

The Eternal Abode
of
The Righteous



THE ETERNAL ABODE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The place of the eternal abode of earth's righteous ones has ever been a question for speculation by those who have desired to look into the future. The majority of the religious world, including Christians and adherents of pagan cults, teach that the saved shall find their final home in heaven. Catholics and Protestants both teach that heaven is the eternal home of the saved, even through the Lord Jesus himself, unto his faithful disciples and apostles, said: "As I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you." (John 13:33)

Jesus, after his crucifixion and resurrection, ascended into heaven, even as it has been written of him: "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." (Heb. 9:24)

Even as Jesus hath ascended into heaven, and stands in the very presence of the Almighty, so likewise we also believe the words he spake unto his faithful ones: "Whither I go ye cannot come." Where then shall the saved of the earth spend eternity? We assure you, man cannot answer; but God can, and His word is explicit, and from it we shall give the answer to our question.

The earth, contrary to the teachings of many people was created by the Almighty to last eternally, and to be inhabited by His creatures. This fact is briefly stated in numerous places in the Scriptures. We quote some of these:

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever." (Eccl. 1:4) "The

world also shall be stable, that it be not moved." (I Chron. 16:30) "Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited." (Isa. 45:18)

The earth then, according to these Scriptures, was formed by the Almighty for the purpose of being inhabited by his creatures, and is to abide forever. The heavens hath Jehovah retained for Himself; but the earth is man's by reason of the gift of God, even as the Psalmist hath said: "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men." (Ps. 115:16)

Unto our forefathers, Adam and Eve, the Lord God gave the earth, and unto them He commanded: "Be faithful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it." (Gen. 1:28)

After the flood of Noah's day, in which the earth was cleansed from its former wickedness, God repeated his command unto Noah, and his sons: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Gen. 9:1)

We read no more of the earth being promised unto any by the Lord, until Jehovah appeared unto Abraham, the faithful, and unto him God promised a portion of the earth, saying, "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." (Gen. 13:14-15)

Here the promise was made explicitly unto the patriarch Abraham that the Lord God had given him all the land surrounding him forever. We vainly search for a record in

the Old Testament showing that Abraham ever received his inheritance. Did God lie? Was the Lord unable to fulfill his promise? Did Abraham ever receive the land which God promised unto him? No, he never did; for we read this statement in the witness of Stephen, in which the faithful martyr said:

"The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham ... And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans --- wherein we now dwell. And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him."
(Acts 7:2-5)

Even though Abraham died, having not received the inheritance, the Lord saith in the Psalms: "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."
(Ps. 89:34)

The promise therefore still is binding. A portion is still promised unto Abraham, though he is dead, and in his lifetime never received the inheritance. The promise is then for the fulfillment of the future, after a resurrection of Abraham, and unto his seed, which we are to understand means the saints in Christ Jesus, as is explained by the apostle Paul: "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Gal. 3:29)

If we are Christ's then are we heirs of the promise made unto Abraham of an inheritance in this earth forever. This also agrees with the prophecy that Jesus himself made unto his

followers: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5:5)

I believe that promise even though I do not see the meek inheriting any of this earth's surface as yet. I know God did not lie unto Abraham: I know Jesus did not lie unto his disciples: all in the graves shall come forth at the resurrection, in the end, "The meek shall inherit the earth" with faithful Abraham, and the saints of old. I know the saints shall receive the reward, not in heaven, but here in this earth, as saith the Scriptures: "Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth." (Prov. 11:31)

We know that our recompensation for a life of service to God is eternal life. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)

You may say: "Yes, your argument may be sound, but I cannot understand, because I read that the earth shall pass away." To this objection, we quote the words of Peter: "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; 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." (II Peter 3:10)

There is no question but what Peter has spoken the truth. The earth shall melt, and the works therein shall be burned up; but the Almighty which created in the beginning can also recreate again from its molten condition, and this he has promised in this same word by Peter, "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Peter 3:13)

This then, the earth made new, is the inheritance of the saints. This old earth cursed by sin, filled with iniquity, shall be molten some day. The works of man that fill it shall be burnt up. Then shall the Lord create a new land without curse, and people in it without sin. This vision has been given unto the apostle John: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away ... And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." (Rev. 21:1-5)

God then shall dwell here on earth with man; and not man in heaven with God. The kingdom, which then shall be, will be one of righteousness, and be called the kingdom of God, or the kingdom of heaven, and is to be given unto the saints of God, as promised unto Daniel: "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under (not in) the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom." (Dan. 7:27)

In this kingdom, which shall be under the whole heavens, hence on earth, the saints shall rule, as saith the Revelation: "We shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 5:10)

In that kingdom of heaven, which shall occupy the renovated earth, shall appear the resurrected saints of all past ages, including Abraham, and the prophets of God, as was

promised by Jesus himself: "Ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God." (Luke 13:28)

David says the righteous shall make their abode in the earth, even forever, and repeats the promise: "The meek shall inherit the earth...The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever...The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever." (Ps. 37:11, 18, 29. See also Prov. 2:21)

Dear ones, the Word of God is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our pathway. We need not conjecture as to where we shall spend eternity, for the Scriptures are explicit. The meek shall inherit the earth. The promise is repeated both in the Old and New Testaments. The world now occupying this earth shall pass away. A new earth will the Almighty make, and unto the saints of God will He give it, even according to His promise unto Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and you and me. The only condition is that we be saints, for the promise is to the faithful.

Jesus said: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21)

Fear God: keep His commandments, including the Sabbath, and the gates will open unto you, dear one. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14)

May God help each reader to be in the kingdom of God. Amen!

Do Not Let Me Die,
But Pass Me On.
THE CHURCH OF GOD
7th Day