

HEAVEN

LOCATION & PARTICIPANTS

THE PARADISE OF GOD

(Rv.2:7)

Lower Parts of the Earth

(Ps.63:9; Lk.16:19-31; Ep.4:9)

Sheol (Hebrew)

or

Hades (Greek)

Third Heaven

(2Co.12:1-4)

UNDERWORLD TRANSFERED

- **After the resurrection of Christ there was a transfer of hades in the earth to a heavenly abode.**
- **There are several OT prophecies which speak of this transfer taking place (Ps.49:15; 68:18; Is.61:1; Ho.13:14;)**
- **Jesus took the location called Paradise on earth (Lk.16:22-23,43; Ep.4:9) and transferred the saints dwelling there to the third heaven (2Co.12:1-4). Paul speaks of being in the third heaven.**
- **Since the resurrection of Christ when a believer dies they go into the presence of the Lord in the third heaven (2Co.5:8; 12:1-4; Ph.1:23). It continues to be called Paradise (Rv.2:7). This is for those who overcome, that is, come to faith in Christ (1Jn.5:5).**

OT BELIEVERS ARE IN CHRIST

Are OT Saints Identified With Christ?

- **Old Testament saints looked forward to salvation and resurrection through the sin sacrifice of the Messiah (Hb.11:13,16). They had faith in the salvation provided by God, especially through the promised Messiah.**
- **OT saints do not become part of the church, but they are saved by means of Christ.**
- **Their understanding was based on what revelation God has provided at the time.**
- **Old Testament saints, based on their faith, are placed into union with Christ through association with Him as their promised Messiah.**
- **Many distinguish so hard between OT and NT saints that they ignore that Jesus is their Savior as well.**
- **OT saints are in Christ, not in the Church**



**The
MESSIAH
JESUS**

GOD WILL BLESS OT AND NT SAINTS TOGETHER

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God (Ep.2:19)

- The Church is joined into God's household (Ep.2:19)

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect (Hb.12:23)

- We shall both live in the same heavenly city, New Jerusalem (Hb.11:16; 12:22)

OT & NT SAINTS POSITIONALLY JOINED

- NT saints are become fellow citizens with Old Testament saints, allowing us to be part of the household of God (Ep.2:19).
- The Church has been grafted into the commonwealth of Israel (Ep.2:11-16).
- The sin sacrifice of Messiah Jesus brought OT saints and the Church into a covenant of peace with God (Ep.2:13-16).
- The Old and New Testament believers have been positionally joined together into one spiritual body in union with Christ.
- The Church does NOT replace Israel. The Church is a new entity called, “one new man” (Ep.2:14-16).

NT BELIEVERS GRAFTED IN



HEBREWS 12:22-24

²²But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, ²³To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

- 1 Location is heavenly Jerusalem or Mount Zion**
- 2 Multitude of Angels**
- 3 Assembly of the firstborn, the Church**
- 4 God the Father**
- 5 Spirits of Righteous Men Made Complete**
- 6 Jesus**
- 7 Blood of Sprinkling**