

# WAS ABRAHAM'S BOSOM – AN EARTHLY OR HEAVENLY REALM?

## INTRODUCTION

The Bible is a book containing mysteries from Genesis to Revelation that without your having the spiritual knowledge of the foundations and unveiling them will cause you to walk in error of understanding throughout the rest of its contents as it were. This is because of the fact that the contents thereof are generally coded. And this requires divine spiritual insights that God gives to a few to unravel or decode the letters thereof by the Spirit of truth which Christ gives to those that hear and obey him. **Mtt 13:9-13; Deu 29:29; Ps 25:12,14; Mtt 16:19; Acts 5:32**

Those that read the Bible with a carnal mindset interpret the spiritual contents therein from a worldly perspective. They are always given to carnalizing the spiritual things and spiritualizing the carnal things therein, thereby finding themselves in religious error. The nature and location of Abraham's bosom as at the time that it was recorded in the Bible is one of the numerous errors of identification that many have found themselves in as it were.

In this brief literature, we shall look into identifying the location of Abraham's bosom then, thereby unraveling the ambiguity surrounding it. This has caused many to veer into grave error in the understanding of where the saints that die on earth end up before their resurrection on the last day. Where was Abraham's bosom located? Was it in heaven or on the earth?

## DIFFERENT BOSOMS – HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY

Bosom is a resting place for someone, a peaceful and tranquil place. On a bodily note, Bosom is the breast region of the body where the heart is located.

We shall try to identify different bosoms mentioned in the Bible.

### Carnal/fleshly bosom – Worldly

**Micah 7: 5** Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. **Vr.6** For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man' enemies are the men of his own house.

**Jn 13: 3** Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. **Vr.25** He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

**Jn 21: 20** Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

**Deu 13:6** If thy brother, the son of thy mother or thy son or thy daughter or the wife of thy bosom or thy friend which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly

**Deu 28:54 54** So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, **Vr.56** The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom,

### **Eternal heavenly bosom**

**Jn 1: 18** No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

### **Abraham's bosom identified while he was yet alive in the world**

**Gen 16:5** And Sarai said unto Abram, my wrong be upon thee therefore I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived I was despised in her eyes:

### **Abraham's bosom**

This description was used for the bosom of Abraham after he had died and had been buried, having left this physically seen world to the unseen world of the dead. In trying to identify this place, one would have to identify where Abraham went or found himself at his demise from the world.

**Gen 15: 1** After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. **Vr.15** And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

**Gen 25:7** And these are the days of the years of Abraham' life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years. **Vr.8** Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

**Gen 49: 28** All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them. **Vr.29** And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, **Vr.30** In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah,

which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a buryingplace. **Vr.31** There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah. **Vr.33** And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

The place that all men go at death, within that realm is where Abraham went. It is there in the place of the dead that his bosom was found. This is of the lower part of the earth that is unseen, which is in the regions of hell. Every soul that dies goes to the lower part of the earth either directly to the fire portion of hell, a place of torment, as do that of sinners/unbelievers or to a bosom or paradise beneath, a resting place, as do the dead saints/believers.

All the righteous of old that died following or having Abraham as their father of faith by covenant in righteousness, not just of natural descent, ended up in the bosom of their father Abraham. If Abraham is not seen as your righteous father, then you do not have any business going to rest on his bosom at death. **Jn 8:33-44**

**Rom 9: 4** Who are 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; **Vr.5** Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. **Vr.6** Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: **Vr.7** Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. **Vr.8** That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. **Vr.9** For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son.

**Rom 4:10-16 (Vr.11** And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: **Vr.12** And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. **Vr.16** Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Abraham's bosom was in the place of the dead. And all those there with Abraham looked forward to the coming of his son, the promised seed, Christ to that region at his own death. And subsequently, his resurrection from the dead, Christ being the first fruit to rise from the dead thereby. **I Cor 15:20-23; Acts 26:22-23**

**Mtt 1: 1** The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**Gal 3: 16** Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

**Lk 16: 22** And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; **Vr.23** And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. **Vr.25** But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted [*in my bosom*], and thou art tormented. **Vr.27** Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: **Vr.30** And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. **Vr.31** And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead [*as he was requesting for Lazarus to do*].

The soul of our Lord Christ Jesus was found in Abraham's bosom, in the region of the "Paradise" beneath as he gave up the ghost at his crucifixion on the cross (and was gathered unto the fathers). And from there he took captivity captive, arising from the dead unto ascending into heaven at his resurrection. Christ commended his spirit unto his heavenly Father above, while his soul went beneath to where his earthly father Abraham was, at his death on the cross.

**Lk 23:39-47 (Vr.43** And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise [*Abraham's bosom in the regions of hell*]. **Vr.46** And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit [*not soul*]: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

**Jn 8:51-58 (Vr.52** Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets [*who have joined the fathers*]; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. **Vr.53** Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? **Vr.56** Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. **Vr.57** Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

**Acts 2: 22-33(Vr.23** Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: **Vr.24** Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. **Vr.25** For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: **Vr.26** Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: **Vr.27** Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. **Vr.28** Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. **Vr.29** Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his

sepulchre is with us unto this day. **Vr.30** Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; **Vr.31** He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. **Vr.32** This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. **Vr.33** Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted,

**Mtt 27: 50** Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. **Vr.51** And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; **Vr.52** And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, **Vr.53** And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

**Eph 4: 8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. **Vr.9** (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? **Vr.10** He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

The spirit of man returns to God in heaven at death, where the spirit of just men made perfect are found, while the soul descends into hell to await the resurrection and judgment. Abraham's bosom was of the "paradise beneath" in the lower parts of the earth. It was used to receive the souls of the dead saints of old as they awaited the coming of Christ at his death. **Acts 7:55-60; Num 27:16; Hebr 12:9**

**Hebr 12: 22** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **Vr.23** 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, **Vr.24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

**Eccl 12: 7** Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

This example as set by Jesus Christ is the only means by which the dead can access the kingdom of heaven which is through resurrection. **Lk 13:28-30**

**I Cor 15: 20** But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. **Vr.21** For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. **Vr.22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **Vr.23** But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

**Jn 3: 13** And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. **Vr.14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

Abraham's bosom could not have been in heaven before Christ died and ascended into heaven to be seated at the right of God. Without the resurrection no soul could have entered heaven.

**Jn 11: 25** Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: **Vr.26** And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

## CONCLUSION

The Church as a business Organization (CAO) unfortunately teaches that Abraham's bosom was in heaven where God and His angels reside. Why? Most likely because it was angels that took Lazarus at his death to that place then. And probably with the erroneous belief that angels of God cannot go to hell region because Satan and his fallen angels are supposed to be the ones in charge there. And therefore, the regions of hell are a no- go area for the angels of God. They do err, not knowing the power of God nor the Scriptures. The God of heaven and earth is in charge of every portion of His creations, in heaven or on earth, hell and death inclusive. And so His holy angels can go to and fro the ends thereof at will without let or hindrance. **Ps 139:7-12; Rev 9:1-2; Rev 20:1-3; Jude 1:9**

**Lk 16: 22** And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

As we had opined before, the souls of the dead cannot and do not access heaven directly at physical death except it be raised from the dead by the divine power of the resurrection, but their spirits do. The soul of everyone that dies is held down by the power of death in the lower parts of the earth. It is only by the power of the resurrection that it can be set free. **I Cor 15:53-55; Ps 89:48**

Therefore, we preach the gospel of the resurrection by Christ Jesus, the only means by which men's souls shall be set free from the pains of death on that day. It is only through resurrection that the departed souls of the saints can access heaven. **Jn 5:21,26-29; Jn 3:13-15; Jn 12:32-33; Acts 2:23-24**

Therefore, when a saint dies in Christ it is erroneous as is the common practice to say that his soul has gone to rest in the bosom of Christ in heaven. Why? Because it is at the resurrection at the last day that the transition of the soul from the earth to heaven shall take place.

**Jn 11: 21** Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. **Vr.23** Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. **Vr.24** Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

**I Thess 4: 13** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **Vr.14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **Vr.15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **Vr.16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **Vr.17** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Abraham's bosom at the time of Lazarus the beggar's death was on earth and not in heaven. It is erroneous to teach otherwise. Take heed that no man deceive you.

May the good Lord and Master Jesus the Christ grant you the spirit of wisdom and understanding in the things written herein in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **FEEDBACK**

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.