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)

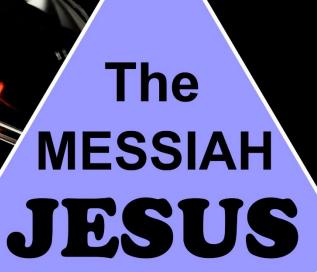
UNDERWORLD TRANSFERED

- 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



GOD WILL BLESS OT AND NT SAINTS TOGETHER

Now therefore <u>ye</u> are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens <u>with the saints</u>, 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 <u>church</u> of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the <u>spirits of just men made perfect</u> (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 <u>fellow citizens</u> with Old Testament saints, allowing us to be part of the <u>household of God</u> (Ep.2:19).
- The Church has been grafted into the <u>commonwealth of Israel</u> (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

WIEVING GEN

- Believing Gentiles, as a wild olive tree are grafted on to the Cultivated Olive Tree (Ro.11:17-21; Ep.2:12)
- Sons of Abraham by faith (Ro.4:11-18; Ga.3:7,29), but still Gentiles (Ga.2:12,14)

Church of God

The Spiritual "Commonwealth of Israel" which Includes the Promises and Covenants God made with Israel (Ep.2:12)

Believing Israel are natural to the branches of the tree, and natural to the roots (Ro.11:16-17,24)

· Believing Jews remain in the tree because of their faith in Christ

JEVING ISP

Israel of God

(Ro.9:27; 11:4-5, 25; Ga.6:16)

Jacob

Isaac **Abraham**

- The roots did not change their nature. They remain Israel (Ro.11:17-18)
- The root supports the branches (Ro.11:18)

- Unbelieving Israel broken off because of unbelief (Ro.11:17)
- They remain natural to Israel (Ro.11:21,23,24)
- Israel broken off so the Gentiles might be grafted in (Ro.11:19)

Israel

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 <u>angels</u>, ²³To the general <u>assembly and church of the firstborn</u>, which are written in heaven, and to <u>God the Judge of all</u>, and to the <u>spirits of just men</u> made perfect, ²⁴And to <u>Jesus</u> the mediator of the new covenant, and to the <u>blood of sprinkling</u>, 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