

**A HEAVENLY** [**STUDY**](study.html)

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**Where do we go when we die?**

To answer this question, we will need to discard some old ideas and begin to be oriented towards what the Torah really [teaches](teacher.html). This will be an eye opening exercise for those who have never [studied](study.html) this subject from a [Jewish](gen-jew.html) perspective.

#  I. Introduction

Definition of "heaven" according to Strong’s:

8064 shamayim, shaw-mah'-yim; dual of an unused singular shameh, shaw-meh'; from an unused root mean. to be lofty; the sky (as aloft; the dual perh. alluding to the visible arch in which the clouds move, as well as to the higher ether where the [celestial](celestal.html) [bodies](body.html) revolve):-air, X astrologer, heaven (-s).

Note that this definition tells us that Shamayim, heaven, is PLURAL. There is more than [one](one.html)! The [Talmud](orallaw.html) (Chagigah 12b) [teach](teacher.html) us that there were [seven](seven.html) heavens, namely:

Wilon, Rakia, Shehakim, Zebul, Ma'on, Makon, Araboth.

We shall explore these heavens a bit later in this paper. The Sages [teach](teacher.html) us that Shamayim is a combination of [two](two.html) words:

**Aish** ([fire](fire.html)) and

**mayim** (water)

So, “heaven” = “[fire](fire.html) and water”. If you are accustomed to the concept that heaven is a place of fluffy clouds, then this might be a bit of a different perspective. This concept is extremely important if we are to understand several aspects of how [His Majesty](yeshua.html) King [Yeshua](yeshua.html) obeyed the [commands](cmds613.html) of Torah.

It is also intructive to [know](daat.html) that Our Sages [teach](teacher.html) that *Shamayim* comes from the [Hebrew](hebrew.html) word *sham* which mean *There*. This suggests that when the righteous reach the [Olam HaBa](futures.html), the renewed earth, they will finally be *There*. Thus we see that heaven has the connotation as the place where [HaShem](hashem.html) dwells.

# II. Scriptures related to heaven

 ***Bereshit (Genesis) 14:17-24*** *After* [*Abram*](avraham.html) *returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was* [*priest*](priests.html) *of God Most High, And he blessed* [*Abram*](avraham.html)*, saying, "Blessed be* [*Abram*](avraham.html) *by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your* [*hand*](fourteen.html)*." Then* [*Abram*](avraham.html) *gave him a tenth of everything. The king of Sodom said to* [*Abram*](avraham.html)*, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." But* [*Abram*](avraham.html) *said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *to the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath That I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made* [*Abram*](avraham.html) *rich.' I will accept nothing but what my men have* [*eaten*](eating.html) *and the share that belongs to the men who went with me--to Aner, Eshcol and Mamre. Let them have their share."*

Heaven was created by G-d Most High:

***Bereshit (Genesis) 21:14-18*** *Early the next morning* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *took some* [*food*](food.html) *and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her* [*shoulders*](body.html) *and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under* [*one*](one.html) *of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob. God heard the boy* [*crying*](mashal.html)*, and the* [*angel*](angels.html) *of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy* [*crying*](mashal.html) *as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the* [*hand*](fourteen.html)*, for I will make him into a great* [*nation*](nations.html)*."*

The [angel](angels.html) of God can call to earth from heaven.

***Bereshit (Genesis) 22:6-18***[*Abraham*](avraham.html) *took the wood for the* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *and placed it on his son* [*Isaac*](isaac.html)*, and he himself carried the* [*fire*](fire.html) *and the knife. As the* [*two*](two.html) *of them went on together,* [*Isaac*](isaac.html)[*spoke*](mashal.html) *up and said to his father* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*, "Father?" "Yes, my son?"* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *replied. "The* [*fire*](fire.html) *and wood are here,"* [*Isaac*](isaac.html) *said, "but where is the lamb for the* [*burnt offering*](korbanot)*?"* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the* [*burnt offering*](korbanot)*, my son." And the* [*two*](two.html) *of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about,* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son* [*Isaac*](isaac.html) *and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *and took the knife to slay his son. But the* [*angel*](angels.html) *of the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *called out to him from heaven, "*[*Abraham*](avraham.html)*!* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I* [*know*](daat.html) *that you* [*fear*](fear.html) *God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a* [*burnt offering*](korbanot) *instead of his son. So* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *called that place The* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *it will be provided." The* [*angel*](angels.html) *of the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *called to* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *from heaven a second* [*time*](time.html) *And said, "I swear by myself, declares the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the* [*stars*](mazaroth.html) *in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, And through your offspring all* [*nations*](nations.html) *on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."*

To [study](study.html) more about the binding of [Isaac](isaac.html), please see the [study](study.html) titled [MERIT](merit.html).

The [Angel](angels.html) of the Lord can call from heaven and be heard by men on earth.

***Bereshit (Genesis) 24:5-8*** *The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?" "Make sure that you do not take my son back there,"* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *said. "The* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's* [*household*](househld.html) *and my native land and who* [*spoke*](mashal.html) *to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'--he will send his* [*angel*](angels.html) *before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there."*

[Abraham](avraham.html) served the God of heaven

***Bereshit (Genesis) 28:10-18***[*Jacob*](israelja.html) *left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the* [*sun*](hachama.html) *had set. Taking* [*one*](one.html) *of the stones there, he put it under his* [*head*](body.html) *and lay down to* [*sleep*](mashal.html)*. He had a* [*dream*](dreams.html) *in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the* [*angels*](angels.html) *of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, and he said: "I am the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, the God of your father* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *and the God of* [*Isaac*](isaac.html)*. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the* [*dust*](rock.html) *of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the* [*east*](east.html)*, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." When* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *awoke from his* [*sleep*](mashal.html)*, he thought, "Surely the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How* [*awesome*](awesome.html) *is this place! This is none other than the* [*house of God*](housegod.html)*; this is the gate of heaven."*

Heaven has gates and stairways.

***Shemot (***[***Exodus***](exodus.html)***) 16:2-5*** *In the desert the whole* [*community*](community.html) *grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*’s* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and* [*ate*](eating.html) *all the* [*food*](food.html) *we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and* [*gather*](gather.html) *enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the* [*sixth*](six.html) *day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they* [*gather*](gather.html) *on the other days."*

The Israelites [ate](eating.html) bread from heaven.

***Devarim (Deuteronomy) 26:8-15*** *So the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *brought us* [*out of Egypt*](thebirth.html) *with a mighty* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous* [*signs*](signs.html) *and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; And now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, have given me." Place the basket before the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the* [*aliens*](aliens.html) *among you shall rejoice in all the good things the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God has given to you and your* [*household*](househld.html)*. When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the* [*third*](three.html) *year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the* [*alien*](aliens.html)*, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may* [*eat*](eating.html) *in your towns and be satisfied. Then say to the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God: "I have removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the Levite, the* [*alien*](aliens.html)*, the fatherless and the widow, according to all you commanded. I have not turned aside from your* [*commands*](cmds613.html) *nor have I forgotten any of them. I have not* [*eaten*](eating.html) *any of the sacred portion while I was in* [*mourning*](mourning.html)*, nor have I removed any of it while I was unclean, nor have I offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *my God; I have done everything you commanded me. Look down from heaven, your holy* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *place, and bless your people Israel and the land you have given us as you promised on oath to our forefathers, a land flowing with milk and honey."*

[HaShem](hashem.html)'s holy [dwelling](dwelling.html) place is heaven.

***I Melachim (Kings) 8:22-28*** *Then Solomon stood before the altar of the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *toward heaven And said: "O* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below--you who keep your* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your* [*mouth*](body.html) *you have promised and with your* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *you have fulfilled it--as it is today. "Now* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful in all they do to* [*walk*](walking.html) *before me as you have done.' And now, O God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true. "But will God really* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this* [*temple*](temple.html) *I have built! Yet give attention to your servant's* [*prayer*](prayer.html) *and his plea for mercy, O* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *my God. Hear the* [*cry*](mashal.html) *and the* [*prayer*](prayer.html) *that your servant is* [*praying*](prayer.html) *in your presence this day.*

The highest heaven cannot contain [HaShem](hashem.html).

***II Melachim (Kings) 2:1-15*** *When the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you* [*know*](daat.html) *that the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I* [*know*](daat.html)*," Elisha replied, "but do not* [*speak*](mashal.html) *of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *has sent me to* [*Jericho*](stages.html)*." And he replied, "As surely as the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to* [*Jericho*](stages.html)*. The company of the prophets at* [*Jericho*](stages.html) *went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you* [*know*](daat.html) *that the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I* [*know*](daat.html)*," he replied, "but do not* [*speak*](mashal.html) *of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *has sent me to the* [*Jordan*](stages.html)*." And he replied, "As surely as the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the* [*two*](two.html) *of them walked on. Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the* [*Jordan*](stages.html)*. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the* [*two*](two.html) *of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise not." As they were* [*walking*](walking.html) *along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of* [*fire*](fire.html) *and horses of* [*fire*](fire.html) *appeared and separated the* [*two*](two.html) *of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. He picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the* [*Jordan*](stages.html)*. Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. "Where now is the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over. The company of the prophets from* [*Jericho*](stages.html)*, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.*

Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

***Nehemiah 9:5-6*** *And the Levites--Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah--said: "Stand up and praise the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting." "Blessed be your glorious* [*name*](name.html)*, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.*

There are multitudes in heaven. [Angels](angels.html)!

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 148:1-5*** *Praise the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. Praise the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his* [*angels*](angels.html)*, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him,* [*sun*](hachama.html) *and* [*moon*](chodesh.html)*, praise him, all you shining* [*stars*](mazaroth.html)*. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the* [*name*](name.html) *of the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, for he commanded and they were created.*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 123:1-4*** *{A song of ascents.} I lift up my* [*eyes*](body.html) *to you, to you whose throne is in heaven. As the* [*eyes*](body.html) *of slaves look to the* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *of their master, as the* [*eyes*](body.html) *of a maid look to the* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *of her mistress, so our* [*eyes*](body.html) *look to the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *our God, till he shows us his mercy. Have mercy on us, O* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, have mercy on us, for we have endured much contempt. We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant.*

[HaShem](hashem.html)'s throne is in heaven.

***Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 66:1-2*** *This is what the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. "This is the* [*one*](one.html) *I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.*

Heaven is [HaShem](hashem.html)'s throne.

***Zechariah 6:1-7*** *I looked up again--and there before me were* [*four*](four.html) *chariots* [*coming*](coming.html) *out from between* [*two*](two.html) *mountains--mountains of bronze! The* [*first*](one.html) *chariot had red horses, the second black, The* [*third*](three.html) *white, and the* [*fourth*](four.html) *dappled--all of them powerful. I asked the* [*angel*](angels.html) *who was* [*speaking*](mashal.html) *to me, "What are these, my lord?" The* [*angel*](angels.html) *answered me, "These are the* [*four*](four.html) *spirits of heaven, going out from* [*standing*](mashal.html) *in the presence of the Lord of the whole* [*world*](worlds.html)*. The* [*one*](one.html) *with the black horses is going toward the north country, the* [*one*](one.html) *with the white horses toward the west, and the* [*one*](one.html) *with the dappled horses toward the south." When the powerful horses went out, they were straining to go throughout the earth. And he said, "Go throughout the earth!" So they went throughout the earth.*

There are spirits/[angels](angels.html) in heaven.

# III. Heaven in the Nazarean Codicil

***Matityahu (Matthew) 6:9-11*** *"This, then, is how you should* [*pray*](prayer.html)*: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your* [*name*](name.html)*, Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.*

[HaShem](hashem.html)'s will is done in heaven.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 19:21-26***[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

We can store up treasure in heaven. It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 24:32-35*** *"Now learn this lesson from the* [*fig*](bethphag.html) *tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you* [*know*](daat.html) *that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you* [*know*](daat.html) *that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this* [*generation*](toldot.html) *will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

Heaven will pass away.

***Marqos (Mark) 16:19*** *After the Lord* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right* [*hand*](mashal.html) *of God.*

[Yeshua](yeshua.html) was taken up into heaven.

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 2:8-15*** *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An* [*angel*](angels.html) *of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the* [*angel*](angels.html) *said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you* [*good news*](mishna1.html) *of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *the Lord. This will be a* [*sign*](signs.html) *to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the* [*angel*](angels.html)*, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the* [*angels*](angels.html) *had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to* [*one*](one.html) *another, "Let's go to* [*Bethlehem*](bethlehem.html) *and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

[Angels](angels.html) can come from and go to heaven.

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 6:20-23*** *Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who* [*weep*](mashal.html) *now, for you will* [*laugh*](mashal.html)*. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your* [*name*](name.html) *as evil, because of the Son of Man. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their* [*fathers*](fathers.html) *treated the prophets.*

We can have a reward in heaven.

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 10:17-20*** *The* [*seventy*](seventy.html)*-*[*two*](two.html) *returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the* [*demons*](demons.html) *submit to us in your* [*name*](name.html)*." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you* [*authority*](authority.html) *to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

Some names are written in heaven.

***Yochanan (John) 3:1-21*** *Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the* [*Jewish*](gen-jew.html) *ruling council. He came to* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *at night and said, "Rabbi, we* [*know*](daat.html) *you are a* [*teacher*](teacher.html) *who has come from God. For no* [*one*](one.html) *could perform the miraculous* [*signs*](signs.html) *you are doing if God were not with him." In reply* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *declared, "I tell you the truth, no* [*one*](one.html) *can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second* [*time*](time.html) *into his mother's* [*womb*](thebirth.html) *to be born!"* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *answered, "I tell you the truth, no* [*one*](one.html) *can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives* [*birth*](birth.html) *to flesh, but the Spirit gives* [*birth*](birth.html) *to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's* [*teacher*](teacher.html)*," said* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)*, "and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we* [*speak*](mashal.html) *of what we* [*know*](daat.html)*, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I* [*speak*](mashal.html) *of heavenly things? No* [*one*](one.html) *has ever gone into heaven except the* [*one*](one.html) *who came from heaven--the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, That everyone who believes in him may have* [*eternal life*](eternal.html)*. "For God so loved the* [*world*](worlds.html) *that he gave his* [*one*](one.html) *and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have* [*eternal life*](eternal.html)*. For God did not send his Son into the* [*world*](worlds.html) *to condemn the* [*world*](worlds.html)*, but to* [*save*](salvation.html) *the* [*world*](worlds.html) *through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the* [*name*](name.html) *of God's* [*one*](one.html) *and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the* [*world*](worlds.html)*, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for* [*fear*](fear.html) *that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."*

No [one](one.html) has ever gone into heaven - except [Yeshua](yeshua.html).

***Yochanan (John) 13:37 - 14:9*** *Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me* [*three*](three.html) *times! "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You* [*know*](daat.html) *the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't* [*know*](daat.html) *where you are going, so how can we* [*know*](daat.html) *the way?"* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No* [*one*](one.html) *comes to the Father except through me. If you really* [*knew*](daat.html) *me, you would* [*know*](daat.html) *my Father as well. From now on, you do* [*know*](daat.html) *him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *answered: "Don't you* [*know*](daat.html) *me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long* [*time*](time.html)*? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?*

Where is "My Father's house"?

***II Corinthians 4:16 - 5:8*** *Therefore we do not lose* [*heart*](body.html)*. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our* [*eyes*](body.html) *not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. Now we* [*know*](daat.html) *that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html)*, Because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html)*, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and* [*know*](daat.html) *that as long as we are at home in the* [*body*](body.html) *we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the* [*body*](body.html) *and at home with the Lord.*

We have an immortal [body](body.html) in heaven.

***Philippians 3:7 - 4:1*** *But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the* [*law*](law.html)*, but that which is through faith in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to* [*know*](daat.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *and the power of his* [*resurrection*](techiyat.html) *and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, And so, somehow, to attain to the* [*resurrection*](techiyat.html) *from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But* [*one*](one.html) *thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)*. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with* [*tears*](mashal.html)*, many live as enemies of the cross of* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*, Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly* [*bodies*](body.html) *so that they will be like his glorious* [*body*](body.html)*. Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!*

Our citizenship is in heaven.

***I Tzefet (Peter) 1:1-7*** *Peter, an apostle of* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*, To God's elect, strangers in the* [*world*](worlds.html)*, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *and sprinkling by his* [*blood*](body.html)*:* [*Grace*](grace.html) *and peace be yours in abundance. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*! In his great mercy he has given us* [*new*](new.html)[*birth*](birth.html) *into a living hope through the* [*resurrection*](techiyat.html) *of* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *from the dead, And into an* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the* [*salvation*](salvation.html) *that is ready to be revealed in the last* [*time*](time.html)*. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by* [*fire*](fire.html)*--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *is revealed.*

Our [inheritance](inherit.html) is in heaven.

***Revelation 4:1-2*** *After this I looked, and there before me was a door* [*standing*](mashal.html) *open in heaven. And the* [*voice*](voice.html) *I had* [*first*](one.html) *heard* [*speaking*](mashal.html) *to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone* [*sitting*](mashal.html) *on it.*

Human spirits have visited heaven.

***Revelation 11:3-13*** *And I will give power to my* [*two*](two.html) *witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the* [*two*](two.html) *olive trees and the* [*two*](two.html) *lamp stands that stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone tries to harm them,* [*fire*](fire.html) *comes from their* [*mouths*](body.html) *and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who* [*wants*](needs.html) *to harm them must die. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the* [*time*](time.html) *they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into* [*blood*](body.html) *and to strike the earth with every kind of* [*plague*](plagues.html) *as often as they want. Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will* [*attack*](attacks.html) *them, and overpower and kill them. Their* [*bodies*](body.html) *will lie in the street of the great* [*city*](city.html)*, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For* [*three*](three.html) *and a half days men from every people,* [*tribe*](tribes.html)*, language and* [*nation*](nations.html) *will gaze on their* [*bodies*](body.html) *and refuse them* [*burial*](burial.html)*. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these* [*two*](two.html) *prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. But after the* [*three*](three.html) *and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their* [*feet*](heel.html)*, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud* [*voice*](voice.html) *from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a* [*cloud*](important.html)*, while their enemies looked on. At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the* [*city*](city.html) *collapsed.* [*Seven*](seven.html) *thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

The [two](two.html) witnesses went bodily to heaven.

[***Ephesians***](ephesians.html) ***2:4-10*** *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, Made us alive with* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by* [*grace*](grace.html) *you have been saved. And God raised us up with* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)*, In order that in the* [*coming*](coming.html) *ages he might show the incomparable riches of his* [*grace*](grace.html)*, expressed in his kindness to us in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)*. For it is by* [*grace*](grace.html) *you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- Not by works, so that no* [*one*](one.html) *can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

We are seated with [Mashiach](mashiach.html) in the heavenly realms.

***Yochanan (John) 17:24-26*** *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the* [*creation*](bara.html) *of the* [*world*](worlds.html)*. "Righteous Father, though the* [*world*](worlds.html) *does not* [*know*](daat.html) *you, I* [*know*](daat.html) *you, and they* [*know*](daat.html) *that you have sent me. I have made you* [*known*](daat.html) *to them, and will continue to make you* [*known*](daat.html) *in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

Those who belong to the Lord will be with Him where He is.

***Revelation 7:9-17*** *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no* [*one*](one.html) *could count, from every* [*nation*](nations.html)*,* [*tribe*](tribes.html)*, people and language,* [*standing*](mashal.html) *before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*. And they cried out in a loud* [*voice*](voice.html)*: "*[*Salvation*](salvation.html) *belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the* [*angels*](angels.html) *were* [*standing*](mashal.html) *around the throne and around the elders and the* [*four*](four.html) *living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, Saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then* [*one*](one.html) *of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you* [*know*](daat.html)*." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the* [*blood*](body.html) *of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his* [*temple*](temple.html)*; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The* [*sun*](hachama.html) *will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their* [*eyes*](body.html)*."*

The tribulation saints are before [HaShem](hashem.html)'s throne.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 5:34-35*** *But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; Or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by* [*Jerusalem*](city.html)*, for it is the* [*city*](city.html) *of the Great King.*

Heaven is [HaShem](hashem.html)’s throne.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 19:17-30*** *"Why do you ask me about what is good?"* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *replied. "There is only* [*One*](one.html) *who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the* [*commandments*](cmds613.html)*." "Which ones?" the man inquired.* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *replied," 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, Honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on* [*twelve*](twelve.html) *thrones, judging the* [*twelve*](twelve.html)[*tribes*](tribes.html) *of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will* [*inherit*](inherit.html)[*eternal life*](eternal.html)*. But many who are* [*first*](one.html) *will be last, and many who are last will be* [*first*](one.html)*.*

If you want to enter life, keep the [commandments](cmds613.html). It is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven. At the renewal of all things, the apostles will sit on thrones. The people who left family and things for [Yeshua](yeshua.html) will [inherit](inherit.html) [eternal life](eternal.html).

***Matityahu (Matthew) 24:29-31*** *"Immediately after the distress of those days 'the* [*sun*](hachama.html) *will be darkened, and the* [*moon*](chodesh.html) *will not give its light; the* [*stars*](mazaroth.html) *will fall from the sky, and the heavenly* [*bodies*](body.html) *will be shaken.' "At that* [*time*](time.html) *the* [*sign*](signs.html) *of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the* [*nations*](nations.html) *of the earth will* [*mourn*](mourning.html)*. They will see the Son of Man* [*coming*](coming.html) *on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his* [*angels*](angels.html) *with a loud trumpet call, and they will* [*gather*](gather.html) *his elect from the* [*four*](four.html) *winds, from* [*one*](one.html) *end of the heavens to the other.*

The elect shall be [gathered](gather.html) from the ends of the heavens.

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 10:26-28*** *"What is written in the* [*Law*](law.html)*?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your* [*heart*](body.html) *and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " "You have answered correctly,"* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *replied. "Do this and you will live."*

If you love God and your neighbor, you will live.

***I Thessalonians 4:13-17*** *Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall* [*asleep*](mashal.html)*, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *those who have fallen* [*asleep*](mashal.html) *in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen* [*asleep*](mashal.html)*. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud* [*command*](cmds613.html)*, with the* [*voice*](voice.html) *of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *will rise* [*first*](one.html)*. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

If the dead are raised [first](one.html); where are they now?

# IV. The kingdom of heaven:

When we talk about the British kingdom of yesteryear, we are not necessarily talking about Great Britain. We are talking about many places, including: Australia, Canada, India, and many other place. It was said that the [sun](hachama.html) never set on this kingdom.

This concept of a kingdom is very important. It helps us to understand the following passages:

***Daniel 2:37-45*** *You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; In your* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *he has placed mankind and the beasts of the* [*field*](field.html) *and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that* [*head*](body.html) *of gold. "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a* [*third*](three.html) *kingdom,* [*one*](one.html) *of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. Finally, there will be a* [*fourth*](four.html) *kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the* [*feet*](heel.html) *and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay. "In the* [*time*](time.html) *of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the* [*rock*](rock.html) *cut out of a mountain, but not by human* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*--a* [*rock*](rock.html) *that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the* [*future*](future.html)*. The* [*dream*](dreams.html) *is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."*

The kingdom of the [HaShem](hashem.html) of heaven will be set up in the [time](time.html) of the last kings.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 3:1-3*** *In those days Yochanan (John) the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea And saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Yeshayahu (Isaiah): "A* [*voice*](voice.html) *of* [*one*](one.html) *calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

The kingdom of heaven is near.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 5:3*** *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

***Matityahu (Matthew) 5:10*** *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

The poor in spirit and those who are persecuted because of righteousness receive the kingdom of heaven.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 5:17-20*** *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the* [*Law*](law.html) *or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest* [*letter*](letters.html)*, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the* [*Law*](law.html) *until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks* [*one*](one.html) *of the least of these* [*commandments*](cmds613.html) *and* [*teaches*](teacher.html) *others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and* [*teaches*](teacher.html) *these* [*commands*](cmds613.html) *will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the* [*law*](law.html)*, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Breaking the [law](law.html) and [teaching](teacher.html) others to do so makes you least in the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever practices and [teaches](teacher.html) the [law](law.html) will be called great in the Kingdom of heaven. You will not enter the Kingdom of heaven unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 7:15-23*** *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or* [*figs*](bethphag.html) *from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the* [*fire*](fire.html)*. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your* [*name*](name.html)*, and in your* [*name*](name.html) *drive out* [*demons*](demons.html) *and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never* [*knew*](daat.html) *you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

The [one](one.html) who does the will of God will enter the kingdom of heaven.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 8:7-13***[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *said to him, "I will go and heal him." The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under* [*authority*](authority.html)*, with soldiers under me. I tell this* [*one*](one.html)*, 'Go,' and he goes; and that* [*one*](one.html)*, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the* [*east*](east.html) *and the west, and will take their places at the feast with* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*,* [*Isaac*](isaac.html) *and* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be* [*weeping*](mashal.html) *and gnashing of* [*teeth*](body.html)*." Then* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.*

[Abraham](avraham.html), [Isaac](isaac.html), and [Jacob](israelja.html) are in the kingdom of heaven. There will be a feast in the Kingdom of heaven.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 13:45-50*** *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found* [*one*](one.html) *of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The* [*angels*](angels.html) *will come and separate the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *from the righteous And throw them into the fiery* [*furnace*](furnace.html)*, where there will be* [*weeping*](mashal.html) *and gnashing of* [*teeth*](body.html)*.*

The Kingdom of heaven seems to happen at the end of the age.

***Matityahu (Matthew) 18:1-10*** *At that* [*time*](time.html) *the disciples came to* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my* [*name*](name.html) *welcomes me. But if anyone causes* [*one*](one.html) *of these little ones who believe in me to* [*sin*](sin.html)*, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his* [*neck*](body.html) *and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. "Woe to the* [*world*](worlds.html) *because of the things that cause people to* [*sin*](sin.html)*! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! If your* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *or your* [*foot*](heel.html) *causes you to* [*sin*](sin.html) *cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have* [*two*](two.html)[*hands*](fourteen.html) *or* [*two*](two.html)[*feet*](heel.html) *and be thrown into eternal* [*fire*](fire.html)*. And if your eye causes you to* [*sin*](sin.html)*, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with* [*one*](one.html) *eye than to have* [*two*](two.html)[*eyes*](body.html) *and be thrown into the* [*fire*](fire.html) *of hell. "See that you do not look down on* [*one*](one.html) *of these little ones. For I tell you that their* [*angels*](angels.html) *in heaven always see the* [*face*](body.html) *of my Father in heaven.*

To enter the kingdom of heaven you must become like little children. The greatest in the kingdom of heaven must humble himself like a child. There are [angels](angels.html) in heaven. We enter life as we are. Consider also:

***Yochanan (John) 20:24-29*** *Now Thomas (called Didymus),* [*one*](one.html) *of the* [*Twelve*](twelve.html)*, was not with the disciples when* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *and put my finger where the nails were, and put my* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked,* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*. Reach out your* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

Does this mean that we will not have perfect [bodies](body.html), initially, after we are resurrected?

#  V. The righteous will [dwell](dwelling.html) on earth forever

The Tanakh[[1]](#footnote-1) and the Nazarean Codicil[[2]](#footnote-2) are replete with references to the fact that the righteous will [dwell](dwelling.html) on earth forever. It does not contain any references to suggest that they will “[inherit](inherit.html) heaven”. Here are a few of those references:

***Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 60:20-21*** *Thy* [*sun*](hachama.html) *shall no more go down, Neither shall thy* [*moon*](chodesh.html) *withdraw itself; for* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy* [*mourning*](mourning.html) *shall be ended. 21 Thy people also shall be all righteous, they shall* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the land for ever; the branch of My planting, the work of My* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*, wherein I glory.*

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 37:28-29*** *For the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will be cut off; The righteous will* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the land and* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *in it forever.*

***II Tzefet (Peter) 3:1-17*** *Dear friends, this is now my second* [*letter*](letters.html) *to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the* [*command*](cmds613.html) *given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.* [*First*](one.html) *of all, you must understand that in the* [*last days*](lastdays.html) *scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil* [*desires*](needs.html)*. They will say, "Where is this '*[*coming*](coming.html)*' he promised? Ever since our* [*fathers*](fathers.html) *died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of* [*creation*](bara.html)*." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the* [*world*](worlds.html) *of that* [*time*](time.html) *was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for* [*fire*](fire.html)*, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this* [*one*](one.html) *thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the* [*day of the Lord*](day.html) *will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives As you look forward to the day of God and speed its* [*coming*](coming.html)*. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a* [*new*](new.html) *heaven and a* [*new*](new.html) *earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means* [*salvation*](salvation.html)*, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his* [*letters*](letters.html)*,* [*speaking*](mashal.html) *in them of these matters. His* [*letters*](letters.html) *contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you already* [*know*](daat.html) *this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.*

The [new](new.html) earth is the home of righteousness.

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 115:1*** *Not to us, O* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, not to us but to your* [*name*](name.html) *be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. Why do the* [*nations*](nations.html) *say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. But their idols are silver and gold, made by the* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *of men. They have* [*mouths*](body.html)*, but cannot* [*speak*](mashal.html)*,* [*eyes*](body.html)*, but they cannot see; They have* [*ears*](body.html)*, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; They have* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*, but cannot feel,* [*feet*](heel.html)*, but they cannot* [*walk*](walking.html)*; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. O house of Israel, trust in the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*--he is their help and shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*--he is their help and shield. You who* [*fear*](fear.html) *him, trust in the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*--he is their help and shield. The* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *remembers us and will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel, he will bless the house of Aaron, He will bless those who* [*fear*](fear.html) *the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*--small and great alike. May the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *make you increase, both you and your children. May you be blessed by the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, the Maker of heaven and earth. The highest heavens belong to the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, but the earth he has given to man. It is not the dead who praise the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, those who go down to silence; It is we who extol the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, both now and forevermore. Praise the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but, the earth belongs to man.

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 16:19-31*** *"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores And longing to* [*eat*](eating.html) *what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The* [*time*](time.html) *came when the beggar died and the* [*angels*](angels.html) *carried him to* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*'s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my* [*tongue*](spirit.html)*, because I am in agony in this* [*fire*](fire.html)*.' "But* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, For I have* [*five*](five.html) *brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "*[*Abraham*](avraham.html) *replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' "'No, father* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"*

The [angels](angels.html) carried Lazarus to [Abraham](avraham.html)'s side. This still seems to be more of a ***description*** of the place rather than the [***name***](name.html) of the place.

***Revelation 21:1-6*** *Then I saw a* [*new*](new.html) *heaven and a* [*new*](new.html) *earth, for the* [*first*](one.html) *heaven and the* [*first*](one.html) *earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy* [*City*](city.html)*, the* [*new*](new.html)[*Jerusalem*](city.html)*,* [*coming*](coming.html) *down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud* [*voice*](voice.html) *from the throne saying, "Now the* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their* [*eyes*](body.html)*. There will be no more death or* [*mourning*](mourning.html) *or* [*crying*](mashal.html) *or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything* [*new*](new.html)*!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.*

God will [dwell](dwelling.html) with men on earth.

***Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 65:13-25*** *Therefore this is what the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: "My servants will* [*eat*](eating.html)*, but you will go hungry; my servants will drink, but you will go thirsty; my servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame. My servants will sing out of the joy of their hearts, but you will* [*cry*](mashal.html) *out from anguish of* [*heart*](body.html) *and wail in brokenness of spirit. You will leave your* [*name*](name.html) *to my chosen ones as a curse; the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will put you to death, but to his servants he will give another* [*name*](name.html)*. Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth; he who takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of truth. For the past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my* [*eyes*](body.html)*. "Behold, I will create* [*new*](new.html) *heavens and a* [*new*](new.html) *earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *and take delight in my people; the sound of* [*weeping*](mashal.html) *and of* [*crying*](mashal.html) *will be heard in it no more. "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *in them; they will plant vineyards and* [*eat*](eating.html) *their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others* [*eat*](eating.html)*. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still* [*speaking*](mashal.html) *I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will* [*eat*](eating.html) *straw like the ox, but* [*dust*](rock.html) *will be the serpent's* [*food*](food.html)*. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

the people will live on the [new](new.html) (renewed) earth in the [city](city.html) of [Jerusalem](city.html). H2319 chadash, khaw-dawsh'; from 2318; [new](new.html):-fresh, [new](new.html) thing.

#  VI. "Paradise" is the abode of the righteous

The Greek word for “Paradise” is:

G3857 paradeisos, par-ad'-i-sos; of Oriental or. [comp. 6508]; a park, i.e. (spec.) an Eden (place of [future](future.html) happiness, "paradise"):-paradise.

This Greek word, Paradeisos, is used in the Septuagint to translate the [Hebrew](hebrew.html): [Gan Eden](eden.html).

[Gan Eden](eden.html) is normally translated into English as: The [Garden of Eden](eden.html). So Paradise = The [Garden of Eden](eden.html)! Armed with this concept, lets examine this “Paradise”:

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 23:33-45*** *When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--*[*one*](one.html) *on his right, the other on his left.* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *said, "Father,* [*forgive*](forgive.html) *them, for they do not* [*know*](daat.html) *what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him* [*save*](salvation.html) *himself if he is the* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *of God, the Chosen* [*One*](one.html)*." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar And said, "If you are the king of the* [*Jews*](gen-jew.html)*,* [*save*](salvation.html) *yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE* [*JEWS*](gen-jew.html)*.* [*One*](one.html) *of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*?* [*Save*](salvation.html) *yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you* [*fear*](fear.html) *God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "*[*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)*, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." It was now about the* [*sixth*](six.html) *hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the* [*ninth*](nine.html) *hour, For the* [*sun*](hachama.html) *stopped shining. And the curtain of the* [*temple*](temple.html) *was torn in* [*two*](two.html)*.*

The thief went to paradise when he died.

***II Corinthians 12:1-5*** *I must go on* [*boasting*](chametz.html)*. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I* [*know*](daat.html) *a man in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *who* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html) *years ago was caught up to the* [*third*](three.html) *heaven. Whether it was in the* [*body*](body.html) *or out of the* [*body*](body.html) *I do not* [*know*](daat.html)*--God knows. And I* [*know*](daat.html) *that this man--whether in the* [*body*](body.html) *or apart from the* [*body*](body.html) *I do not* [*know*](daat.html)*, but God knows-- Was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.*

Seems to indicate either [two](two.html) different places or [two](two.html) names for the same place.

***Revelation 2:1-7*** *"To the* [*angel*](angels.html) *of the* [*church*](church.html) *in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the* [*seven*](seven.html)[*stars*](mazaroth.html) *in his right* [*hand*](mashal.html) *and walks among the* [*seven*](seven.html) *golden lamp stands: I* [*know*](daat.html) *your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I* [*know*](daat.html) *that you cannot tolerate* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my* [*name*](name.html)*, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your* [*first*](one.html) *love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at* [*first*](one.html)*. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to* [*eat*](eating.html) *from the* [*tree of life*](eternal.html)*, which is in the paradise of God.*

The [Tree of Life](eternal.html) started out in the Garden in Eden and it will be there when we get to [eat](eating.html) of it. **Paradise is not Heaven. These are** [**two**](two.html) **different places with** [**two**](two.html) **different names.**

#  VII. [Inheritance](inherit.html)

***Shemot (***[***Exodus***](exodus.html)***) 15:13-18*** *"In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have* [*redeemed*](redemption.html)*. In your strength you will guide them to your holy* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html)*. The* [*nations*](nations.html) *will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia. The chiefs of* [*Edom*](edom.html) *will be terrified, the leaders of* [*Moab*](stages.html) *will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away; Terror and dread will fall upon them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone--until your people pass by, O* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, until the people you bought pass by. You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*--the place, O* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, you made for your* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html)*, the* [*sanctuary*](mikdash.html)*, O Lord, your* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *established. The* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will reign for ever and ever."*

If this passage is viewed prophetically, then the [inheritance](inherit.html) that God will give His people will be at Mount Zion.

***Shemot (***[***Exodus***](exodus.html)***) 32:11-13*** *But Moses sought the favor of the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *his God. "O* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought* [*out of Egypt*](thebirth.html) *with great power and a mighty* [*hand*](fourteen.html)*? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the* [*face*](body.html) *of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*,* [*Isaac*](isaac.html)*, and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the* [*stars*](mazaroth.html) *in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *forever.'"*

The land that we [inherit](inherit.html) will be an eternal [inheritance](inherit.html)!

***Leviticus 20:22-24*** *"'Keep all my decrees and* [*laws*](law.html) *and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. You must not live according to the customs of the* [*nations*](nations.html) *I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them. But I said to you, "You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God, who has set you apart from the* [*nations*](nations.html)*.*

Our [inheritance](inherit.html) is the possession of land.

***Jeremiah 12:14-17*** *This is what the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: "As for all my* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *neighbors who seize the* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *I gave my people Israel, I will uproot them from their lands and I will uproot the house of Judah from among them. But after I uproot them, I will again have* [*compassion*](file:///D%3A%5CWord%5CStars%5Cjonah.html) *and will bring each of them back to his own* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *and his own country. And if they learn well the ways of my people and swear by my* [*name*](name.html)*, saying, 'As surely as the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *lives'--even as they once* [*taught*](teacher.html) *my people to swear by Baal--then they will be established among my people. But if any* [*nation*](nations.html) *does not listen, I will completely uproot and destroy it," declares the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

[HaShem](hashem.html) will bring us back to our [inheritance](inherit.html).

***Ezekiel 36:8-12*** *"'But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, And I will multiply the* [*number*](nchart.html) *of people upon you, even the whole house of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. I will increase the* [*number*](nchart.html) *of men and animals upon you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will* [*know*](daat.html) *that I am the* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. I will cause people, my people Israel, to* [*walk*](walking.html) *upon you. They will possess you, and you will be their* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*; you will never again deprive them of their children.*

The people who [inherit](inherit.html) are called Israel.

***Ezekiel 47:21-23*** *"You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the* [*tribes*](tribes.html) *of Israel. You are to allot it as an* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *for yourselves and for the* [*aliens*](aliens.html) *who have settled among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *among the* [*tribes*](tribes.html) *of Israel. In whatever* [*tribe*](tribes.html) *the* [*alien*](aliens.html) *settles, there you are to give him his* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*," declares the Sovereign* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

The [alien](aliens.html) ([ger](aliens.html)) will have an [inheritance](inherit.html) with the [tribes](tribes.html) of [Jacob](israelja.html).

***Daniel 12:9-13*** *He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the* [*time*](time.html) *of the end. Many will be* [*purified*](purity.html)*, made spotless and refined, but the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will continue to be* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*. None of the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will understand, but those who are wise will understand. "From the* [*time*](time.html) *that the daily* [*sacrifice*](korbanot.html) *is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the* [*one*](one.html) *who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*."*

We receive our [inheritance](inherit.html) at the end of the days. This [inheritance](inherit.html) is referred to many times in the Nazarean Codicil:

***Matityahu (Matthew) 25:34*** *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*, the kingdom prepared for you since the* [*creation*](bara.html) *of the* [*world*](worlds.html)*.*

***II Luqas (Acts) 20:32*** *"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his* [*grace*](grace.html)*, which can build you up and give you an* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *among all those who are sanctified.*

[***Galatians***](galatian.html) ***3:18*** *For if the* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *depends on the* [*law*](law.html)*, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his* [*grace*](grace.html) *gave it to* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *through a promise.*

[***Galatians***](galatian.html) ***4:30*** *But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *with the free woman's son."*

[***Ephesians***](ephesians.html) ***1:12-14*** *In order that we, who were the* [*first*](one.html) *to hope in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *when you heard the word of truth, the* [*gospel*](mishna1.html) *of your* [*salvation*](salvation.html)*. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Who is a deposit guaranteeing our* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *until the* [*redemption*](redemption.html) *of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.*

[***Ephesians***](ephesians.html) ***5:5*** *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *in the kingdom of* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *and of God.*

***Colossians 1:12*** *Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

***Colossians 3:24*** *Since you* [*know*](daat.html) *that you will receive an* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *you are serving.*

[***Bereans***](bereans.html) ***(***[***Hebrews***](bereans.html)***) 9:15*** *For this reason* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *is the mediator of a* [*new*](new.html)[*covenant*](covenant.html)*, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the* [*sins*](sin.html) *committed under the* [*first*](one.html)[*covenant*](covenant.html)*.*

***I Tzefet (Peter) 1:3-4*** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*! In his great mercy he has given us* [*new*](new.html)[*birth*](birth.html) *into a living hope through the* [*resurrection*](techiyat.html) *of* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html)[*Mashiach*](mashiach.html) *from the dead, And into an* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you,*

# VIII. The [Seven](seven.html) Heavens

In the book of Devarim (Deuteronomy), Moshe tells the [Jewish](gen-jew.html) people, "You have been shown in order to [know](daat.html) that [HaShem](hashem.html), He is the G-d! There is none beside Him" (4:35). Rashi once more quotes a Rabbinic [teaching](teacher.html), this [time](time.html) to explain what it means, ‘that the [Jews](gen-jew.html) were shown in order to [know](daat.html)’: "When the Holy [One](one.html), Blessed be He, gave the Torah, He opened for them the [seven](seven.html) heavens; and just as He split the upper [regions], so He split the lower, and they saw that He was alone." In other words, the Children of Israel were shown at [Sinai](stages.html) a glimpse of the inner mechanics of the entire universe--from subatomic particles to black holes and beyond, presumably--so that they would [know](daat.html) for certain that [HaShem](hashem.html) is the sole Ruler of all of this vast [Creation](bara.html).

The Tanakh implies the existence of multiple heavens (Devarim (Deuteronomy) 10:14; Tehilim (Tehillim ([Psalms](psalms1.html))) 148:4) and this is certainly [taught](teacher.html) here as in [Ephesians](ephesians.html) 4:10 and 2 Corinthians 12:2 which mentions "the [third](three.html) heaven." The [Talmud](orallaw.html) [teaches](teacher.html) the existence of [seven](seven.html) heavens.

The Tanakh has [seven](seven.html) different designations for heaven; therefore there must be [Seven](seven.html) heavens.[[3]](#footnote-3)

[***Midrash***](orallaw.html) ***Rabbah - Bereshit (Genesis) XIX:7*** *AND THEY HEARD THE* [*VOICE*](voice.html) *OF THE LORD GOD TRAVELLING IN THE GARDEN TOWARD THE COOL OF THE DAY (III, 7). R. Halapay said: We* [*know*](daat.html) *[from here] that a* [*voice*](voice.html) *may* [*travel*](mashal.html)*, but we do not yet* [*know*](daat.html) *that ‘*[*traveling*](mashal.html)*’ can apply to* [*fire*](fire.html)*; and whence do we* [*know*](daat.html) *that? From a verse elsewhere: And the* [*fire*](fire.html) *traveled down upon the earth (Shemot IX, 23). R. Abba b. Kahana said: Not mehallek but mith-hallek is written here, which means that it [repeatedly] leaped and ascended. The real home of the Shechinah was in the nether sphere; when* [*Adam*](adam.html) *sinned it departed to the* [*first*](one.html) *rakia’ [firmament]; when Cain sinned, it ascended to the second rakia’; when the* [*generation*](toldot.html) *of Enosh sinned, it ascended to the* [*third*](three.html)*; when the* [*generation*](toldot.html) *of the Flood sinned, to the* [*fourth*](four.html)*; with the* [*generation*](toldot.html) *of the separation [of* [*tongues*](spirit.html)*], to the* [*fifth*](five.html)*; with the Sodomites, to the* [*sixth*](six.html)*, with the Egyptians in the days of* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*, to the* [*seventh*](seven.html)*. But as against these there arose* [*seven*](seven.html) *righteous men:* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*,* [*Isaac*](isaac.html)*,* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*, Levi, Kohath, Amram, and Moses, and they brought it down again to earth.* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *[brought it down] from the* [*seventh*](seven.html) *to the* [*sixth*](six.html)*,* [*Isaac*](isaac.html) *from the* [*sixth*](six.html) *to the* [*fifth*](five.html)*,* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *from the* [*fifth*](five.html) *to the* [*fourth*](four.html)*, Levi from the* [*fourth*](four.html) *to the* [*third*](three.html)*, Kohath from the* [*third*](three.html) *to the second, Amram from the second to the* [*first*](one.html)*, while Moses brought it right down below. R.* [*Isaac*](isaac.html) *said: It is written, The righteous shall* [*inherit*](inherit.html) *the land and* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *(wayyishkenu) therein forever (Tehilim XXXVII, 29): then what are the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *to do-are they to range in the air! What it means is that the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *did not permit the Shechinah to* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *on earth.*

[***Midrash***](orallaw.html) ***Rabbah - Leviticus XXIX:11*** *All sevenths are favourites in the* [*world*](worlds.html)*. The* [*seventh*](seven.html) *is a favourite above, for there are shamayim, sheme HaShamayim, rakia’, shehakim, zebul, ma'on, and ‘araboth, and of the last-named it is written, Extol Him that rideth upon the ‘araboth, whose* [*name*](name.html) *is the Lord (Tehilim LXVIII, 5)*

[***Midrash***](orallaw.html) ***Rabbah - Devarim (Deuteronomy) II:32*** *Another explanation: HEAR, O ISRAEL. This bears out what Scripture says, Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And beside Thee I* [*desire*](needs.html) *none upon earth (Tehilim LXXIII, 25). Rab said: There are* [*two*](two.html) *firmaments, the heaven and the heavens of heavens. R. Eleazar said: There are* [*seven*](seven.html) *firmaments: Heaven (shamayim), the Heavens of Heavens (sheme shamayim), Firmament (raki'ah), Sky (shehakim), Habitation (ma'on), Residence (zebul), Thick* [*Cloud*](important.html) *(’arafel); and God opened them all unto Israel in order to show them that there is no God but He. The Assembly of Israel said before God: ' Master of the Universe, whom have I in heaven but Thy glory? As in heaven I have none but Thee, so too upon earth I* [*desire*](needs.html) *no other; as I have not associated another God with Thee in heaven, so upon earth, too, I have not associated with Thee any other God; but daily I enter the* [*synagogues*](file:///D%3A%5CWord%5CStars%5Csynagog.html) *and testify concerning Thee that there is no other God but Thou, and I exclaim, HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS* [*ONE*](one.html)*.’*

***Pesachim 94b*** *Now from earth to heaven is a* [*five*](five.html) *hundred years* [*journey*](stages.html)*, the thickness of heaven Is a* [*five*](five.html) *hundred years’* [*journey*](stages.html)*, and between the* [*first*](one.html) *heaven and the next lies a* [*five*](five.html) *hundred years’* [*journey*](stages.html)*, and similarly between each heaven.*

***Chagigah 12b*** *R. Judah said: There are* [*two*](two.html) *firmaments, for it is said: Behold, unto the Lord thy God belongeth heaven, and the heaven of heavens.[[4]](#footnote-4) Resh Lakish said: [There are]* [*seven*](seven.html)*, namely, Wilon,[[5]](#footnote-5) Rakia’,[[6]](#footnote-6) Shehakim,[[7]](#footnote-7) Zebul,[[8]](#footnote-8) Ma’on,[[9]](#footnote-9) Makon,[[10]](#footnote-10) ‘Araboth.[[11]](#footnote-11) Wilon serves no purpose except that it enters in the morning and goes forth in the evening[[12]](#footnote-12) and renews every day the work of* [*creation*](bara.html)*, for it is said: That stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain,[[13]](#footnote-13) and spreadeth them out as a tent to* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *in.[[14]](#footnote-14) Rakia’ is that in which* [*sun*](hachama.html) *and* [*moon*](chodesh.html)*,* [*stars*](mazaroth.html) *and constellations are set, for it is said: And God set them[[15]](#footnote-15) in the firmament [Rakia’] of the heaven.[[16]](#footnote-16)* ***Shehakim is that in which millstones stand and grind[[17]](#footnote-17) manna for the righteous for it is said: And He commanded the skies [Shehakim] above, and opened the doors of heaven; and He caused manna to rain upon them for*** [***food***](food.html) ***etc.[[18]](#footnote-18)*** *Zebul is that in which [the heavenly]* [*Jerusalem*](city.html)*[[19]](#footnote-19) and the* [*Temple*](temple.html) *and the Altar are built, and* [*Michael*](angels.html)*, the great Prince,[[20]](#footnote-20) stands and offers up thereon an* [*offering*](korbanot)*, for it is said: I have surely built Thee a house of habitation [Zebul], a place for Thee to* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *in for ever.[[21]](#footnote-21) And whence do we derive that it is called heaven? For it is written: Look down from heaven, and see, even from Thy holy and glorious habitation.[[22]](#footnote-22) Ma’on is that in which there are companies of Ministering* [*Angels*](angels.html)*, who utter [divine] song by night, and are silent by day for the sake of Israel’s glory,[[23]](#footnote-23) for it is said: By day the Lord doth* [*command*](cmds613.html) *His lovingkindness,[[24]](#footnote-24) and in the night His song is with me.[[25]](#footnote-25)*

Thus we learn that there are [seven](seven.html) ‘heavens’, namely: *Wilon, Rakia’, Shehakim, Zebul, Ma’on, Makon, ‘Araboth.*

[**Seven**](seven.html)Heavens are Vilon, Raki'a, Zebul, Ma'on, Machon, Araboth

1) Vilon -וילון, Isaiah 40:22 Vilon is the [name](name.html) of Jalon extrapolated unto Isaiah 40:22

2) Rakia - רקיע, Genesis 1:6-8, Genesis 1:17, Genesis 1:20, and [Psalm](psalms1.html) 19:1-2, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 150:1, Ezekiel 1:22-23

3) Shehakim - שחקים, Deut 33:26, 2 Samuel 22:12, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 18:11-12, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 36:5-6, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 57:10-11, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 77:17-18, [Psalms](psalms1.html). 78:23, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 89:37-38, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 108:4-5, Proverbs 8:28, Job 35:5, Job 36:28, Job 38:37

4) Zebul - זבול, Isaiah 63:15, 1-Kings, 8:13, 2 Chronicles 6:2

5) Ma'on - מעון, Deuteronomy 26:15, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 26:8 [Psalm](psalms1.html) 71:3, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 90:1, and Zechariah 2:17 { Zechariah 2:13}

6) Makon - מכון Deuteronomy 28:12, 1 Kings 8:39, 2 Chronicles 6:30, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 89:14-15, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 97:2, Isaiah 4:5

7) Araboth - ערבות, [Psalm](psalms1.html) 68:4-5

This bears on what we read in the Nazarean Codicil:

***2 Corinthians 12:2*** *I* [*knew*](daat.html) *a man in Christ above* [*fourteen*](fourteen.html) *years ago, (whether in the* [*body*](body.html)*, I cannot tell; or whether out of the* [*body*](body.html)*, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an* [*one*](one.html) *caught up to the* [***third***](three.html) ***heaven*** (*Shehakim* - שְׁחָקִים).

Resh Lakish said: [There are] [seven](seven.html), namely,

## Wilon

***Wilon****, [I.e., ‘Curtain’, from Lat. Velum.] - Wilon serves no purpose except that it enters in the morning and goes forth in the evening*

*[According to Rashi, Wilon (‘Curtain’) draws in every morning, and thus causes the light of day to become visible; in the evening it draws out and hides the daylight. This process constitutes the renewal of the work of* [*creation*](bara.html)*. But Tosafot. explains that Wilon produces the light of day, and when it withdraws at night darkness prevails.]*

*and renews every day the work of* [*creation*](bara.html)*, for it is said: That stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *in.[Yeshiyahu XL, 22.]*

*Several heavens were created,* [*seven*](seven.html) *in fact, each to serve a purpose of its own. The* [*first*](one.html)*, the* [*one*](one.html) *visible to man, has no function except that of covering up the light during the night* [*time*](time.html)*; therefore it disappears every morning.*

[***Midrash***](orallaw.html) ***Rabbah - Bereshit (Genesis) VI:6*** *Where are the spheres of the* [*sun*](hachama.html) *and the* [*moon*](chodesh.html) *set? In the second heaven (raki'a), as it says, AND GOD SET THEM IN THE RAKI'A OF THE HEAVEN. R. Phinehas said in R. Abbahu's* [*name*](name.html)*: This verse is explicit, and the men of the Great Assembly further explained, Thou art the Lord, even Thou alone; Thou hast made the heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host (Neh. IX, 6): thus where are all their hosts set? In the second ‘ raki'a ‘, which is above the heaven. From the earth to the ' raki'a ‘*

## Rakia

***Rakia’****, [I.e., ‘Expanse, firmament’.] - Rakia’ is that in which* [*sun*](hachama.html) *and* [*moon*](chodesh.html)*,* [*stars*](mazaroth.html) *and constellations are set, for it is said: And God set them in the firmament [Rakia’] of the heaven.[[26]](#footnote-26)*

*The planets are fastened to the second of the heavens;*

## Shehakim

***Shehakim****, [Lit., ‘Clouds’, from eja, ‘*[*dust*](rock.html)*’[[27]](#footnote-27).] - Shehakim is that in which millstones stand and grind manna for the righteous for it is said: And He commanded the skies [Shehakim] above, and opened the doors of heaven; and He caused manna to rain upon them for* [*food*](food.html) *etc.[[28]](#footnote-28)*

*Why are they [the clouds] called shehakim? Resh Lakish said: Because they break up (shohakim) the [mass of] water [into rain drops].*

*in the* [*third*](three.html) *the manna is made for the pious in the hereafter;*

## Zebul

The [celestial](celestal.html) [temple](temple.html) is situated in a region called "Zebul". This is what is [known](daat.html) as "the place of Your eternal residence".

***Zebul****, [B.D.B.: ‘Elevation, height, lofty abode’; N.H., ‘*[*Temple*](temple.html)*’. Jastrow: ‘(place of* [*offering*](korbanot) *or entertainment) residence, especially* [*Temple*](temple.html)*’.] - Zebul is that in which [the heavenly]* [*Jerusalem*](city.html)

*‘The Holy* [*One*](one.html) *blessed be He, said: I shall not enter the* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *which is above, until I enter the* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *which is below’.[[29]](#footnote-29)*

*and the* [*Temple*](temple.html) *and the Altar are built, and* [*Michael*](angels.html)*, the great Prince,[[30]](#footnote-30) stands and offers up thereon an* [*offering*](korbanot)*, for it is said: I have surely built Thee a house of habitation [Zebul], a place for Thee to* [*dwell*](dwelling.html) *in for ever.*

*Tthe earthly* [*Temple*](temple.html) *corresponds to the heavenly* [*Sanctuary*](mikdash.html)*.[[31]](#footnote-31)*

*And whence do we derive that it is called heaven? For it is written: Look down from heaven, and see, even from Thy holy and glorious habitation.[[32]](#footnote-32)*

*the* [*fourth*](four.html) *contains the* [*celestial*](celestal.html)[*Jerusalem*](city.html) *together with the* [*Temple*](temple.html)*, in which* [*Michael*](angels.html) *ministers as* [*high priest*](priests.html)*, and offers the souls of the pious as sacrifices.*

## Ma'on

***Ma'on****, [I.e., ‘*[*Dwelling*](dwelling.html)*, habitation’.] - Ma'on is that in which there are companies of Ministering* [*Angels*](angels.html)*, who utter [divine] song by night, and are silent by day for the sake of Israel's glory, for it is said: By day the Lord doth* [*command*](cmds613.html) *His lovingkindness, and in the night His song is with me.*

*[. I.e., by night the song of the* [*angels*](angels.html) *joins mine (says Israel), which I uttered by day (Rashi).[[33]](#footnote-33)]*

*In the* [*fifth*](five.html) *heaven, the* [*angel*](angels.html) *hosts reside, and sing the praise of God, though only during the night, for by day it is the task of Israel on earth to give glory to God on high.*

## Makon

***Makon****, [I.e., ‘Fixed or established place, foundation, residence’.] - Makon is that in which there are the stores of snow*

*[For these stores cf. Job XXXVIII, 22f also Yeshiyahu XXIX, 6.]*

*and stores of hail, and the loft of harmful dews and the loft of raindrops, the chamber of the whirlwind and storm, and the cave of vapour, and their doors are of* [*fire*](fire.html)*, for it is said: The Lord will open unto thee His good treasure, [Devarim (Deuteronomy), XXVIII, 12; implying also the existence of a bad store, i.e., of punishments; but the "Ein* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*’ reads here Yermiyahu L, 25.] But are these to be found in the firmament? Surely, they are to be found on the earth, for it is written: Praise the Lord from the earth, ye sea-monsters, and all deeps;* [*fire*](fire.html) *and hail, snow and vapour, stormy wind, fulfilling his word! [Tehilim CXLVIII, 7, 8.] — Rab Judah said in the* [*name*](name.html) *of Rab: David entreated concerning them, and caused them to come down to the earth. He said before Him: Lord of the universe, Thou art not a God that hath pleasure in* [*wickedness*](wicked.html)*; let not evil sojourn with Thee; righteous art Thou, O Lord, let not evil sojourn in Thy abode. And whence do we derive that it is called heaven? For it is written: Then hear Thou in heaven, Thy* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *place [Makon]. [I Melachim (Kings) VIII, 39]*

*The* [*sixth*](six.html) *heaven is an uncanny spot; there originate most of the trials and visitations ordained for the earth and its inhabitants. Snow lies heaped up there and hail; there are lofts full of noxious dew, magazines stocked with storms, and cellars holding reserves of smoke. Doors of* [*fire*](fire.html) *separate these* [*celestial*](celestal.html) *chambers, which are under the supervision of the archangel Metatron. Their pernicious contents defiled the heavens until David's* [*time*](time.html)*. The pious king* [*prayed*](prayer.html) *God to purge His exalted* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *of whatever was pregnant with evil; it was not becoming that such things should exist near the Merciful* [*One*](one.html)*. Only then they were removed to the earth.*

## Araboth

***Araboth****. [V. Tehilim LXVIII, 5. Levy: Perhaps from crg, ‘to be dark’ (cf. crg evening) and syn. with kprg: (thick darkness, heavy* [*cloud*](important.html)*, in which God dwells; cf. Shemot XX, 18).] - ‘Araboth is that in which there are Right and Judgment and Righteousness, the treasures of life and the treasures of peace and the treasures of blessing, the souls of the righteous and the spirits and the souls [Rashi explains that either ‘spirits’ and ‘souls’ are synonymous, or else ‘spirit’ means the soul that has bodily form (ectoplasm?).] which are yet to be born, and dew wherewith the Holy* [*One*](one.html)*, blessed be He, will hereafter revive the dead. Right and Judgment, for it is written: Right and judgment are the foundations of Thy throne. [Tehilim LXXXIX, 15.] Righteousness, for it is written: And He put on righteousness as a coat of mail.[Yeshiyahu LIX, 17] The treasures of life, for it is written: For with Thee is the fountain of life.[Tehilim XXXVI, 10] And the treasures of peace, for it is written: And called it, ‘The Lord is peace’.*

*[Shoftim VI, 24. Rashi renders: He (the Lord) called it (peace) unto Him.]*

*And the treasures of blessing, for it is written: he shall receive a blessing from the Lord. [Tehilim XXIV, 5.] The souls of the righteous, for it is written: Yet the soul of my lord shall be bound up in the bundle of life with the Lord thy God.[1 Sam. XXV, 29] The spirits and the souls which are yet to be born, for it is written: For the spirit that enwrappeth itself is from Me, and the souls which I have made.[Yeshiyahu LVII, 1] And the dew wherewith the Holy* [*One*](one.html)*, blessed be He, will hereafter revive the dead, for it is written: A bounteous rain didst Thou pour down, O God; when Thine* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *was weary, Thou didst confirm it.*

*[Tehilim LXVIII, 10. The verse refers to the Revelation at* [*Sinai*](stages.html)*, when, according to the* [*Midrash*](orallaw.html)*, the souls of the children of Israel momentarily left their* [*bodies*](body.html)*, but God with His bounteous rain or dew of* [*resurrection*](techiyat.html) *revived them. Cf. Cant. Rab. to Cant. V, 6.]*

 *There [too] are the Ofanim and the Seraphim, [V. Yeshiyahu VI, 2; in Rabbinic literature they are understood to be* [*angels*](angels.html) *of* [*fire*](fire.html)*, cf. Devarim (Deuteronomy) Rab.11] and the Holy Living Creatures,[V. Ezek. I, 5f.] and the Ministering* [*Angels*](angels.html)*, [Apparently distinct from those* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *in Ma'on] and the Throne of God; and the King, the Living God, high and exalted, dwells over them in ‘Araboth, for it is said: Extol Him that rideth upon Araboth whose* [*name*](name.html) *is the Lord. [Tehilim LXVIII, 5] And whence do we derive that it is called heaven? From the word ‘riding’, which occurs in* [*two*](two.html) *Biblical passages. Here it is written: ‘Extol Him that rideth upon Araboth’. And elsewhere it is written: Who rideth upon the heaven as thy help. [Devarim (Deuteronomy) XXXIII, 26] And darkness and* [*cloud*](important.html) *and thick darkness surround Him, for it is said: He made darkness His hiding-place, His pavilion round about Him, darkness of waters, thick clouds of skies.[Tehilim XVIII, 12] But is there any darkness before Heaven? For behold it is written: He revealeth the deep and* [*secret*](sod.html) *things; He knoweth, what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him.[Dan. II, 22] — There is no contradiction: the* [*one*](one.html) *[verse] ‘The* [*seventh*](seven.html) *heaven’, on the other* [*hand*](fourteen.html)*, contains naught but what is good and beautiful: right, justice, and mercy, the storehouses of life, peace, and blessing, the souls of the pious, the souls and spirits of unborn* [*generations*](toldot.html)*, the dew with which God will revive the dead on the* [*resurrection*](techiyat.html) *day, and, above all, the Divine Throne, surrounded by the seraphim, the ofanim, the holy Hayyot, and the ministering* [*angels*](angels.html)*.*

# IX. Hades

Is Hades the same as heaven? To answer this question, lets [first](one.html) look at the Strong’s definition:

86 hades, hah'-dace; from 1 (as a neg. particle) and 1492; prop. unseen, i.e. "Hades" or the place (state) of departed souls:-grave, hell.

Related word:

7585 she'owl, sheh-ole'; or she'ol, sheh-ole; from 7592; hades or the [world](worlds.html) of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), includ. its accessories and inmates:-grave, hell, pit.

At [first](one.html) blush, heaven and Hades are not the same place, but, lets examine the Scriptures to see how they [speak](mashal.html) of this place:

***Matityahu (Matthew) 11:23*** *And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.*

***Matityahu (Matthew) 16:18*** *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this* [*rock*](rock.html) *I will build my* [*church*](church.html)*, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 16:22-23*** *"The* [*time*](time.html) *came when the beggar died and the* [*angels*](angels.html) *carried him to* [*Abraham*](avraham.html)*'s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw* [*Abraham*](avraham.html) *far away, with Lazarus by his side.*

***II Luqas (Acts) 2:25-27*** *David said about him: "'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right* [*hand*](mashal.html)*, I will not be shaken. Therefore my* [*heart*](body.html) *is glad and my* [*tongue*](spirit.html) *rejoices; my* [*body*](body.html) *also will live in hope, Because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy* [*One*](one.html) *see decay.*

***I Corinthians 15:55*** *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, (Hades) is your sting?"*

***Revelation 1:18*** *I am the Living* [*One*](one.html)*; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*

***Revelation 6:8*** *I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a* [*fourth*](four.html) *of the earth to kill by sword,* [*famine*](famine.html) *and* [*plague*](plagues.html)*, and by the wild beasts of the earth.*

***Revelation 20:13*** *The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.*

***Revelation 20:14*** *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of* [*fire*](fire.html)*. The lake of* [*fire*](fire.html) *is the second death.*

**ANSWER:** I don't think that Heaven and Hades are the same place!

# X. Tidbits

[Jewish](gen-jew.html) women in oriental countries took pride in baking for [Shavuot](shavuot.html) a [seven](seven.html)-layer cake called Siete Cielos ([Seven](seven.html) Heavens), symbolic of the traditional [seven](seven.html) [celestial](celestal.html) spheres God traversed to present the Torah to Moses on Mount [Sinai](stages.html).[8] Fashioned in [seven](seven.html) circular tiers, [one](one.html) smaller than the other with the smallest on top, it was decorated with various symbols such as a [star](mazaroth.html) of David, the [rod](staff.html) of Moses, the [two](two.html) tablets of the [Law](law.html), manna, [Jacob](israelja.html)'s ladder, and the [ark](ark.html) of the [covenant](covenant.html). Others topped the cake with a [seven](seven.html)-rung ladder to recall Moses ascending Mount [Sinai](stages.html). Similar elaborate pastries called [Sinai](stages.html) Cake alluded to the mountain. A large cake or bread with raisins, generally [known](daat.html) as pashtudan or floden when baked for [Shavuot](shavuot.html), was also called [Sinai](stages.html). Some oriental [Jewish](gen-jew.html) women baked baklava — a very sweet cake made with nuts, sugar, and honey.

\* \* \*

There were many different ways to tie [tzitzith](tzitzith.html) in the Talmudic period. The [Talmud](orallaw.html) relates:

What is the minimum length of a joint? It was [taught](teacher.html): Rabbi says [In a joint] the thread must be wound once, twice and a [third](three.html) [time](time.html). It was [taught](teacher.html): If a man wishes to make few, he should not make less than [seven](seven.html), and if many, he should not make more than [thirteen](thirteen.html). If few, he should not make less than [seven](seven.html) [joints], to correspond to the [seven](seven.html) heavens; and if many, he should not make more than [thirteen](thirteen.html), to correspond to the [seven](seven.html) heavens plus the [six](six.html) intervening spaces. [Menachot 39a]

# XI. Conclusion

Heaven appears to be [HaShem](hashem.html)'s abode and not men's abode. Further, we see that even though Elijah went up to heaven, we see in Yochanan (John) 3:13 that he did not go to the place where God dwells. **When we die we do NOT go to Heaven!**

**The Kingdom of Heaven is not the same as the place called Heaven.**

It appears that [HaShem](hashem.html) has designed the [Garden of Eden](eden.html) to be the [dwelling](dwelling.html) place for men. This garden was on the earth at [one](one.html) [time](time.html). It was probably over the area that is [known](daat.html) today as Mount Zion. II Corinthians 12:4 seems to indicate that the [Garden of Eden](eden.html) is "up". Since we will be living on the earth in the [Garden of Eden](eden.html), I would expect the [Garden of Eden](eden.html) to be part of the [New](new.html) [Jerusalem](city.html) which comes down to earth. **When we die we go to the** [**Garden of Eden**](eden.html) **which will be on Earth**.

This “garden”, [PaRDeS](remez.html) in [Hebrew](hebrew.html), is a place of sublime reward. This [PaRDeS](remez.html), though, is a very big subject. Therefore, we will have to wait till another [time](time.html) to examine this in greater depth.

Some [one](one.html) once asked, “What is the difference between what the [wicked](wicked.html) will do versus what the righteous will do?”

The [wicked](wicked.html) will HAVE TO [study](study.html) Torah all day long and they will never GET TO stop to [eat](eating.html) or [sleep](mashal.html).

The Righteous will GET TO [study](study.html) Torah all day long and will never HAVE TO stop to [eat](eating.html) or [sleep](mashal.html)!

There is [one](one.html) final concept that is worth understanding. The Sages (Sanhedrin 97a) [teach](teacher.html) that the ages of this [world](worlds.html) are divided into [four](four.html) groups, namely:

1. The 2000 years of desolation.
2. The 2000 years of Torah.
3. The 2000 years of [Messiah](mashiach.html).

After these periods, there will be a 1000 year period when [Mashiach](mashiach.html) will rule with a [rod](staff.html) of iron. After this final [millennium](millenium.html), the righteous will enter the [Olam HaBa](futures.html). The [Olam HaBa](futures.html) is a [time](time.html) when we are no longer [physical](physical.html), we will become real.

To understand this state of reality, consider: Does [HaShem](hashem.html) have an arm? How is His arm different from ours? The answer is that His arm is REAL while ours is merely [PHYSICAL](physical.html).

# Nazarean note:

After [Messiah](mashiach.html) rose, He told the woman not to touch Him for He had not yet ascended to His Father. When He Ascended, He went through the [seven](seven.html) heavens. He was sprinkled with [fire](fire.html) and water [seven](seven.html) times.

The Torah [teaches](teacher.html) us that when a person comes in contact with a grave or with the dead, he must be sprinkled with the water and ashes of the red [heifer](heifer.html), on the [third](three.html) and on the [seventh](seven.html) day. The red [heifer](heifer.html) is also a picture of [fire](fire.html) and water.

We can conclude, therefore, that [Mashiach](mashiach.html) ascended on the [third](three.html) day and descended on the [seventh](seven.html) day. By doing this He was sprinkled with [fire](fire.html) and water.

**\* \* \***

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1. *Tanakh* is an acronym for Torah (Law), Neviim (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings), and is how Jews refer to the so called *Old Testament*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The *Nazarean Codicil* is how we will refer to the so called *New Testament* which is neither new, nor a testament. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Chagigah 12b-13a [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Devarim (Deuteronomy) 10:14. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. I.e., ‘Curtain’, from Lat. Velum. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. I.e., ‘Expanse, firmament’. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Lit., ‘Clouds’, from שחק, ‘dust’ (cf. Isa. XL, 15). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. B.D.B.: ‘Elevation, height, lofty abode’; N.H., ‘Temple’. Jastrow: ‘(place of offering or entertainment) residence, especially Temple’. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. I.e., ‘Dwelling, habitation’. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. I.e., ‘Fixed or established place, foundation, residence’. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. V. Ps, LXVIII, 5. Levy: Perhaps from ערב, ‘to be dark’ (cf. ערב evening) and syn. with ערפל: (thick darkness, heavy cloud, in which God dwells; cf. Ex. XX, 18). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. According to Rashi, Wilon (‘Curtain’) draws in every morning, and thus causes the light of day to become visible; in the evening it draws out and hides the daylight. This process constitutes the renewal of the work of creation. But Tosaf. explains that Wilon produces the light of day, and when it withdraws at night darkness prevails. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Thus there is a curtain-like heaven. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 40:22. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. I.e., the heavenly luminaries. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Beresheet (Genesis) 1:17. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. There is probably a play here on the meaning of שחק (the root of shehakim), which means ‘to rub away, pulverize, grind’ (cf. Ex. XXX, 36 and Job, XIV, 19). [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Tehillim (Psalms) 78:23, 24. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Cf. Ta’an. 5a: ‘The Holy One blessed be He, said: I shall not enter the Jerusalem which is above, until I enter the Jerusalem which is below’. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Michael is Israel’s Guardian Angel; cf. Dan. XII, 1 and Yoma 77a. Num. Rab. s. 2, Hul. 40a. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. I Kings 8:13; the earthly Temple corresponds to the heavenly Sanctuary. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 63:15. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Because Israel utters God’s praise by day. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. By silencing the angels by day. God shows lovingkindness to the children of Israel, who are thus permitted to win divine grace by their prayer. Cf. also A.Z. 3b on the same verse. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Tehillim (Psalms) 42:9. I.e., by night the song of the angels joins mine (says Israel), which I uttered by day (Rashi). [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Bereshit (Genesis) 1:17 [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. cf. Yeshiyahu (Isaiah) 40:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Tehilim (Psalms) 78:23- 24 [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Cf. Ta’anith. 5a [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. [Michael](file:///F%3A%5CWord%5CStars%5Cangels.html) is Israel's Guardian [Angel](file:///F%3A%5CWord%5CStars%5Cangels.html); cf. Daniel 12:1 and Yoma 77a. Num. Rab. s. 2, Hul. 40a. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. I Melachim (Kings) 8:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Yeshiyahu (Isaiah) 63:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Tehilim (Psalms)42:9 [↑](#footnote-ref-33)