

THE SPIRITUAL REALM

**Spirits, Mediums, Angels, Demons etc.
Life after Death**

A Scripture study
by
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(Study # 9)

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CONTENTS

INDEX

	Page No.
Preface	<u>3</u>
Angels	<u>4</u>
Elect Angels	<u>8</u>
Satan & Fallen Angels	<u>10</u>
Man's Spirit	<u>13</u>
Evil Spirits	<u>17</u>
Hell	<u>19</u>
Heaven	<u>22</u>
Summary	<u>25</u>

Preface

Until we meet our Creator; there will always be many things that we cannot fully understand. Yet that grand old book, 'the Bible', reveals all that is essential for us in this life pertaining to our spiritual wellbeing and of the spiritual realm in general. (1Cor. 2: 9-16). The understanding of this is of great importance to mankind.

For we read in Matt. 16: 26.

"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Also, Eph 6: 12, reads;

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Today most people choose not to believe in God or in Hell, yet like to believe in some kind of heaven wherein they will enjoy all the things that they now regard as pleasures to their hearts content. Most also believe in a spiritual realm where the deceased dwell, and those spirits (both good and bad) are able to (at least periodically), interact with the living. Many there are who claim to have seen, and spoken with the deceased. Many from within this same group of people also claim to have had contact with extra-terrestrials. Many also consult the stars, mediums, Ouija boards, and a number of other clairvoyants and fortune-tellers. All of which is a form of Spiritism in one way or another.

None of the above is new, the earliest records (including the Bible) make mention of it. All the great kingdoms of the past appear to have experienced a resurgence of spiritism just prior to their downfall. Today we are witness to a resurgence of spiritism throughout the western world. This is evidenced by the overwhelmingly large content of spiritism throughout the media in movies, T.V., magazines etc.

Believing in spirits is not wrong; indeed, it is essential for a Christian to do so. We learn from the Bible that without the action of the greatest Spirit of all (God) nothing would exist.

We find in John 1: 18,

"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him"

& John 4: 24,

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

& John 5 : 37,

"And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form",

& Exod. 33: 20,

"But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

This great invisible Spirit God is eternal (no beginning & no end), and He is the creator of all. Before we can get into the realm of sorcerers, fortune-tellers, mediums, witches, etc., & the occult generally, we need to look at the origins of various spirits. The most reliable source we have for these origins is the Holy Scriptures.

May the Holy Spirit guide you through this study of the Spiritual realm.

ANGELS

God is a Spirit being, and one of the first of His acts of creation was to create a spiritual realm populated by a vast number of His created spiritual beings. Psm. 104: 4. & 148: 2-5 / Neh. 9: 6. / Col 1:16, & Heb.1: 14.

In Job 25: 3 we read,

“Is there any number to His armies? Upon whom does His light not rise?”

and Heb.12: 22 states,

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.”

See also Psm 68:17.

These beings we know as angels are God’s servants and messengers, the first beings of God’s creation and were perfect in every respect. Gen. 1: 31 & Jude 6. The word ‘angel’ as used in Scripture literally means ‘messenger’. They are powerful beings,

Psm. 103: 20, 21, reads,

“Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure”.

They have various levels of power, authority and activity, being arranged in military style, and different orders.

Isa. 6: 1,3, reads,

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”

See also, Isa. 6: 6. & Ezek. 1: 4. Here we note that some angels are called ‘Seraphim’ and that they had wings. Angels of course, have no need of wings, they are weightless spirits. They appear to us with wings only to convey to us that they are not earth bound, have freedom of movement and speed. There are other occasions when they have appeared without wings and looking quite human. (Gen. 18: 2. & 32: 24 / Josh 5:13,14, & Heb. 13:2.)

Another order of angel revealed with wings, was the Cherubim.

Gen. 3: 24 reads,

“So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

The Cherubim are mentioned also in Exod. 25: 18-20, & 37: 7-9 & 1 Kings 8: 6,7., / Ezek. 10: 16 / 2Chron. 5: 7,8 / Heb. 9: 5.

One angel only is referred to as an Archangel, and that is the angel Michael. Dan.10: 13, 21 & 12: 1 / Jude 1: 9. / Rev. 12: 7

Another angel that is a special messenger of God is Gabriel. He is mentioned four times, Dan. 8: 16 & 9: 21, then Luke 1: 19, 26. and each time bringing a powerful message straight from God.

We know that the angels are organised with different levels of authority and purpose. Rom. 8: 38. / Eph. 1: 21, & 3: 10. / Col. 1: 16. & 2: 15. / 1 Thes. 4: 16. / 1 Pet. 3: 22. / Jude 1: 9. / Rev. 12: 7. Christ said in Mat.26: 52, 53,

But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?”

Two things that all God's angels have in common with man, is that they were created, and that they have a free will.

They were however created on a higher level of dignity than man, and they are more powerful. They are neither male nor female and cannot self-pro-create,

Luke 20: 34 - 36, reads,

'Jesus answered and said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection"'. See also, Mat. 22:30. - Yet, just before the flood, in Gen. 6; 1 - 4, we read; "Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown"'.

So it would appear from the above that though they can't breed with each other they are capable of interbreeding with mankind in some way by which they can produce a powerful human type person. We cannot know for sure, but this may be achieved by some form of genetic manipulation with a human, who has been a host to an evil spirit. This creature is then however subject to man's inherent flesh bound mortality, (but more on that later). All spirits once created are immortal, but if that spirit takes on human flesh, then that flesh becomes subject to death, even as God took on human flesh in Christ. The flesh suffered death but the spirit lives on.

This interaction of angels was forbidden by God, and so the angels that committed this sin, were singled out by God for special punishment. More will be said on this subject under the heading of 'Satan & Fallen angels'.

Angels have frequently appeared to man in various forms, sometimes with wings sometimes without. This of course does not mean that angels always have human form. We must remember that angels are spirits; they have no form, as we know it. They appear in human form in order to commune with us. However, there was an occasion when an angel spoke to a prophet from the mouth of a donkey, and then revealed himself.

Numbers 22: 22 - 35 reads;

Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. Now the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No." Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your

way is perverse before Me. The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live.” And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, “I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back.” Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Even God spoke to Moses from a burning bush!

Exod. 3: 1 - 6, reads;

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

God and His Angels can take on, or use any form that they might desire; even it would seem the appearance of machinery. In Ezek. 1, we read that the prophet Ezekiel beheld (in vision form) a likeness of God on what appeared to be a living machine. This living machine was described to the best of the viewers’ ability in that day, but if he had been living today, he probably would have described it as having the appearance of a U.F.O.

Ezek. 1: 1 -28, reads;

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

On the fifth day of the month, which was in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin’s captivity, the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was upon him there.

Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves’ feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. The hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward.

As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies. And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went.

As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning.

Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel was on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their workings was like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings was, as it

were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they moved, they went toward any one of four directions; they did not turn aside when they went. As for their rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them. When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, because there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. And under the firmament their wings spread out straight, one toward another. Each one had two which covered one side, and each one had two which covered the other side of the body. When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army; and when they stood still, they let down their wings. A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings.

And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.

Other instances of angels taking on strange forms can be found in 2 Kings 2: 11 & Rev. Chapt. 4 & 10: 1-3.

Satan also spoke through the mouth of a serpent when he tempted Eve.

Angels are spiritual beings created by God. They are His servants & messengers, and as far as scripture reveals, once a spirit has been created, it cannot die. Angels, like us, have free wills, and therefore are capable of wrongdoing. God can discipline, or punish them temporarily or permanently, but they never die.

A little later, we will deal with the subject of angels that have sinned but we need now to look a bit further at the role of the majority of angels that have stayed true to God and have never sinned.

GOD'S LOYAL ANGELS

Elect Angels

The main function of these angels is to serve, worship and praise God, a role which gives them great pleasure. The Scriptures only allow us a small insight into their functions, but here are some that have been revealed.

<u>They were created by God/Christ;</u>	Neh. 9: 6. / Col. 1:16.
<u>They have different Orders, appearances, powers, and levels of authority;</u>	Isa. 6: 2. / Ezek. Chpt.1./ 1Thes. 4: 16. / 1 Pet. 3: 22. / Jude 1: 9. / Rev. Chpt. 4. / Rev. 10: 1 - 3. & 12: 7.
<u>Cherubim; The highest order;</u>	Stand in God's presence. Originally, Satan was one of this group. Gen.3: 24. / Exod. 25: 17-22. / Ezek. 28: 14.
<u>Gabriel;</u>	He is a special messenger of God and is either a Cherubim or an Archangel. Dan. 8: 16, & 9: 21. / Luke 1; 19, 26.
<u>Archangel;</u>	Michael is one of these. He has a special responsibility for God's people Israel. Dan. 10: 13, 21 & 12: 1. / Jude 1: 9. / Rev. 12: 7.
<u>Seraphim;</u>	Appear to have a special role in the worship and praise of God). Isa. 6: 2.
<u>They are Holy;</u>	Mat.25: 31
<u>They are wise;</u>	2 Sam. 14: 20.
<u>They are elect;</u>	1 Tim. 5; 21.
<u>They are mighty;</u>	Psm. 103: 20.
<u>They are innumerable;</u>	Job 25; 3 / Heb. 12:22.
<u>Obey God;</u>	Psm. 103: 20. / Mat. 6: 10.
<u>Praise and Worship;</u>	Psm. 148:2. / Neh. 9:6. / Heb. 1; 6. / Philip. 2: 9-11
<u>Messenger's from God;</u>	Gen. 24: 7. / 2 Chron. 32: 21. / Dan. 3: 28. / Acts 12: 8. / Rev. 5: 2.
<u>Ministering Spirits;</u>	Psm. 68: 17. & 104: 4. / Mat. 4: 11. / Luke 16: 22 / Acts 12: 7-11 & 27: 23./ Heb. 1: 7-14.
<u>Preparers of the Way;</u>	Gen. 24: 40. / Exod. 23: 20, & 32: 34.

<u>Guardians; / Watchers;</u>	Psm. 34: 7. & 91: 11, 12. / Dan. 4: 13, 17, 23. & 6: 22. / Mat. 18: 10. Heb. 1: 14. / 1 Cor. 4: 9. / Eph. 3: 10. / 1 Tim. 5: 21. / 1 Pet. 1: 12.
<u>Given responsibility for individuals, nations, and churches;</u>	For individuals - Mat. 18: 10. / For Nations - Dan. 10: 4-21, & 12:1. For the Church - Rev. 1: 20.
<u>Carry out God's judgement;</u>	On Individuals; Acts 12: 23. / Nations, 2 Kings 19: 35, Gen. 19: 1-29, Rev. 7: 1-3, Rev. 16: 1, Christ Himself carries out any judgement on the Churches. Read the letters to the seven Churches in Rev. Chap 1-3.
<u>They control the Elements;</u>	Rev. 9: 14. & 17: 5.
<u>Angel of fire;</u>	Rev. 14: 18.
<u>They rejoice over repentant sinners;</u>	Luke 15; 7,10.
<u>They respond to prayer;</u>	Mat. 26: 53. / Acts 12: 5 - 7./ Rev. 8:1- 4.
<u>They are not to be worshipped;</u>	Col. 2: 18 / Rev. 19: 10 & 22: 9.
<u>The Angel of Jehovah</u> (or of the LORD);	(Where 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it means that the original word was Jehovah.). In fact, this title appears to refer to Christ prior to Him taking on human flesh. For Christ always was, i.e. Christ = God. - The Angel of Jehovah = God. This is a doctrine in a class of its own, which is too big to get involved in here. Rather I encourage you to read my Study No. 2. and also look up the following references. The Angel of Jehovah as such appeared only in the Old Testament. Gen. 16: 7 - 13, / 22: 11 - 18. / 24: 7. / 31: 11 - 13. / 32: 24 - 30. / 48: 16. Exod. 3: 2. / 13: 21. / 14: 19. / 23: 20 - 23. / 33: 18 - 23. 1 Chron. 21: 15- 18. Zech 1: 12,13. Josh. 5: 13 - 15. Judges 6: 11 - 23. 1 Kings 19: 5 - 7. Isa. 37: 36. Dan. 3: 25.

Satan & Fallen angels

The angels that have sinned, who are they? What were their sins?. What were the consequences?

We find in Scripture that even the greatest of the angels are capable of sin. In fact, one of the greatest of all was the first to sin. The Scriptures give a number of names and titles to this great angel, but the one we are most familiar with is ‘Satan’, which means ‘adversary’. This name appears in 1 Kings 5: 4 & 11: 14. And Job 1: 6 & 2: 1. & 1 Pet. 5: 8. Let us look now at some of this spirits other names and titles, and attributes, which in themselves reveal the character of Satan.

Lucifer;	Literally, “Day Star” (The herald of day or light). His name before his fall. Isa. 14: 12.
The anointed Cherub;	His title before his fall. Ezek. 28:14.
Devil; or Slanderer;	Mat. 4:1 & 25: 41. / John 8: 44. / Eph. 4: 27. / 2 Tim. 2: 26 / 1 John 3: 8.
The tempter;	Mat. 4: 3. / 1 Thes. 3: 5.
Beelzebub the ruler of demons;	Mat. 12: 24. (Name derived from a Philistine deity.).
The wicked one;	Mat. 13:19.
The father of lies;	John 8: 44.
Murderer;	John 8: 44.
The ruler of this world;	John 12: 31. & 14: 30.
The prince of the powers of the air;	Eph. 2: 2.
The god of this age;	2 Cor. 4: 4.
Belial or Beliar;	Literally, ‘Wickedness or lawlessness.’ An ancient Hebrew title. 2 Cor. 6: 15.
Masquerades as an angel of light;	2 Cor. 11: 14,15.
The adversary as a roaring lion;	1: Peter 5: 8.
Abaddon (Hebrew); Apollyon, (Greek);	Literally, ‘The Destroyer’ Rev. 9: 1, 2, & 11.
Angel of the deepest Abyss;	Rev. 9: 1 – 11.

The great dragon;	Rev. 12: 7-9.
Deceiver of the world;	Rev. 12: 9 & 20: 10.
The serpent of old;	Rev. 12: 9.
Accuser of brethren;	Rev. 12: 10.
He knows the Scriptures;	Mat. 4: 5,6. & Rev. 12: 12.

At times in Scripture God likened the kings of Babylon and of Tyre with Satan, saying things of them, which applied to Satan. From those we can gain some insight into Satan's existence and ways.

Some have said, "If God created Satan, then God is the creator of sin". This however is not correct. Satan was created as a perfect and powerful being, free from sin. He may well have been the first of the created angels, for his name as Lucifer (the one who heralds the coming of day) could well indicate this. As has already been said, he was given freedom of choice at his creation, just as we were. It was this exercise of his free will, which gave birth to sin. - Satan had a mind and will of his own. He being fully aware of his enormous power began to think that he could create a coup, which could overthrow God, taking His place in ultimate authority. - His power must have indeed been great for him to even imagine such a possibility.

Another proof of his immense power and influence is the fact that a large number of God's angels also thought this to be a feasible possibility. - We are not given all the details in Scripture, but it would appear from the following references that one third of God's angels joined forces with Satan in this revolution.

Rev. 12: 7-9. reads;

"And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Isa. 14: 10 -15 reads;

*"They all shall speak and say to you:
'Have you also become as weak as we?
Have you become like us?
Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,
And the sound of your stringed instruments;
The maggot is spread under you,
And worms cover you.'
"How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
For you have said in your heart:
'I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.'*

*Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.”*

Luke 10: 18, reads;

And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

Rev. 12: 3,4, reads;

“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.”

Rev. 12: 7-13 reads;

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child..”

It was Satan’s ambition and pride, which gave birth to sin (not God). He then convinced angels to sin, then later did the same with the first created humans. God and his angels put down the coup, and Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven, (The dimension of God’s presence.) Satan has since then, only been allowed periodic audiences with God in heaven. Satan’s angels, now known as demons, were cast down to the earth where they still obey their new leader. Just as Satan tried to win over all the angels, so now he and his angels try to win over all mankind to follow them. They use a variety of methods to achieve this.

Satan and his angels, since their fall have had certain restrictions placed upon them. - Some as we have already seen earlier under ‘Angels’ went beyond those restrictions committing greater sin and were confined to the ‘Bottomless pit’ or ‘Deepest Abyss’ until the final judgement. - Read Gen. 6: 2. / 2 Pet. 2: 4. / Jude 1: 6. / Rev. 8: 13 to 9: 11.

We also saw earlier that angels cannot pro-create (i.e. create more angels). Luke 20: 34 - 36.

Only a few texts refer to the above events of the angel’s sin and inability to pro-create, and my interpretations could therefore have some flaws. However, the texts definitely show God’s severe judgement on angels that go too far.

More will be said on the activities of Satan and his angels under the heading of ‘Evil spirits / demons’.

MAN'S SPIRIT

Man has a God given spirit within him. We read in

Gen. 2:7. 7

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”.

The word translated breath is the same as for spirit. It is however, a pure myth that mankind become angels when they die. This myth has no basis whatsoever in scripture.

Man's spirit lives forever, but it is our choice entirely as to whether we spend eternity with or without God.

God created man in His own image Gen. 1: 26. He did not create man in His physical image, for God is an unseeable spirit. As best as can be described, God created us in the image of His nature. He gave us a physical and a spiritual form, and a soul. Just as God is tri-une, so man also is tri-une.

God is, Father Son and Holy Spirit. - Man is, body, spirit and soul.

Mankind is therefore in the image of God, possessing characteristics of creativeness, spiritual awareness, ability to learn from the past and plan for the future. To some degree some of these characteristics can be found in other sections of God's creation, but spiritual awareness appears to be reserved solely for mankind. Let us now look at these three divisions of man.

1. Body; - Is the physical, (the house in which we dwell). By it we have awareness of our external surroundings, and our three senses of sight, sound and touch. God created man from the dust of the earth, Gen. 2: 7. - Modern science agrees that the physical composition of man is made up of basic ingredients found in the dust of the earth.
2. Spirit; - Is the life force, which also gives us our God consciousness and spiritual awareness. God breathed into man and man became a living soul, (or 'being') Gen. 2: 7. - The words, breath, wind, and spirit, are mostly translated from the same original word. The sense in which it is used determines the word. Basically, the word conveys the thought of 'something that's effects can be felt or seen, but itself cannot be held nor seen.'
3. Soul; - It is this combination of body and spirit that creates the soul. It is this part of us which contains the consciousness of our mind. The brain is physical and belongs to the body, but the mind embraces the spiritual part in which we have our free will, emotions and reason. We often refer to these as the emotions and feelings of our heart or inner being. It is that part of us, by which we can choose good or evil, and enables us to accept or reject God. The word 'being' can frequently be used in scripture as an alternative translation of the word used for 'soul'.

The three are distinct, yet because the body and spirit create the soul, the word 'soul' can also be, and is used, to refer to the complete person. Mat. 10: 28. & Rev. 20: 4.

It is our whole being, our soul, (body, spirit, soul) that Christ came to save, not just a part of us. If however we reject Him, it will be our whole being that shall be cast into Gehenna. Sure, this body when we die, will see corruption, but God has said that this body is just a seed, and from it after our death He will raise up a new body.

1 Cor. 15: 35-49, reads;

But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?”

Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds.

There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon,

and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. Read also; John 12: 23-26. & Mat. 25: 31 - 46.

Mat. 10 :28, shows how man is capable of taking a life from a body but can then do no more. God on the other hand can cast the whole soul into Hell. It reads;

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Some people get hung up on this word 'destroy' believing it means total annihilation. There is however no grounds for such an interpretation. The word translated 'destroy', here and elsewhere in Scripture has the same meaning as we put on it in our modern English. - In all instances it means to bring to an end of its current form or to ruin or nullify, but can also mean to kill, or demolish i.e. buildings or objects.

An example of 'Bringing to an end' in Scripture can be found in Gen.6:13, which reads;

"And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

The evil ones and the earth were destroyed together. Corrupt mankind was killed and the earth was laid desolate, 'brought to an end of its then current form'. We know that the earth however, though changed, still exists. Further examples of this usage in Scripture can be found in, 2 Kings 18: 25 / Isa. 19: 3. / Jer. 23: 1 & 51: 24,25 - Where 'destroy' is used in reference to killing, read, 2 Sam. 14: 7. / 1 Kings 16: 11,12. / Esth. 3: 6. / Mat. 27: 20 - Where it is used in reference to demolition, read, Gen. 18: 28. / Exod. 34: 13. / Jer. 6: 5.

An example of the word destroy in our modern English bringing out the main meaning would be to say; "An atom bomb destroyed Hiroshima and its people" - We know however that portions of the city survived, and some of its citizens also survived, and both city and survivors are with us today. The city and its people were brought to an end, in its then current form, and that is what we mean by destroy.

What I am trying to say is that any spirit once created exists forever. It can however be punished or restricted by a higher spirit. Eccl. 12: 7, reads,

"Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."

After physical death the spirit is separated and returns to God for His judgement.

From the beginning, mankind has been given the choice as to the eventual outcome of his spirits well-being and destiny. God gave us a free will. The only way a free will may be exercised, is by making a choice.

When man was created, he was created perfect in body, mind, and spirit; everything functioned to maximum ability. His body was designed with the ability to live forever, continually self-repairing as necessary. He had everything he needed, and wanted for nothing. However, in order for him to exercise his free will, God had to supply a means of choice. We find this in Gen. 2: 15-17. Here God supplied a fruit tree, and gave the command that Adam was not to eat of it. To eat of it would give him the knowledge of good and evil, by virtue of him then knowing that he had committed a sinful act.

This one thing only was Adam forbidden to do. Making a choice however was the only way he could exercise his free will. Well, we know the outcome; he made the wrong choice. He had everything he needed, yet lusted for the one forbidden thing. Sin had entered the human race. Satan had won a victory. The war that had started in heaven was now raging on earth. This war continues to the present day, but the final victory will be God's.

Eph. 6: 10-18, reads,

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

In Rev. 20: 7-15,

The angel said to John, *“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.” And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

God has given us the opportunity to turn from the sin, which Adam plunged us into. The choice for Adam was simple, to obey or disobey. Our choice is just as simple; we either accept or reject the Lordship of Christ.

Christ willingly gave his life on the cross in order to bear our sin and punishment. All we have to do is accept the sacrificial price He paid and put our belief and trust in Him. We need to submit our free will back to Him, so that we can say with Paul, as in Gal. 2: 20, 21, which reads,

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

We can then, with assurance and certainty look forward to the promises of Rom. 8: 14-17. / & Rev. 21: 1-7. & 22: 14. - If man however remains in his sins, i.e. 'fails to accept Christ as his saviour' then his destiny is to be the same fate as that reserved for Satan and his angels.

John 14: 6 reads,

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Rev. 20: 9-15, reads,

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

By submitting our spirit, body, and soul back to God, as a free will love gift in response to His love for us, shows that we have accepted His love and salvation. Eph. 2: 8,9, reads,

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

We cannot earn salvation; no good works can save us; it is a free gift, conditional only on our loving Him who first loved us. Read also, Rom.3: 21-26.

Psm. 32: 1,2, reads,

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit."

At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will give the believers new glorified bodies to cloth our spirits, (we will then again be a complete soul). The believer will then spend eternity with God.

For those who refuse to accept Christ's sacrifice and grace, there is a fearful looking forward to of judgement. At the end of the Millennium their resurrected bodies will be united with their spirits (till then held in Hades). They will then stand before the final judgement seat, where their deeds will be made known. As they have refused Christ, who alone could have saved them, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever. (Rev. 20: 11-15.)

At the Rapture (the beginning of earth's Tribulation) the dead in Christ, and then the believers who are still alive at the time, will be clothed with new glorified bodies. These will then spend eternity with Christ. Those who turn to Christ during the Tribulation and the Millennium will receive their glorified bodies at death, or at the end of those periods. Read, 1 Thes. 4: 15-18. / Rev. 20: 4-6. & Rev. Chapters 21 & 22.

EVIL SPIRITS 'DEMONS'

We have looked at the origins of spirits and some of the activities of good spirits, but we now need to look at some of the activities of evil spirits (demons).

First God has forbidden our involvement with evil spirits or spiritism and we need to look at the list of spirit activities that God has condemned.

Charlatans can fake all of these activities, but we are looking here at the genuine ones.

Having a familiar spirit. (Literally one that is a host to a spirit) i.e. has a spirit indwelling other than the natural, or to put it simply, one who is a host to a demon. By that indwelling demon, he/she may foretell some future events and give the appearance of bringing forward the spirits of the dead. They may also be a 'medium' for other demons.

Demons are capable of manipulating some future events in order to deceive. - Demons also easily impersonate the dead in order to deceive and make it appear that God's Word is false.

Forbidden in; Lev. 19: 31. & 20: 6, 27. / Isa. 8:19.

Medium, or Spiritist

A person that calls up spirits, usually by way of a seance. The demons that are called up impersonate the dead. Forbidden in; Lev. 19: 31. & 20: 6, 27. / Isa. 8: 19. / 1 Chron. 10:13.

Necromancer.

One who seeks to consult the dead via the above sources. Also appears to apply to any practitioner of 'the black arts'. Forbidden in; Deut. 18:10-11.

Soothsayer.

One who claims to be able to foretell the future and reveal secrets and interpret dreams. Usually also carried out by the first two, but sometimes just specialising in this area. Often carried out by consulting with their false gods (demons).

Forbidden in; Deut18: 9-14. / Jer. 27:9. / Isa. 2: 6. / Mic. 5: 12.

Sorcerer.

From the same Greek word from which in English we get 'Pharmacy'. Drugs were used to induce trance states. Also it appears they were known as Charmers or Enchanters. Practised the use of magic, magic potions and spells. Made use of slight of hand, illusions, hypnotism and herbal medicines. Most involved the calling upon the powers of demons for effect.

Forbidden in; Isa. 47: 9. / Jer. 27: 9. / Mal. 3:5. / Acts 8: 9-13. & 13: 8-11.

Magi / Magician.

Not to be confused with present day magicians. They are believed to have originally been a priestly class in Persia. They were masters of astronomy, astrology and mathematics. Also usually involved with false gods and fortune telling. Generally also involved in magical spells, illusions, and other acts of sorcery.

Forbidden in; Rev. 9:21 & 18:23 & 21:8 & 22:15

Astrologers.

Readers of the heavens, foretelling the future by the stars, and the reading of signs and omens. Guided by demons. Seekers of the knowledge of the future from the created, rather than from the Creator.

Forbidden in; Gen. 1:16. / Psm. 147: 4.

- Diviners.** One who reads omens, dreams, and the future from the dividing and placement of a number of items such as stones, but also very common from dividing of the liver or other organs of dead creatures, often, also involved in astrology.
Forbidden in; Jer 27: 9. / Mic. 5: 12.
Modern day Ouija boards, crystal balls, tarot cards, tea cup reading, are all branches of divination.
- Witch.** Usually a medium who also practised sorcery and magic.
Forbidden in; Deut. 18: 10.
- Wizard.** Really just another word for a 'spiritist, or medium'. From Isa. 8: 19, it appears that they were mediums that practised some sort of ventriloquism, and possibly also practised sorcery.
Forbidden in; Lev. 20: 27.
- Consulting the Teraphim.** Teraphim, usually refers to household images or idols. Mainly refers to Soothsayers that used images of the dead, or objects belonging to them in order to consult the spirits of the dead. (In reality consulting demons.) Modern day psychics use this method. Also consulted idols of false gods.
Forbidden in; Ps. 24: 4 / Jer. 10: 8. / 1 Cor. 8: 4-7. & 10: 19-22. / Deut. 5: 7-10.

All these forms of spiritism are condemned in the Scriptures. They are all delusions of the devil. To delve into any of these is to risk the wrath of God. The purpose of these delusions is to turn people from the truths of God's Word.

HELL

We are told only a little (that is; what is necessary for us to know) about Heaven & Hell in the Bible.

We must remember here that the Scriptures were written in the language of the people of the day. Words had to be used that the people were capable of understanding. What good would it have been in Moses day to speak of atoms, aircraft, computers, D.N.A. etc. They could not have understood such concepts. Nor could they understand the concept of different dimensions. So God had the prophets speak of Heaven as a place above the clouds, and Hell as a place beneath or at the centre of the Earth. The fact is; they are spiritual dimensions, and could even exist right alongside us. Heaven is easier for us to comprehend, probably because the thought of it is more pleasant. We know it to be the place of God's throne, the dwelling place of God and His angels. We must at this point remember that God is an Omni-present Spirit.

Psalm 139; 7-12, reads;
*Where can I go from Your Spirit?
 Or where can I flee from Your presence?
 If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
 If I make my bed in hell, (Sheol) behold, You are there.
 If I take the wings of the morning,
 And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
 Even there Your hand shall lead me,
 And Your right hand shall hold me.
 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me,"
 Even the night shall be light about me;
 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,
 But the night shines as the day;
 The darkness and the light are both alike to You.*

We see from the above that God is everywhere. He cannot be restricted to any one place or time. Though God is in heaven all the time, He is also everywhere else all the time. So we cannot think of Heaven or Hell as being fixed to any sort of geographical location. They are in a spiritual realm or dimension.

Firstly let us look at the subject of hell.

Unfortunately the translators of the K.J.V., translated a number of different words, some of which had different meanings, as hell. This problem has carried over to the N.K.J.V. and has caused considerable confusion and misunderstanding.

They are;

From the Hebrew Old Testament '**Sheol**' & from the Greek New Testament '**Hades**'. Both mean literally, 'The unseen world' or 'The Chamber'. It is the place of disembodied spirits. However the K.J.V. has translated Sheol 31 times as hell, 31 times as grave, and 3 times as pit. Whereas Pit can be a suitable word for Sheol, it should never be translated as Grave.

The grave is a totally different place to Sheol.

The Hebrew word **Qeber** and the Greek word **Mnēmeion** are the words for grave, sepulchre, tomb or equivalent, and as it happens whenever Qeber or Mnēmeion appear in the K.J.V. & the N.K.J.V. they have been correctly translated, except in the N.K.J.V. in Prov. 1: 12., 'grave' has been wrongly translated as 'Sheol'.

Then we have '**Gehenna**', a name that Jesus gave to symbolise '**The Lake of Fire**', which is mentioned in Revelation.

The word '**Abyss**' used on its own in Luke 8: 31 & Rom. 10: 7 refers to 'Sheol'.

The phrase '**Deepest Abyss**', translated as '**Bottomless Pit**', in the K.J. & N.K.J.V. refers to a temporary prison for the worst of the fallen angels, within a separated section of Sheol.

The N.K.J.V. reads 'hell' on the following 31 occasions; The correct title is shown on its right.

Deut 32:22	-----	Sheol	- The Hebrew equivalent of the Greek 'Hades'.
Ps 9:17	-----	“ “	
Ps 55:15	-----	“ “	
Ps 139:8	-----	“ “	
Pro 5:5	-----	“ “	
Pro 7:27	-----	“ “	
Pro 9:18	-----	“ “	
Pro 15:11	-----	“ “	
Pro 15:24	-----	“ “	
Pro 23:14	-----	“ “	
Pro 27:20	-----	“ “	
Isa 14:9	-----	“ “	
Eze 31:15	-----	“ “	
Eze 31:16	-----	“ “	
Eze 31:17	-----	“ “	
Eze 32:21	-----	“ “	
Eze 32:27	-----	“ “	
Am 9:2	-----	“ “	
Hab 2:5	-----	“ “	
Mat 5:22	-----	Gehenna	This word was coined by the Lord Himself. The word is taken from 'Ge-Hinnom', the name of the valley rubbish tip just outside of Jerusalem. This tip was kept burning perpetually and the bodies of criminals were burnt there. The Lord saw it as a fit symbol of The Lake of Fire' mentioned in Revelation 19: 20, & 20: 10,14,15.
Mat 5:29	-----	“ “	
Mat 5:30	-----	“ “	
Mat 10:28	-----	“ “	
Mat 18:9	-----	“ “	
Mat 23:15	-----	“ “	
Mat 23:33	-----	“ “	Aside from Jas. 3:6, all other references to Gehenna were by the Lord Himself.
Mk 9:43	-----	“ “	
Mk 9:45	-----	“ “	
Mk 9:47	-----	“ “	
Luke 12:5	-----	“ “	
Jas 3:6	-----	“ “	

'The deepest abyss', 'The pit or shaft of the abyss', or 'Tartarus'. 2 Pet 2:4 Also mentioned in Rev. 9: 1,2,11., 11: 7., 17: 8. & 20: 1,3, where it has been translated as 'bottomless pit'. This 'deepest abyss' is that deepest, darkest part of Sheol / Hades that is reserved for the worst of the fallen angels.

It is an area that is separated from other spirits

Sheol - has been correctly translated as such in the following 18 occurrences in the N.K.J.V.
2 Sa 22:6 / Job 11:8 / Job 17:16 / Job 26:6 / Ps 16:10 / Ps 18:5 / Ps 86:13 / Ps 116:3 / Isa 5:14 / Isa 14:11 / Isa 14:15 / Isa 28:15 / Isa 28:18 / Isa 38:10 / Isa 38:18 / Isa 57:9 / Jonah 2:2

Grave - has been wrongly translated as 'Sheol' in Prov. 1: 12. of the N.K.J.V.

Hades - is correctly translated as such in the following 11 occurrences in the N.K.J.V.
Mat 11:23 & 16:18 / Lk 10:15 & 16:23 / Acts 2:27 & 2:31 / 1 Cor 15:55 / Rev 1:18 & 6:8 / Rev 20:13, 14 (Hades is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew 'Sheol')

Gehenna - on each of its 12 occurrences has always been translated as hell.

Furnace of Fire - Mat. 13: 42,50, is another name for Gehenna.

Everlasting Fire & Eternal Punishment – Mat. 25: 41, 46, are also other names for Gehenna.

If you take the trouble to mark all of these in your Bible, you will gain a clearer understanding as you read it.

The dimensions known as Sheol/Hades had three divisions.

Paradise or Abraham's Bosom. For those who worshipped/ served God. (Luke 16: 22).

Torments. For those who rejected God and His authority. A temporary holding place (Like a Remand Prison). There to be held till the final judgement. (Luke 16: 23).

Deepest Abyss or Pit, Reserved for Fallen angels who were guilty of great sin. (Jude 6 & 2 Pet. 2: 4.)

Paradise was moved to Heaven after Christ's crucifixion. (Luke 23: 43. / Eph.4:8-10. / Rev.2: 7. / Psm. 68:18.)

There are a number of verses which show an awareness of the spiritual realm by those in Sheol/Hades, but there are other verses such as Eccl. 9: 5,6 & 10., which show that there is no knowledge of what is happening amongst the living i.e. (under the sun). For those in Sheol their knowledge is limited to what goes on in their part of the spiritual realm and an obvious tormenting awareness of judgement to come. There is some degree of torment for the unsaved in Sheol but to what degree, and whether it's a mental type or in some way a material type we cannot be sure. The certainty is that whatever the torment, it is nothing compared to what awaits them in the Lake of Fire.

HEAVEN

We find heaven is mentioned on a number of occasions. But first we need to realise that there are three heavens mentioned in the Bible. They are: -

1st. The lower region. - The region immediately above the earth.- The earth’s atmosphere.
Dan. 7: 13. / Acts 1: 10.

2nd. The Planetary heavens. John 1: 51. / Rev. 6: 14.

3rd. The Heaven of heavens. - The dimension in which God’s glory and power is revealed. For our benefit this is revealed as being beyond the planetary heavens.
1 Kings 8: 27 / 1 Cor. 15: 47 / 2 Cor. 12: 1-4 / 2 Pet. 3: 13. / Rev. 21: 1.

Christ said to the repentant thief on the cross in Luke 23: 43

And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Paradise was at that time a division of Sheol.

Christ descended into Sheol at His death and there proclaimed to the fallen angels and all in Sheol, His victory over death, the grave and Hell.

1 Pet. 3: 19 states,

by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

The repentant thief went with Him, as a fresh trophy of His victory.

We see in the following, that Paradise is now in the 3rd. heaven. It was originally one of the divisions of Sheol.

2 Cor. 12: 2-4 reads

“I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” Read also; Mat. 27: 50-53. & Eph. 4: 8.

2 Pet. 2:4 *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;*

Jude 6 *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;*

After Christ had descended into Sheol, He then ascended to Heaven, victorious over death, the grave and hell, taking the thief and all the souls in Paradise with Him to the 3rd. Heaven. Thus Paradise is now in the 3rd. Heaven.

Eph. 4: 8-10, *Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”*

(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Rev 2:7 *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’*

What does all this mean to us in this day and age? Who goes to Heaven and who goes to hell? What is the application for the non-Christian? (One who has not surrendered his/her will to Christ & accepted Him as their personal saviour), & what is the application for the Christian? (One who is a

disciple of Christ). First of all, for the non - Christian there are some solemn warnings given in Scripture.

Here are just a few :Mat. 7: 21 - 23, - *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”*

John 3:3, - *Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

John 3:18, - *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

Mat. 13: 37- 43, - *He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*

Rev. 21: 6 - 8, *And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

Rev. 22: 14 - 15, - *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*

Mat. 16:26, - *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Time is running out; we must act now, before it's too late. Accept Christ now for eternity, or reject Him now for eternity.

2 Cor. 6: 2b - *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

For those who do accept Christ's Lordship, they have the assurance of sins forgiven, the comfort and strength of the Holy Spirit to see them through this life, and the added wonderful assurance of having been adopted into God's own family to spend eternity with Him. (1 John 3: 1,2.)

The Christian will experience sufferings in this life, but God is always there, giving us all the strength we need to get through it. However, eternity with God, brings an end to all suffering and sorrow for we read in:

Rev. 21:1 - 8,
Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New

Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Rev. 21: 27 reads,

But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Rev. 22: 1-5. reads,

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

SUMMARY

To attain to heaven one must be saved!

The Christian is saved, not by any good works or charity, or goodness on his part, but simply by the finished work of Christ on the cross. Eph.2:8,9 - reads,

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. We cannot earn salvation.

Romans 5: 6-11, - *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.* John 4: 12- 19, - *No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

Those who love Him are partakers of the following beautiful promise.

1 Cor. 2: 9. *But as it is written:*
“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”
 This will be our Paradise, or the Third Heaven.

We see from the above quotes that the Christian has much to look forward to, but for the non-believer there is only a fearful looking forward to of judgement and eternal punishment.

When Christ comes to remove the church (the believers) from the earth at the event we call the Rapture; all the dead in Christ will be raised and given new glorified bodies. The events of the Rapture and those immediately following are as below:

1. Christ will appear in the 1st. heavens, together with the spirits of all the believers from Paradise.
2. God will raise up new glorified bodies from the ashes of those who died in faith.
3. The glorified bodies will be united in the air with the spirits Jesus brings with Him.
4. All believers alive at the time will be clothed with new glorified bodies and will rise to meet the Lord in the air, together with all those that died in faith, and then will be forever with the Lord.

1 Thes. 4: 15 - 18, reads, *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise*

first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

All the above will happen in a moment of time. Read, 1 Cor. 15: 52.

5. All believers will remain with the Lord in the 3rd. Heaven (Paradise) until the end of the 7 year Tribulation period (which commences at the removal of the church).
6. At the end of the Tribulation Christ will return with all believers physically to the earth, and will bring judgement upon the earth and its people.
7. Satan and his demons will be locked up in the Deepest Abyss for 1,000 yrs. - Christ will then rule on earth, from Jerusalem for 1,000 yrs.,(the Millennium).
8. All Christians and faithful Old Testament Jews will be with Him.
9. At the end of the Millennium, Satan, his demons, and all those in Sheol/Hades will be released for a short time. With this horde, Satan will make a final attack on Christ and His people.
10. God will step in, defeat Satan and consign him and his demons to the Lake of Fire (Gehenna) for eternity.
11. He will then judge all those who rejected Him during their lives and consign them also, to the Lake of Fire for eternity. (Rev. 20: 9 - 15.).
12. God will then cleanse this earth and indeed, it seems this whole universe with fire, and creates new Heavens and Earth where He, His angels and all those who have given their love and allegiance to Him, will dwell for eternity.

I have only been able to deal a little here with all these subjects from the Rapture to eternity More can be found in my Study # 1, but for greater more detailed study I recommend to your reading the book, - 'The Bible Prophecy Handbook' by John Ecob D.D., the Editor of the 'Herald of Hope Magazine' (Australia).

In this life, our real struggle is against Satan's side of the spiritual realm. He wages a continuous battle against us. He portrays himself as an angel of light, going about deceiving the unwary, leading them into the traps of spiritualism, sorcery, necromancy, idolatry, fortune telling, reincarnation, atheism, evolution and so many other deceptive lies. This is the spiritual warfare designed to draw us away from God, His Word, and His Commandments.

Eph.6:10 - 18 reads, Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

The Christian needs to be aware of the spiritual realm. - It is essential to understand that the dead have nothing to do with the living and cannot communicate with them.

Read; Eccl. 9: 5, 6 & 10.

It is demons that impersonate the dead and speak through mediums. It is demons that control Ouija boards, and other such devices. It is demons that guide some readers of tarot cards, tealeaves, crystal balls, and readers of stars etc. - Through the Scriptures God has repeatedly condemned these things and those that dabble in them. - The Christian should therefore have nothing to do with them.

Dear reader, be on your guard against the wiles of the devil, for he seeks to deceive you and turn you from God by any means possible. Remember; the spiritual realm is a reality, and Heaven and Hell are realities. We all need to look carefully at the question of 'Where will we spend eternity?' Will it be with God in Paradise, or will it be an eternity of remorse and pain in the Lake of Fire?

We must exercise our free will and make the choice now. We don't know what tomorrow holds. It is urgent that we make our decision now. Much more could be said on this subject, but it is the authors hope and prayer that you will take up your Bible and study the subject further yourself.

May God reveal His truths to you, and bless you in your spiritual warfare.

The author highly recommends the free study and other material available at;

<http://www.christiansunite.com/>

<http://www.ebcwa.org.au/>

<http://www.heraldofhope.org.au/books.html>

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/>

<http://www.biblegateway.com/>

End.