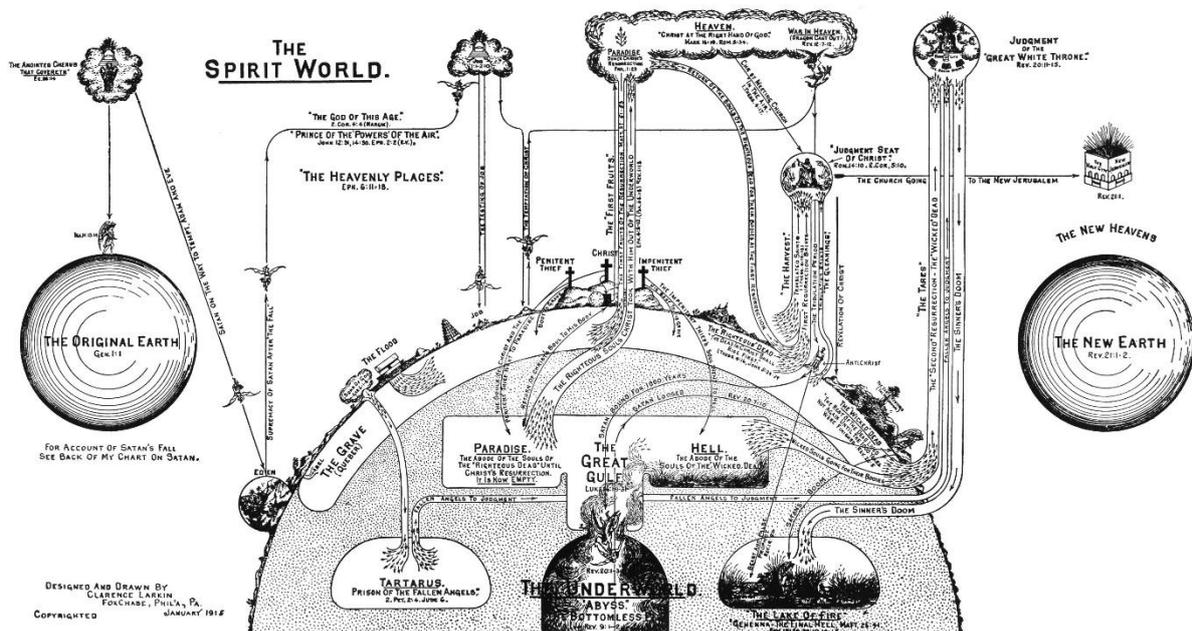


Lesson 2- “Where Are They Now?”

- Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Christians so they would not be ignorant “concerning those who have fallen asleep” (1 Thes. 4:13). “Falling asleep” is a metaphor for physical death and is used of Lazarus when he died (John 11:11); Stephen when he was stoned to death (Acts 7:60); and of David’s death (Acts 13:36)
 - Have you ever made the connection between this metaphor and your daily experience? What do you do every night? You go to sleep. And what do you do every morning. You wake up. So...what then is waking up a metaphor of? Resurrection! God has given you a daily object lesson of His promise of death and resurrection.
- We can expect that, just as with Lazarus, we too will be “carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom” which today is in the third heaven. “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” (Heb. 1:14)



<https://www.blueletterbible.org/assets/images/study/larkin/dispensationalTruth/c58.jpg>

- How much evangelical value should be put on the recanted stories of those who say they died and went to heaven? “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” (Luke 16:31)
- Heaven and Hell both have an intermediate state called “Paradise” and “Hades” respectively populated by people with intermediate bodies (not disembodied spirits) suited to their environment. What is the final state of Heaven and Hell? Answer: The New Heaven/New Earth (Rev. 21:1) and The Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14)
- “The priority is not being in heaven, its being with Christ...It wasn’t heaven that saved us, it was Jesus. It isn’t heaven that is coming again for us, it’s Jesus. So the priority is being with Him.¹
 - John 14:1-4; Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23-24; 1 Thes. 4:17
- Can “purgatory” be a real place or doctrinally sound in light of the great fixed gulf between Paradise and Hades? Luke 16:26.
- **Question:** What level of confidence do you have about your eternal destiny?

¹ David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; p.31*