AMBASSADOR COLLEGE Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 13

Is HEAVEN Promised to the Saved?

IF YOU are saved, *WHERE* will you SPEND ETERNITY? Do you *really* know? What is your *POSITIVE ASSURANCE?*

Where does God—*not* man—but *GOD*, the Supreme Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things, say you will be? He is the only one who is the FINAL AUTHORITY. Have you ever looked into your Bible to see if *He* says you will go to heaven if you are saved? Have you ever looked into your BIBLE to see what *it* REVEALS about what the saved shall inherit for eternity?

It's going to come as a surprise to most of you to realize you never have. Of course, you've always *heard* that you'll go to heaven, if you are saved—you've just accepted it, probably—but did you ever stop to PROVE it—did you ever try to find it *promised* in *your Bible?* If you do try, you'll probably be even *more* surprised! What is the *truth?* Let us UNDERSTAND!

God Makes a Promise

There *is* a *promise* made in your Bible of what the saved shall inherit for eternity! Now you can have the assurance of God's word as to where you will be!

This PROMISE was made TO ALL CHRISTIANS—those who are Christ's. Yet the promise of this PLACE which the Christian shall inherit was not made *directly* to the Christian. It was made to Abraham, from whom Christ, as an heir of Abraham, descended!

As soon as one becomes a Christian—as soon as he is truly Christ's—he becomes a CO-HEIR, *WITH* CHRIST, of these PROMISES (Rom. 8:17). Therefore, whatever promises were made to Abraham and his heir, Christ, apply also to every Christian.

God says, through His Book, the Bible, in Galatians 3:16, and 29, "Now TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED [Christ] WERE THE PROMISES MADE; . . . and if YE be Christ's, then are *ye* Abraham's children, and HEIRS according to the PROMISE."

Do you *comprehend* what that means? Let us understand! "IF *YE* BE CHRIST'S"—that is, if you are *truly Christians*—then "YE ARE ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN"—you are accounted by God spiritually as children of Abraham—AND ARE NOW "*HEIRS* ACCORDING TO THE *PROMISE*"—you are now an *heir*, a beneficiary,—you will receive the *fulfillment* of the *same* PROMISE that God promised to Abraham!

Notice that the Christian is *NOT YET* A POSSESSOR of his reward—he is *NOW* AN *HEIR*—and what he will inherit—possess—if saved, is the same reward PROMISED to Abraham. Whatever shall be the reward of the SAVED—is a definite, SPECIFIC *PROMISE* of God—and that PROMISE was made to the *Israelite* forefather Abraham, but who is called in this same Book of Galatians which is addressed to *Gentile* converts, the FATHER of the *faithful.* ABRAHAM is FATHER OF *ALL* THE FAITHFUL. If one is converted, whether he be Jew or Gentile—REGARDLESS OF RACE OR COLOR OR SEX—IF ONE IS CHRIST'S, then he becomes one of Abraham's children, and AN *HEIR* of the PROMISE made to Abraham. What he is to *INHERIT*, then, is WHATEVER WAS *PROMISED* TO ABRAHAM.

If you'll look into your Bible to find out what God PROMISED to Abraham—to find out WHAT is the reward to those who are saved—to find out WHY we have to be Abraham's children to inherit this promise of salvation—WHEN and HOW we shall inherit the promise—*you're in for a shocking SURPRISE!*

There is NO MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IN YOUR LIFE—this matter concerns YOUR ETERNITY—and yet you probably never thought to

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
Bible
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Dr. C. Paul Meredith, *director*
Sent FREE to all who request it, as the Lord provides.
Address all communications to the editor,
Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109
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Printed in U.S.A.

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really look into it, for yourself—IN YOUR OWN BIBLE! The statement we read from the Book of Galatians actually sums up the WHOLE of the Gospel—it is a CONDENSED STATEMENT of the VERY *PURPOSE* AND *PLAN* OF GOD FOR MANKIND! Your hope of LIFE ETERNAL—of salvation—depends altogether on what is stated in that greatly *mis*understood passage!

Christ Confirmed the PROMISE

In order to UNDERSTAND this most important question in the world, notice what is written in Romans 15:8: "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to *confirm* the PROMISES made unto the fathers."

Notice from this that, in bringing a *NEW MESSAGE*—the *GOSPEL*—JESUS CAME TO CONFIRM THE PROMISES MADE TO THE FATHERS. But WHO were the FATHERS?—and WHAT are the PROMISES made to them?—heaven?—purgatory? YOUR SALVATION depends on the answer!

You read in Acts 3:13, in the inspired words of Peter: "The God of ABRAHAM, and of ISAAC, and of JACOB, the God of OUR FATHERS, hath glorified His Son, Jesus." The FATHERS, then, were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If you are CHRIST'S—if you are a CHRISTIAN—you are an heir to inherit—NOT what MEN might devise in their imaginations—you are an heir *according to the promise!* If you're an HEIR, you are going to *inherit* something. If you're an heir *according to the promise* you are going to inherit whatever was PROMISED and not something else.

That PROMISE to Abraham is *important!* Whatever it is—*that* is what YOU shall INHERIT—IF YOU ARE SAVED! You find the account of that PROMISE MADE TO ABRAHAM in the Book of Genesis.

Abraham Enters the Picture

It all begins in the 12th chapter of the Book of Genesis—verse 1: "Now the Eternal said unto Abram, GET THEE OUT OF THY COUNTRY, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a *land* I will show thee."

First, God called Abram—as his name was at first—out of the land of "BABYLON" where he lived—surely symbolic of the SPIRITUAL BABYLON in which WE live today—just as, today, God calls you and me out of THIS world—THIS Babylon!

ABRAHAM DIDN'T QUIBBLE OR ARGUE. The verse says: "So ABRAM DEPARTED." He went to A CERTAIN LAND, where God led him—the land we call Palestine today! Abraham OBEYED GOD. "So Abram departed!" it is written (Gen. 12:4). THAT IS *WHY* HE WAS MADE FATHER OF THE PRECIOUS PROMISES ON WHICH YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION RESTS! He OBEYED—immediately he DEPARTED! Yes, just as YOU TOO MUST *OBEY*, if you, *with* Abraham, are TO INHERIT THE PROMISED REWARD!

Men today have NO CONCEPTION of what is really in store for the one who is really SAVED. The inheritance that awaits YOU—if you surrender to God—if you OBEY as Abraham obeyed—if you rely, not on YOUR faith, but on the very FAITH OF CHRIST—if you are really BORN AGAIN—that INHERITANCE SURPASSES ANYTHING you have ever CONCEIVED so FAR, that you haven't the slightest conception of YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL DESTINY!

As we read in I Corinthians 2:9—"Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for those that love Him . . ." The inheritance which God has prepared for YOU cannot even be CONCEIVED by the natural mind of man—but God DOES reveal it to us, as you read in the 10th verse of this 2nd chapter of I Cor., "BY HIS SPIRIT!"

Now what *did* God promise Abraham? Let us see!!

Final Instruction

We are about ready for the actual lesson. But first, read this instruction!

Your Bible is in front of you? If not, don't read another word until you GET YOUR BIBLE—or Bibles if you have more than one translation.

Also have several sheets of PAPER, and a PEN, pencil or TYPEWRITER so that you can make whatever *notes* you need as an aid to remembering what you read. You have them?

That's fine. Remember—you must OPEN your Bible to TO EVERY PASSAGE. Never say to yourself, "Oh, I think I know what the Lesson is referring to"—and then pass over the Scripture. You need to keep your nose in the Bible, so to speak. You must read and re-read and *STUDY* EVERY PASSAGE in your Bible. Don't forget, this is a BIBLE STUDY COURSE—not just a study of these words we send you.

LESSON 13

The Promised Land

1. Did GOD CALL ABRAHAM OUT OF the LAND IN WHICH he had been RESIDING? Gen. 12:1. Did God, at this same time, PROMISE that He would LEAD Abraham TO ANOTHER LAND—a *PARTICULAR* LAND? Same verse.

2. Does the Bible record that ABRAHAM *ARGUED* with God about leaving the land, LIKE MOST PEOPLE TODAY DO, when they are called upon to give up the bad habits they have acquired in this world and follow where God leads them? OR DID ABRAHAM JUST DO AS GOD COMMANDED him? Gen. 12:4. What land did God lead Abraham into? Gen. 12:5.

COMMENT: Canaan is the present land of Palestine today.

3. Now just what *did* God promise ABRAHAM? Gen. 12:7.

COMMENT: "Seed" means "offspring." So the PROMISE was the INHERITANCE of the LAND OF PALESTINE by Abraham's offspring.

4. Abraham then went down into the land of Egypt for a short time. When he returned to Palestine, what did God tell Abraham to do? Gen. 13:14. Did God reiterate His promise that He would give Abraham and his seed this particular land? Did God also promise Abraham that he too would receive this land? And that Abraham's offspring would be multiplied? Verses 15 and 16.

COMMENT: Palestine was promised, for emphasis, by God to Abraham a second time. Palestine was PROMISED. That is why it's CALLED "the PROMISED LAND!"

5. *How long* was it promised—FOREVER? Gen. 13:15.

COMMENT: The inheritance is TO BE AN ETERNAL INHERITANCE, which of necessity involves and INCLUDES EVERLASTING LIFE!

6. If one inherits a piece of LAND, the deed must describe the exact BOUNDARIES of the property. Is such a description given, in THIS deed we may hope to inherit? Read Gen. 15:18.

COMMENT: We have all seen enough maps to know that the boundaries here described are NOT up IN HEAVEN somewhere, but are the boundaries of a LAND RIGHT HERE ON EARTH—and the promise—the promise of ETERNAL INHERITANCE—is the land of PALESTINE, from the Nile clear to the Euphrates River, HERE on this earth! God help us to put our *trust* in the SURE WORD OF GOD, *NOT* in the FABLES of men!

Other Scriptures, to be studied in this lesson, show that this promise was only the beginning, and that this promise *EXPANDS* and spreads until ultimately it shall INCLUDE inheritance of the WHOLE EARTH.

Obedience Before Inheritance

In making this promise to Abraham, God conditioned it on OBEDIENCE. Abraham DID OBEY!

First, he LEFT his native land, his FRIENDS and RELATIVES, his OLD WAYS OF LIFE—he forsook ALL and followed where God led. Did God stop here in TESTING Abraham, and give him this priceless promise? OR, did God test Abraham further before doing so? Let us examine.

1. How did God test Abraham? Gen. 22:1,2.

COMMENT: The proper translation of the word "tempt," used here, is "try." God tempts no man to cause him to fall. When the King James Bible version was written, the word "tempt" meant "try," so was left in this form by the translators.

2. Did Abraham this time, unlike the first time, stop to reason it out, or make excuse, or rebel? OR did he dutifully OBEY God—even rising early in the morning to do so? Gen. 22:3.

3. Did God thus take Abraham's only son? Gen. 22:10-12.

COMMENT: God did not take the son—GOD MERELY WANTED ABRAHAM'S *WILLINGNESS* TO OBEY, IN AND THRU FAITH. Because Abraham was faithful—full of faith—the Bible refers to ABRAHAM as the SYMBOLIC "SPIRITUAL FATHER" OF *ALL* THE EARTH'S PEOPLE WHO ARE FULL OF FAITH in this same sense.

4. But AFTER Abraham HAD obeyed—HAD been put to the test and found faithful—were there any other CONDITIONS to the promise? Gen. 22:15-18. Underline heavily in your Bible the words, "*because* thou hast done this thing," in verse 16, and the words, "*because* thou hast obeyed my voice," in verse 18.

COMMENT: NOW the PROMISE WAS UNCONDITIONAL. ABRAHAM already *HAD* PERFORMED HIS PART of the COVENANT—this AGREEMENT.

5. What other Scripture shows us this PROMISE is now ABSOLUTELY SURE? Gen. 26:5.

COMMENT: It should be remembered that GOD'S law—God's COMMANDMENTS—have been IN EFFECT FROM the very time of CREATION. "Sin is the transgression of the LAW" (I John 3:4)—the same fundamental, eternal SPIRITUAL laws that Adam transgressed when he SINNED are the same laws and commandments ABRAHAM obeyed and KEPT—long before the sacrifices and rituals of

Moses were instituted—making possible all the blessings we have today, both material AND spiritual!

6. Were these same *PROMISES* PASSED ON DOWN to Abraham's next descendant, Isaac? Gen. 26:3. Why? Verse 5. Were all nations to be blessed through Isaac, as they were through Abraham? Verse 4.

7. Were these same PROMISES then passed down to Isaac's descendant, Jacob? Gen. 35:9-12. Note verse 11, then read the comment below.

COMMENT: The explanation for verse 11 is this: the UNITED STATES is the "*nation*" referred to here, and the BRITISH Commonwealth is "the company of nations." If you have not yet done so, send for Mr. Armstrong's *free* booklet, "The United States in Prophecy." This booklet will explain this.

JACOB—his name was later changed to *ISRAEL*—had TWELVE CHILDREN. Each gave rise to one of the twelve tribes of *Israel*—known collectively as The Children of *Israel*. ONE of these tribes originated from the brother JUDAH—they are known as the JEWS—the OTHER ELEVEN being ISRAELITES.

In a broad sense, all people of the earth who have not descended from Abraham, are called Gentiles by the Bible.

8. The promises were made, as we have seen, to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and THEIR CHILDREN. Their children are ISRAELITES, not GENTILES. There is a mistaken idea, today, that Christianity is a GENTILE religion. But thru whom does *Christ* plainly say salvation is? John 4:22. And what does Paul say on this same thing? Rom. 2:10.

COMMENT: The SCEPTRE (rule) promise, thru which Christ's rule and salvation were promised, went to the house of Judah, whose people were called JEWS. The BIBLE reveals that the COVENANTS, and the PROMISES—which pertained to MATERIAL WEALTH and welfare—pertained only to ISRAEL. So we read in Romans 9:4: "Who were ISRAELITES; *to whom* pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God AND THE PROMISES."

Christians Are Heirs to the Promise

If these promises were given only to ABRAHAM and his blood children, then how are *ALL* NATIONS to be BLESSED THROUGH these promises? Note!

1. What did God promise Abraham in Gen. 12:7? Who was this "Seed"—Christ? Gal. 3:16.

2. Doesn't Mat. 1:1, 2, 16 prove that Christ was a blood offspring — a *seed* — of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (who was renamed Israel)?

COMMENT: So the word "seed" can mean Abraham's *One* Seed—Christ (Gen. 12:7), or his *multiple* seed, the remainder of his blood offspring (Gen. 13:15, 16 and 17:8).

3. And were not all the nations of the earth to be blessed in Abraham's *one* Seed, Christ? Gen. 12:3.

COMMENT: To the Gentile-born Galatians Paul said, "If *ye* be Christ's then are *ye* Abraham's children [*seed*], and heirs according to the promise." Now ask yourself, What *hope* has any *Gentile*, without becoming by spiritual adoption thru Christ, an *Israelite? Absolutely none!*

4. Does Paul say the GENTILES *IN TIMES PAST* were "ALIENS" from the Commonwealth of Israel, which had these promises, and "STRANGERS," therefore, FROM the COVENANTS OF PROMISE? Eph. 2:11-12.

COMMENT: This doesn't sound like Christianity is a GENTILE religion. THIS doesn't sound like the NEW Covenant is a GENTILE covenant! *While* these particular Ephesians Paul was here talking to were Gentiles—*before* they had become adopted Israelites *thru* Christ—they were STRANGERS from the COVENANTS OF PROMISE, HAVING *NO HOPE*, AND WITHOUT GOD in the world!"

5. BUT *NOW*, through Christ, are they MADE NEAR? Eph. 2:13-14. Are they any more strangers and *foreigners?* Verse 19. Are they FELLOW CITIZENS, and OF the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD? Same verse.

COMMENT: And SO TODAY WHOSOEVER WILL from *EVERY* NATION MAY come and TAKE of the waters of ETERNAL *LIFE freely*, because God has kept His promise, and the promised Seed, Christ, has come.

Yes, in making this promise to Abraham, God conditioned it on OBEDIENCE. Abraham DID OBEY!

First, he LEFT his native land, his FRIENDS and RELATIVES, his OLD WAYS OF LIFE—he forsook ALL and followed where God led. THIS ALSO MUST WE today stand ready to DO, if we are to become true Christians.

COMMENT: Oh, WHAT a glorious MATCHLESS PRIVILEGE TO BE TAKEN INTO THE VERY HOUSEHOLD OF GOD—to be able to call the Eternal Creator our FATHER! For the UNCONVERTED, Adam is the human father, and Satan is the Spiritual father. But thru CHRIST, ABRAHAM becomes our fleshly father—and *God* becomes our spiritual Father.

For we read in Galatians 3:7: "Know ye therefore that they which are of FAITH, the same are the children of Abraham." That's why ABRAHAM is called "FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL"—whether Jew or Gentile!

Again, in Romans 8:14: "All who are led by the Spirit of God are the SONS OF GOD." Yes, *BEGOTTEN* SONS, now—TO BECOME ACTUAL

BORN SONS AT the time of the RESURRECTION, when we shall INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD! The Kingdom of God is the FAMILY of God—the GOD FAMILY! It's a glorious FAMILY relationship! This glorified *inheritance* surpasses anything you have ever conceived!

Is there a conflict between inheriting the *earth* and the *Kingdom—WHERE* SHALL WE INHERIT THE *KINGDOM?*

NO Man Has Ascended to Heaven—Except Christ

We have clearly been shown that the EARTH is man's INHERITANCE—*not* heaven. But does CHRIST *SAY* we CANNOT GO TO HEAVEN?

1. What did Christ tell Nicodemus? John 3:13.

COMMENT: Christ clearly told Nicodemus here that NO MAN had EVER ASCENDED up into the heaven where God is except He, Himself.

2. What did Christ tell even His disciples? John 13:33.

COMMENT: Even Christ's OWN DISCIPLES were told they COULD NOT GO UP into heaven where He was going. *Send for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet "Where Are Enoch and Elijah."*

3. But DID Christ give them an IDEA OF WHERE they would BE AND WHAT they would be DOING? John 14:2,3. Read also Matt. 25:31,34.

COMMENT: "MANSIONS"—rooms—in the "Father's house"—God's Temple in the Old Testament times—were occupied by God's priests. These *rooms* represented POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY.

WHEN Jesus will have returned to this earth, as KING of kings, RULER of all nations on earth, *then* He will say to the SAVED: "Come, ye blessed, INHERIT THE KINGDOM, prepared for you." The Kingdom of God is the very divine FAMILY of God. It will RULE ALL nations, here ON EARTH! The saints will have *positions.* To enter into—to INHERIT—the divine Kingdom of God is a destiny of such marvelous GLORY that YOUR MIND CANNOT GRASP it, now! And our inheritance, as divine members of the very GOD FAMILY, shall be the EARTH, for an *EVERLASTING* POSSESSION.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE EARTH? Absolutely NOTHING BUT *SIN*—rebellion against GOD and God's eternal SPIRITUAL LAWS that *govern* PEACE and HAPPINESS and JOY! HAPPINESS and joy—a GLORIFIED condition such as YOU *may* inherit—is NOT A MATTER OF GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION! It IS A SPIRITUAL CONDITION! There will be NO SIN in that HAPPY WORLD TOMORROW! No liars—no murderers—no thieves or robbers. Think of it—there'll be NO SATAN, no locks on doors—no jails, no hospitals—no poorhouses! No strife, no war—no sickness or disease—no poverty nor hunger nor want!

Fulfillment of Promises Just AHEAD

Has Abraham, himself, already gone to his reward—has Abraham already inherited the promises?

First, notice the inspired words of the first Christian martyr, Stephen, full of faith and the Holy Spirit—Stephen who *paid with his life* for these inspired words of Scripture. They are in the Book of Acts.

1. Has Abraham yet *received* the inheritance God promised to him? Acts 7:2-5. Note especially verse 5.

COMMENT: ABRAHAM *NEVER RECEIVED* the promised inheritance—THO God's promise was made UNCONDITIONAL because Abraham *had obeyed* God!

2. Was Abraham merely a *SOJOURNER*, DURING HIS LIFETIME, in the land that God had promised to him? Heb. 11:8-10. Note verse 9 particularly. Even as he lay dying, had he, as yet, received the promises? Verse 13. But does verse 8 point out that Abraham WILL, IN THE FUTURE, RECEIVE THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE PROMISES? Note the words "*after* receive"!

3. Does the Bible say that Isaac and Jacob were heirs to this same promise? Heb. 11:9. Have they received these, as yet? Verse 13.

COMMENT: Do you grasp what these inspired Scriptures of God say? They say in plain language that ALL these DIED, BUT HAVE *NOT* RECEIVED THEIR REWARD—the very FATHERS to whom the promises were made did *not* "go to their reward at death!" THUS SAITH THE LORD!

4. Was ABRAHAM *STILL DEAD* in the time of the apostles? John 8:52,53. Then Abraham has NOT RECEIVED THE REWARD TO THIS DAY, has he? Same verse.

COMMENT: All thru the New Testament you read that Christians who become ABRAHAM'S "CHILDREN" THRU CHRIST are not now, in this age, inheritors—they are spoken of as HEIRS. An HEIR is one who has NOT YET COME INTO HIS INHERITANCE. So the dead of our age have not received the reward either!

Now WHY has Abraham, even to this day, as yet NOT INHERITED the promise? WHY? Notice! CHRIST CAME TO *CONFIRM—make possible—the fulfillment* of the PROMISE made to Abraham of ETERNAL INHERITANCE *of the earth.* THIS

CONSTITUTES *BETTER PROMISES* OF THE *NEW* TESTAMENT! Christ, in *confirming* these promises to Abraham, PREACHED ALWAYS the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD WHICH IS TO OCCUPY and GOVERN THE *EARTH*—the *same* earth that has been promised to Abraham, now dead, for an eternal inheritance.

How can these two have the *same* earth? The answer is ABRAHAM will BE BORN *INTO* THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Abraham's INHERITANCE is thus to be the KINGDOM OF GOD! The SAME *inheritance* YOU AND I MAY HAVE by becoming Abraham's seed, thru Christ.

We Inherit Kingdom of God

1. Does Matthew 6:33 verify the fact that it is the *Kingdom of God* we are to strive to enter—and *not* heaven?

2. Does Matthew 7:21 also verify the fact that the inheritance of those saved will be the Kingdom of God? It is the Kingdom *of* heaven—not *in* heaven!

3. Does Ephesians 5:5 plainly state that the evil will have no *inheritance* in the *Kingdom of God?* Then doesn't this plainly show that the *inheritance* of the saved *is* the *Kingdom of God?* Same verse.

4. But that Kingdom, Jesus said, is *not* of this world—THIS AGE! In His great prophecy of events now making the headlines in WORLD NEWS TODAY—world wars, the 20th century world upheaval now, did Jesus say in Luke 21:31: "When ye see these things come to pass, *know ye* that the KINGDOM OF GOD is NIGH AT HAND"? The Kingdom of God is to RULE THE WORLD. It is not yet established—but today it is NIGH AT HAND—and IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK! *Why* is it that all of us—Abraham, YOU AND I—everyone who may be saved, MUST REMAIN as HEIRS for a SHORT TIME LONGER? There are several reasons. Let us see.

5. Has the Kingdom of God, of which we are to be HEIRS, been established upon this earth yet?—what did Christ tell His disciples when they thought Christ would establish, in their day, His ruling Kingdom which will occupy this earth? Luke 19:11-13,15.

COMMENT: Christ represented Himself here as the young nobleman going to the far country—heaven—to receive the right to RULE the Kingdom, showing it would be SET UP and would take over the RULE of ALL NATIONS, at His SECOND COMING. The point is that the KINGDOM OF GOD HAS *NOT YET* BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THIS EARTH SO THAT WE MAY INHERIT IT.

6. Does Matthew 6:10 also prove that God's Kingdom, which we are to inherit, is yet to be established *on our earth?*

7. Is the RECORD of each who is to receive this earthly inheritance being KEPT IN HEAVEN? I Pet. 1:3,4. *When* is the salvation of the saved revealed? And *when* is the possession of the inheritance given? Verse 5.

COMMENT: Note that the record of the *inheritance* is "reserved"—is kept—in heaven, and that salvation, and therefore the *possession* of the inheritance, is to be "revealed"—GIVEN—"IN THE *LAST TIME*"—at the soon coming *end* of this age. This is *additional proof* that the Kingdom has *not yet been established* so we may inherit it!

8. What is a second reason we cannot INHERIT the Kingdom now? We are now composed of flesh and blood. Can we inherit the Kingdom while we are composed of this material? I Cor. 15:50.

COMMENT: NO HUMAN FLESH AND BLOOD BEING CAN *INHERIT* the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is NOT A HUMAN KINGDOM—there are NO HUMANS IN IT—it is a DIVINE Kingdom—the God Kingdom! Our human bodies must be changed to another kind of material!

9. Does Paul say our flesh-and-blood bodies WILL BE CHANGED? I Cor. 15:51,53. We will be born of the Spirit then, so of what will our bodies be composed? John 3:6. What is this process called—being "born again"? John 3:3. And if we are in this manner "born again," can we "see"—ENTER—the KINGDOM OF GOD? Same verse.

COMMENT: Our living human bodies will then be CHANGED TO SPIRIT BODIES—bodies which can INHERIT the Kingdom of God. Our present flesh is corruptible, subject to aging and decay. But spirit things and spirit beings are never changing, never aging, ALWAYS and eternally NEW.

10. How long will it take for us to be CONVERTED—changed—from our present substance to the other? I Cor. 15:52, the first nine words.

COMMENT: Now we begin to see why Abraham, and his children, thru Christ, have not, as YET, come into the promised reward!

Resurrection from the Dead

But to go further. We CANNOT COME INTO *ETERNAL* INHERITANCE UNTIL WE COME INTO *ETERNAL LIFE.* And what is our ONLY HOPE of inheriting eternal life? *The RESURRECTION!*—for it is appointed to *all* once to die—*all* mortal flesh must die—even tho it be for only a split second (Heb. 9:27). Without a *resurrection* no one would *live* again even tho he were changed!

Is your HOPE of a resurrection WELL FOUNDED? Do you actually have the PROMISE from God, Himself, that He will resurrect you? Examine! *Know* what God says.

1. Does God, Himself, thru the inspired Paul, pose the question, "*IF* THERE IS NO RESUR-

RECTION OF THE DEAD . . .”? I Cor. 15:13. What does God say of Christ, *if* there is no resurrection? Same verse.

2. And is our faith in being resurrected, if this be the case, in vain? I Cor. 15:14. And are those who are asleep in CHRIST *PERISHED?* Verse 18. Strong Scripture, that!

COMMENT: The DEAD *IN CHRIST* are *PERISHED*—not alive enjoying the promised inheritance ALREADY somewhere, but PERISHED—UTTERLY PERISHED—UNLESS there be a RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD! How *DIFFERENT* FROM the MODERN FABLES to which a deceived people have been turned today!

So, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are DEAD. And, unless there be a RESURRECTION—a RISING UP *from* the grave—they are PERISHED.

3. What did JESUS say to SHOW THERE MOST SURELY WILL BE A RESURRECTION? Matt. 22:31,32. *What* is being discussed here—a RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD? NOTE *very carefully* the first five words!! Does not GOD say He considers Himself as being THE GOD OF THE LIVING ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB—the coming RESURRECTED Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—although they have been DEAD now all these hundreds of years? Verse 32.

COMMENT: By *TWISTING* this TEXT many try to prove Abraham is not dead, but has already gone to and come into his promised reward, and will never be resurrected—just the *opposite* to what Jesus used it to prove!

HOW Christ Made Our Inheritance Possible

1. What is sin? I John 3:4.

COMMENT: God is Creator and Owner of the universe. He is, thereby, its *lawgiver*. Whoever is *not obedient* to Him *sins*.

2. What is the *penalty*—“the WAGES”—OF SIN? Rom. 6:23. Have *all* sinned? Rom. 3:23.

COMMENT: Sin causes so much sorrow, suffering, unhappiness, anguish, that all who disobey God are worthy of death—*ETERNAL* DEATH! And *ALL* HAVE SINNED. *All* are therefore *worthy of eternal death*. If we all paid our debt, none of us would have eternal life so that we could inherit the Kingdom of God as an eternal inheritance.

3. But did Christ give Himself—give His *blood*—in our place, so that we need not suffer eternal death and thus be deprived of the eternal inheritance of the Kingdom of God? I Tim. 2:5,6; Rom. 5:8-10.

COMMENT: CHRIST'S *BLOOD*, shed at His death, paid for all the sins of mankind for all time, because He is so much greater than we. God created all things by Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9; John 1:1-3). As our actual Maker, Jesus' life was of greater value than the sum total of *all* human lives. This is *how* Christ *confirmed*—made possible—our *inheritance* of the Kingdom for *eternity*. For He MADE IT *POSSIBLE* FOR US TO HAVE *ETERNAL* LIFE so we can exist for all eternity.

4. Did CHRIST LEAVE A *WILL* or last testament at the time of His death? Heb. 9:15. Notice the word “TESTAMENT.” A “testament” is a “will.” What does it *promise* the called—those who are to be saved? Same verse. When a person makes a will, must he *die* before it comes into force? Verse 17. What are those called who receive salvation this way, heirs? Heb. 1:14.

COMMENT: Christ wished to make available the eternal inheritance of the Kingdom of God to all people. He did this by making a *will* (a *testament*). This is why the last fourth of your Bible is called the NEW *TESTAMENT* and concerns itself with TEACHING *YOU* HOW YOU MAY BECOME AN *HEIR* of the *promise of eternal inheritance* of the Kingdom of God which is to be established upon this earth!! A testament—a will—is of no effect unless the one making it dies. Christ *died* so that you may *inherit* the promises *from Him!*

What YOU Must Do!

And now comes the CRUX OF THIS WHOLE LESSON! Is there anything THAT *YOU* MUST DO in order to become an *heir* to these priceless promises? Here is a section you must ponder well, for it tells you how you must *change* your whole way of day-to-day living if you are still one of the great number who have not, as yet, qualified to become an *heir*. *SACRIFICES* HAVE BEEN MADE FOR US so that we may become heirs!

1. Did God the Father *give* His only begotten Son so that we might become heirs of the promises? John 3:16.

2. Did Christ voluntarily *give* Himself in order that we might have this same privilege? Luke 22:42. Was His face torn more than that of any other man because of this? Isa. 52:14. Did His sweat appear as blood at Gethsemane because of mental agony in making this decision to give Himself? Luke 22:44. (His profuse sweat was tinged with blood.)

3. Is it not for these reasons that God says we have been BOUGHT BY HIM? I Cor. 7:23. And is it God, therefore, whom we are to serve, and not men, when there is a decision to be made as to whom we should obey? Same verse. But what do some thoughtless people say? Mal. 3:14. Do some even go so far as to deny that the Lord bought them? II Pet. 2:1.

4. What did Christ tell us, by example, to do IF WE ARE TO ENTER INTO THE *ETERNAL INHERITANCE?* Matt. 19:17. Isn't this exactly the

same thing that Abraham did, and by which he was given the promise of *eternal inheritance?* Gen. 26:5. Note the word "*commandments.*"

5. Didn't Paul find it necessary to serve God in the same way? Acts 27:23. Doesn't he point out that even the good service we give to our earthly masters (where their commands are not in opposition to God's) will be taken into account in rewarding to us the *inheritance?* Col. 3:22-24.

6. Are WE TO BE OBEDIENT IN *ALL* THINGS? II Cor. 2:9. Even in the thoughts we allow ourselves to think? II Cor. 10:5.

7. And why is all this obedience necessary which Abraham, in his day, practiced, and which we, in our day, are commanded to practice? Rom. 7:12.

COMMENT: Keeping the Law—God's commands—*perfectly*, is the *only* way we may live in *perfect harmony* with ourselves, with others, and with God. No wonder God demands *perfect* obedience! THEN WE WILL BE *QUALIFIED*, with the aid of God's Spirit within us, to *inherit* God's Kingdom for eternity!

We Receive the Reward WHEN Jesus Returns

WHEN shall Abraham and his children thru Christ COME INTO the promised REWARD?

1. Will there be a SIGNAL given for this great event? I Cor. 15:52. *What* TRUMP is it—the last? Same verse. Our bodies are CHANGED from mortality to what? Verse 53.

2. And at that very same time what else is to happen? I Thes. 4:16,17. Will Abraham and his children thru Christ—both the dead and the living—the saved—be CAUGHT UP to BE WITH CHRIST *WHEREVER HE MAY BE* from thenceforth onward? Verse 17. As Christ has already been here once, doesn't this all happen AT Christ's *SECOND COMING?* Same verses.

3. And where does Christ go in that day? Zech. 14:4. Isn't this the place He begins to MAKE the CAPITAL OF the WORLD? Same verse, and verse 2.

4. Doesn't He begin to ESTABLISH His WORLD-RULING *GOVERNMENT* at that time? Zech. 14:9, and all verses to the end of the chapter. And will not the saints, ABRAHAM AND HIS CHILDREN THRU CHRIST, CHRISTIANS—the HEIRS who are to INHERIT THIS *EARTH* FOREVER—be with him? Verse 5.

COMMENT: Yes, at the last trump, Christ will return to this earth again as KING OF KINGS and the LORD of lords to REIGN and to RULE all nations of the earth for the first time. When He comes to set up HIS KINGDOM, THEN Abraham and his children in Christ, who have died, shall be *RESURRECTED* to *IMMORTALITY*, to INHERIT THE PROMISE, the KINGDOM OF GOD, a world-ruling GOVERNMENT headed and ruled by CHRIST, OCCUPYING the VERY LAND PROMISED TO ABRAHAM—the LAND OF PALESTINE, from the NILE to the EUPHRATES RIVERS—and THIS KINGDOM COMPOSED OF IMMORTALS, which flesh and blood cannot enter, shall RULE OVER all OTHER nations of the earth (the Millennial Utopian earth)—it shall rule over the OTHER nations made up of FLESH AND BLOOD MORTALS!

The Reward is NOT Heaven

And *Jesus* said: "Blessed are the MEEK: for they shall INHERIT *THE EARTH.*" That's part of the SERMON ON THE MOUNT—and certainly every Christian must BELIEVE the sermon on the Mount!

Then we must BELIEVE, if we are Christians, that what the saved inherit is THE EARTH—and not heaven! Jesus plainly said, "NO man has ascended up to heaven" (John 3:13). Evidence is overwhelming!

1. WHAT do those that "WAIT UPON the LORD" *INHERIT?* Psa. 37:9.

2. WHAT shall those BLESSED of God *INHERIT*? Psa. 37:22.

3. WHAT shall the RIGHTEOUS *INHERIT*, and HOW LONG shall they dwell there? Psa. 37:29.

4. And WHAT REWARD does God promise to those WHO "KEEP HIS WAY"? Psa. 37:34.

Summary

We already know the words that Christ will utter at His return, now imminent. They are in Matthew 25:31-34.

"*When* the SON of man shall come in His Glory, and all the holy angels with Him, THEN shall He sit upon the THRONE of His glory: and 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."

Yes, the KINGDOM of God is the PLACE PREPARED. Jesus said He went to PREPARE A PLACE for us. He also said He went to GET FOR HIMSELF A KINGDOM, AND TO RETURN. And WHEN He returns, as KING of kings, and WHEN THAT KINGDOM IS ESTABLISHED ON *EARTH*, THEN it is that the joyful call goes out, "COME! ye blessed of my Father, INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED for you."

And here is something God has promised for the *far* future. In the time beyond the Millennium! God has promised to put *all* His works under man (Hebrews 2:7,8).