**4. The Promise Of A New Body.**

*(Philippians 3:20,21) "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his (Christ's) glorious body..." (Verse 21.)*

**5. The Promise Of the Second Jerusalem.**

*(Revelation 21:2) "And I John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Also, Hebrews 12:22; 13:14; Revelation 21.)*

**6. The Promise Of A New Heaven And Earth.**

*(Revelation 21:1) "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away: and there was no more sea." (Also Isaiah 65:17; 66:22.)*

**7. The Promise Of No More Death, Sorrow, Crying, Tears, Or Pain.**

*(Revelation 22:12) "And, behold, I come quickly: and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Also Job 42:12; Psalm 1:3; 1 Corinthians 3:14; 2 Corinthians 5:10)*

**9. The Promise Of Peace. (John 14:27)**

*Peace I leave with you: my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

**10. The Promise Of An Inseparable Union With Christ.**

*(Romans 8:38,39) "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels,*



*nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

## **B. The Present**

### **1. The Promise of Financial blessings.**

*"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity, for the God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:6-8) (Also Psalm 37:25; Proverbs 3:9,10; 11:24, 25.)*

### **2. The Promise Of Wisdom, Understanding And Knowledge.**

*"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6)." (Also Psalm 119:97-104; Proverbs 2:1-7)*

### **3. The Promise Of Never Being Forsaken.**

*"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5)*

### **4. The Promise Of Help In Time Of Need.**

*"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help In time of need." (Hebrews 4:16) (Also Isaiah 41:10,13; Hebrews 4:15,16.)*

### **5. The Promise To Fulfill Our Desires.**

*"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalm 37:4,5)*

**6. The Promise Of The Holy Spirit.**

*"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."(John 14:16,17,26)*

**7. The Promise That The Earth Will Never Be Destroyed By Another Flood.**

*"Thou hast set a bound that they might not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth." (Psalm 104:)(Also Psalm 104:6-9.)*

**8. The Promise Of Blessings For Separation.**

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3) (Also Psalm 119:1,2.)*

**9. The Promise Of Blessings For Winning The Lost.**

*"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth; much more the wicked and the sinner." (Proverbs 11:30,31) "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." (Psalm 126:6)*

**10. The Promise To Answer Prayer.**

*"...but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."(John 9:31b) " The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous." (Proverbs 15:29)*

These are just a handful of the hundreds of blessings that the Lord has for the Christian. We have examined 20 verses each, relative to God's punishment upon the

wicked, His provision (Christ) for the lost, and His promises for the Christian. I pray you will turn from the punishment of Hell, receiving by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as your provision for sin, and inherit the promises God has waiting for you. You see, "someday," or "tomorrow," will never come and it will be too late! This is what the Lord is saying in 2 Corinthians 6:2 ...

*"...behold, now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation."*

### ***GOD'S PROCEDURE***

If the lost are ever going to be saved, it is because someone cared enough to tell them about Christ. In Romans we are told, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" (10:4) " *... and how shall they believe on him of whom they have not heard...*" (10:14) Now let us examine a few verses that I pray will stimulate a desire for us to fulfill our responsibility.

#### **1. John 4:35.**

The time is short before the Rapture comes.

*"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest, behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest."*

#### **2. Jonah 3:2.**

*"Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." (2) "...Yet 40 days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." (3:4b)*

You and I never know how long a person has before they die. It may come suddenly or at an unexpected time; that is why it is so important to reach them now, before it is too late!

At a previous pastorate, a teen-age boy was instantly killed when his motorcycle was run over by a bus. The teenagers in our church knew him well, but never expected something like this to happen. One day they were talking to him—a couple of days later they were standing at his casket. I asked if any of them had witnessed to him? Their heads went down, the tears began to flow, but it was too late. You see, we need to take advantage of every opportunity now, because tomorrow may never come for some.

**3. Mark 16:15.**

*"And he (Christ) said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

**4. Ezekiel 3:18,19.**

*"When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."*

**5. Matthew 28:19,20.**

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."*

**6. Luke 14:23.**

*"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."*

We need to realize, as Christians, that this old Earth is not a playground, but a battleground. Satan is seeking to claim all he can for eternal Hell, while Christ is seeking to save those that are lost. (Luke 19:10) The procedure is simple, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Should we not, in turn, take the Word of God and share it with the lost? I don't know about you, but I am sure glad someone cared enough to share Christ with me. Shouldn't I do the same for someone else? Since God gave Christ for me, I have a responsibility to give the Word of God to someone else. A very simple procedure.

In conclusion may I recommend that you read Acts 20:19-27 in its entirety. The Apostle Paul (one of the greatest soul winners that ever lived) made these remarks while addressing the elders at Ephesus:

*"Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations which befell me ... (19) And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you... (20) Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks...(21)*

*That I might finish my course with joy... (24) Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. (26,27)*

When we have fulfilled our responsibility, as Paul did, there is nothing more we can do. After Paul had preached in Corinth, he stated in Acts 18:6, "***...Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean...***"

We ought to finish our course here with clean hands, presenting the Gospel everywhere, every time, to everyone where the opportunity exists. Then we can look in full expectation to the return of Christ, and knowing it has been worth it all when we hear Him say ..

*...Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."*  
(Matthew 25:23)



## XI. A COMPARISON

I would now like for you to follow me on a trip to see the trail Satan has directed his so-called scholars to lead the sincere, but unsuspecting, Christian down. The following is a comparison of the New International Version (**NIV**) with the King James Translation (**KJT**) concerning the word "hell" in the New Testament, from the Greek "Hades".

Below are the passages where the Greek word "Hades" appears, which is translated "HELL" in the KJT in each case. The inconsistency of the **NIV** will be obvious as seen by their translation of the word "Hades".

### *King James Text vs. New International Version*

| VERSE            | KJT    | NIV      | NIV FOOTNOTES |
|------------------|--------|----------|---------------|
| Matthew 11:23    | "Hell" | "Depths" | (Gr. "Hades") |
| Matthew 16:18    | "Hell" | "Hades"  | (or Hell)     |
| Luke 10:15       | "Hell" | "Depths" | (Gr. "Hades") |
| Luke 16:23       | "Hell" | "Hell"   | (Gr. "Hades") |
| Acts 2:27        | "Hell" | "Grave"  | No footnote   |
| Acts 2:31        | "Hell" | "Grave"  | No footnote   |
| Revelation 1:18  | "Hell" | "Hades"  | No footnote   |
| Revelation 6:8   | "Hell" | "Hades"  | No footnote   |
| Revelation 20:13 | "Hell" | "Hades"  | No footnote   |
| Revelation 20:14 | "Hell" | "Hades"  | No footnote   |

The **NIV** is projected to the public as easy to read and understand. Remember, they say their version is to clarify and simplify God's word. In Paragraph 8 of the Preface of the **NIV** they state, "Samples of the translation were tested for clarity and ease of reading by various kinds of people..." The only problem is...their talk does not correspond with their work. Their treatment of one simple Greek word, "Hades", is so distorted, perverted, and confusing, that it *may* be as "villainous as Jack the Ripper teaching a Sunday School class!"

May I draw your attention to the ten places the Greek word, "Hades", appears and where it is always translated "HELL" in the **KJT**. There is no distortion, but a simple,

uniform and clear translation from the Greek into the English--illuminating a major doctrine in the Christian faith. NOT SO WITH THE NIV! Instead of clarity we have confusion. Let us recapitulate over the following by the NIV:

- In Matthew 11:23 and Luke 10:15 "Hades" is translated as "DEPTHS" with a footnote at the bottom of the page which says "(Gr. Hades)".
- In Matthew 16:18 the Greek "Hades" is not translated at all, but the NIV put the Greek word, itself, in the verse. Then they put a footnote which says "or hell".
- In Luke 16:23 the NIV translated "Hades" as "hell", the same as the KJV-- Hurrah!
- In Acts 2:27 and 31 they erroneously translated the Greek "Hades" as "grave" and gave NO footnote or explanation.

In Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14, the NIV failed to translate "Hades" and placed the Greek word, itself, into the verse. In all four places they put no footnote or explanation.

I believe the average reader would understand the word "Hell" better than "Hades," unless they possessed a knowledge of the Greek language.

Since the NIV in Luke 16:23 properly translated "Hades" as our English "Hell," one could hardly conclude that error in the other 9 locations was a result of carelessness! Being in error 9 out of 10 times would hardly qualify our 100 so-called scholars for the "Scholar of the Year" award!

May I call your attention again to Acts 2:27,31, where "Hades" was mistranslated as "grave" by the NIV. To take this error out of the arena of "just an oversight," it is evident that those scholars knew the correct Greek word for "grave," the Greek "mnemeion." This word can be properly translated "grave, tomb, or sepulcher". The NIV, almost exclusively, translates this word as "tomb" throughout. Therefore, they are well aware of the different Greek words used for "hell" and "grave".

This translational error in Acts 2:27,31 by the NIV places both the body and soul of Christ in the grave for three days; thus agreeing with various cult religions that body and soul are in the grave in unconsciousness, or extinction of being, until a resurrection. Of course, this contradicts Luke 23:43 where Christ said He was going to Paradise until His Resurrection. Likewise, the Christian is not promised the grave; but, rather, upon death to be immediately at home with the Lord! 2 Corinthians 5:8 makes this clear...

*"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (Not the grave!)*

James states that upon death the spirit (the seat of our intelligence) separates from the body.

*"For as the body without the Spirit is dead..."*

In Revelation 6:9,10, these Christians had died, but were very much alive and talking in Heaven! And what a promise we have in 2 Corinthians 5:1 when facing death!

*"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle (our bodies) were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*

Remember, in Luke 23:43, the thief on the Cross, upon death, went with Christ into Paradise, not the grave!

*"And Jesus said unto him ... To day shalt thou be with me in PARADISE."*

The **NIV** undermines truth and sends forth a false doctrine by their mistranslation of the Greek "Hades" as "grave" in Psalm 16:10 and Acts 2:27,31.

You might ask, "Where is Paradise today?" Paradise was emptied and taken to Heaven when Christ ascended in Acts 1:10. In Ephesians 4:8 we are told...

*"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended UP on high, he led captivity captive (the saved in the Paradise-side of "Hades") and gave gifts unto men."*

Paradise is no longer in the center of the Earth, but now in Heaven—where all the saved go. (2 Corinthians 12:2-4).

In our second diagram, we will compare "Hell" (English) in the New Testament as translated from the Greek words, "Hades" and "Gehenna," the everlasting abode of the lost. The columns to the left will have the Scripture location. Next to the verses will be the translation of the *St. Joseph New Catholic Edition Confraternity, Douay Version*. This is the Bible the Catholics have used for many, many years. Next to this will appear the new, modern translation of the Catholic Bible known as *New American Bible* (1991). Next to this will appear *The New World Translation*, the Jehovah's Witness Bible.



***How The Greek “Hades” Is Translated In The  
St. Joseph NCC - Douay, New American Bible, New World Translation***

| Scripture Reference | St. Joseph New Catholic<br>Confraternity-Douay | New American<br>Bible | NewWorld<br>Translation |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Matthew 11:23       | "Hell"   | "Netherworld"         | "Hades"                 |
| Matthew 16:18       | "Hell"   | "Netherworld"         | "Hades"                 |
| Luke 10:15          | "Hell"   | "Netherworld"         | "Hades"                 |
| Luke 16:23          | "Hell"   | "Netherworld"         | "Hades"                 |
| Acts 2:27           | "Hell"   | "Netherworld"         | "Hades"                 |
| Acts 2:31           | "Hell"   | "Netherworld"         | "Hades"                 |
| Revelation 1:18     | "Hell"   | "Netherworld"         | "Hades"                 |
| Revelation 6:8      | "Hell"   | "Hades"               | "Hades"                 |
| Revelation 20:13    | "Hell"   | "Hades"               | "Hades"                 |
| Revelation 20:14    | "Hell"   | "Hades"               | "Hades"                 |

***How The Greek “Ghenna” Is Translated In The  
St. Joseph NCC - Douay, New American Bible, New World Translation***

| Scripture Reference | St. Joseph New Catholic<br>Confraternity-Douay | New American<br>Bible | New World<br>Translation |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Matthew 5:22        | "Fiery Gehenna"                                | "Fiery Gehenna"       | "Fiery Genenna"          |
| Matthew 5:29        | "Hell"   | "Gehenna"             | "Gehenna"                |
| Matthew 5:30        | "Hell"   | "Gehenna'             | "Gehenna'                |
| Matthew 10:28       | "Hell"   | "Gehenna"             | "Gehenna'                |
| Matthew 18:9        | "Hell-Fire"                                    | "Gehenna"             | "Fiery Gehenna"          |
| Matthew 23:15       | "Hell"   | "Gehenna"             | "Gehenna'                |
| Matthew 23:33       | Judgment of Hell"                              | "Gehenna"             | "Gehenna'                |
| Mark 9:43           | "Fire not quenched"                            | "Gehenna"             | "Gehenna'                |
| Mark 9:44,46        | V.44 "Hell" V.46 "Hell Fire"                   | Ommitted              | V.44, 46 Omitted         |
| Luke 12:5           | "Hell"   | "Gehenna"             | "Gehenna'                |
| James 3:6           | "Hell"   | "Gehenna"             | "Gehenna"                |

As one can notice from our last two diagrams, the Roman Catholic Church as well as Jehovah’s Witnesses in the *New World Translation*, have purposely excluded the word "Hell" from their Bibles. The following is a summary of a few of the so-called religious organizations and their beliefs concerning Hell.

(a). Jehovah’s Witnesses and Hell.

- (1). “...The Bible Hell is mankind’s common grave” (*Let God Be True*, p.92)
- (2). “The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true.” (*Ibid.* p.99)

(b). Christian Science and Hell.

- (1). “The sinner makes his own hell by doing evil, and the saint his own heaven by doing right.” (*Science & Health*, p.266)

(c). L. Ron Hubbard & Scientology.

- (1). “...hell is a total myth, an invention just to make people very unhappy and is a vicious lie.” (*Scientology: A World Religion*, pp. 16, 35)

(d). Seventh Day Adventists and Hell.

- (1). “We, as Adventists, have reached the definite conclusion that man rests in the tomb until the resurrection morning.” (*Questions on Doctrine*, p.520)

This is the same belief as Jehovah’s Witnesses. They also do not believe in an eternal hell for the unbeliever. In their book, *Questions on Doctrine*, they take 22 pages from p.544 to p.566 to try to explain away Hell.

(e). The Lutherans & Catholics are at odds on Purgatory.

(1). Roman Catholicism.

“All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect. The church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the church, by reference to certain text of scripture speaks of a cleansing fire. This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead...” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1994, p.268,269)

(2). Martin Luther (Lutherans).

“Augustine, Ambrose, and Jerome held nothing at all of purgatory. As for purgatory, no place in Scripture makes mention thereof, neither must we in any way allow it; for it darkens and undervalues the grace, benefits, and merits of our blessed, sweet Savior, Christ Jesus. The bounds of purgatory extend not beyond the world; for here in this life the upright, good, and godly Christians are well and soundly scoured and purged.” (Luther’s Table Talk, p.278, The Lutheran Publication Society.)

(f.) World Wide Church of God. Herbert W. Armstrong.

(1). “There is a real truth about death--without consciousness. A resurrection is the hope of the dead. —not living for all eternity in some fanciful “limbo” or compartment of “heaven” or “hell”. The stories you have heard all your life about the boiling pots or the “pearly gates” ARE SHEER MYTH! (After Death Then What?, p. 26).



## XII. CONCLUSION

### *True Accounts Of Those Facing Eternity*

I shall never forget a relative of mine whom I loved very much as a young boy. As years passed, he and his family had moved away and then I heard he was dying of cancer and close to death. The following was related to me by a member of the family. He was hospitalized and unable to sit up or feed himself. The nurse had come in to feed him and—all of a sudden—he sat straight up in bed, eyes enlarged, let out a horrifying scream, “No! No!” and fell back dead in his bed. I had been told that he did not believe there was a God and that he was an atheist. The nurse told a couple of the relatives it was the most terrifying experience she had ever witnessed. She stated to them she never wanted to be with another atheist at death.

This is only my personal opinion; but, I believe that God gave him a glimpse of Hell about five seconds before it became a reality for all eternity. It was sure a testimony to the nurse, by an unbeliever, that Hell is a real place! It breaks your heart when someone you have loved and respected, because they have treated you so nicely, ends up this way. We, as Christians, should have a burning desire in our hearts to witness whenever we have an opportunity.

As a pastor, I have been with a few whom I have tried to lead to Christ just prior to their passing, with no success! They just plain rejected Christ up to their last breath. I have seen the horrified look on their faces as they were conscious and alert up to their last gasp for air.

One I remember in particular occurred while I was going through Bible college. I was pastoring the Goodland Baptist Church in Marco Island, Florida. A lady came to me and asked if I would visit her father in the hospital, as he was dying with cancer. She advised me he was an atheist and hated preachers and churches. She gave me little or no hope of reaching him with the Gospel, but wanted me to try. She was a Christian, herself, but rejected by her father because of her faith.

When I arrived at the hospital and entered his room, it was like walking into a den of demons! I walked over to his bedside and introduced myself—with no response, even though he was fully conscious. The nurse warned me before I went in about the condition of his face. His chin was gone. His jaw and cheek bone were missing and his facial features, because of the cancer, were beyond description—to say the least! Some of the outer space figures we see on television science fiction programs would be “movie stars” compared to this unfortunate man.

I began. I told him that God loved him and Jesus Christ died for him and he could have everlasting life by receiving Christ’s payment for sin. He stared at me the short

time I was there with a hate such as I have never experienced. In response to everything I said he just kept staring at me and shaking his head, “No, No, No!” He couldn’t talk as, due to the cancer, most of his tongue had been removed. He died a couple of days later and his daughter asked me if I would conduct the services. Our church was full at the funeral and, at the conclusion of the service, I gave an invitation. Several indicated by raising their hand that they were receiving Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. God got more glory at this man’s funeral than he did in 80-some years while he was living!

What a difference it is with those who are saved! Joe and his wife moved into town a few years back. He was in his 70’s and, due to some prior bad experiences with churches and preachers, he was not interested in the Lord. His wife began to attend church and finally got him to come. After a few home visits he trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior. I remember him saying, “I can’t stand the thought of her (his wife) going to Heaven without me!” ’

Sometime later he came down with cancer and later went on to be with the Lord. At the hospital he was passing out tracts to the nurses and witnessing to them. One of the chaplains came to see him and the first thing Joe asked him was, “Do you know if you’re going to Heaven when you die? I do.” Joe told me later the chaplain didn’t want to talk about *that* and left almost immediately. Knowing he was not going to recover, Joe came home for the last few days before going to be with the Lord. In my last visits with Joe, I saw a man with peace in his heart, a smile on his face, and joy unspeakable although looking death in the face. He knew the time was drawing near when he would be passed from death unto life. One night, the Lord looked down from Heaven and, while Joe was sleeping, decided this was the most gentle time to summon him Home. Joe left his body while sleeping on February 15, 1999, escorted by the angels to meet his wonderful Savior, face to face.

At a pastorate in Ohio, one of our deacons brought a man to church who was nothing more than a 110-pound drunk! He trusted Christ as his Savior and what a change the Lord brought about in his life. Clem joined our church and was one of our most fruitful members. Once a year on our church grounds we would have an all-day event. The night before Clem would come with his camper and, along with the other men of our church, would put a whole pig on a spit which would then cook all night. Of course, it was all under Clem’s supervision. He had his own recipe for flavorings that he injected into the pork and this made it taste “out of this world”! What wonderful times these were. Clem and his wife were a blessing to all of us.

Then one day Clem was working on his roof, repairing something, and fell off. Soon after he developed cancer. At the hospital Clem witnessed to his nurses and his Jewish doctor. I made several visits to the hospital, praying with Clem that he would recover. On my next to last visit with him I remember it was all I could do to keep back the tears as I walked over to his bed and gave him a hug. I talked with him a short time,

then held his hand and bowed my head to pray. Clem said, "Pastor, you don't have to pray for my recovery anymore. Last night the Lord let me know I am not going home; at least, not to this Earth." Tears trickled down over his wrinkled, old cheeks and there were some sliding down mine, too. He said, "I can't wait to see my Jesus, face to face, and I am going to throw my arms around Him and thank Him for dying on that Cross for me." Driving home I could hardly see to drive for the tears. I cried all the way. I knew it wouldn't be long and I knew I was sure going to miss this little man whose testimony was that of a giant.

My wife and I visited with Clem the next day in the ICU. We knew it would be the last time we would see him alive. When we prayed, Clem looked up at us with such a peace in his face and said, "I'll say 'Hi' to Jesus for you when I get to Heaven; because I am going to see Him before you do." We all hugged and said "Good bye". As we were leaving, I looked back and he raised that little hand to wave "Good bye" with the smile of an angel on his face. He died that night. At his funeral there were many who trusted Christ as their Savior. At the conclusion of the graveside service, one of his old drinking buddies waited until almost everyone had gone and came over to me. He asked, "Preacher, if Christ could save Clem, do you suppose He could save me too?" I had the privilege of leading him to the Lord right there at the graveside. What a difference between Clem's "home going" and that of a dying atheist!

While pastoring in Indiana, our song leader called one day to ask if I would visit his mother in the hospital. She had been diagnosed with cancer. We prayed together that, if it be the Lord's will for her to recover, then she would. On one of my last visits I walked into her hospital room and she had one of the biggest smiles on her face that I had ever seen. At the sight of that smile I asked, "Did you get some good news from the doctors?" "No," she said, "I got some good news from the Lord. He let me know that he is ready for me. Pastor, I did ask the Lord if He would wait until I called some of my close relatives, out of state, to say 'Good bye.' He let me know I could". To those who came, she gave her testimony. My last visit with her before she went home to Heaven was as pleasant as if she had been a young woman in her teens. Most people only get excited over earthly things, but she was excited over the trip to Heaven she was going to make in a few days.

This woman surely proved the word of God to be true. *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me."* (Psalm 23:1,4). How true 1 Corinthians 15:55,57 is, *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be unto God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Once a person dies, their destiny to Heaven or Hell is sealed for all eternity by the decision they made while they were living. My earnest prayer is that, after reading

God's Word concerning Hell; if you are not saved you will, right now, put your faith in Jesus Christ as the One who died for you. He did this for you so that you will never have to go to this terrible place. God's Word is very clear! *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

I have only related a few of the hundreds of deaths, both of the saved and the lost, that I have personally witnessed. If, after reading this book, you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, it would be our privilege to hear from you, letting us know of that decision so we can rejoice with you.



### **XIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Poem: *The Reality of Hell*, by Marjorie A. Younce.

