



III. SPIRITUAL ABODES

A. Heaven

1. The number of heavens
 - a. Many passages clearly identify that there are heavens in the plural (Genesis 2:1, 4; 1 Chronicles 16:26; Job 9:8; Psalm 8:3; Psalm 33:6; Psalm 96:5; Ephesians 4:10; Hebrews 4:14).
 - b. The apostle Paul identifies what we most commonly think of as heaven when spoke of the “third heaven” (2 Corinthians 12:2).
 - c. The third heaven is most the heaven that is identified as “the heaven of heavens” (Deuteronomy 10:14; 1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chronicles 2:6; 2 Chronicles 6:18; Nehemiah 9:6).
 - d. It should also be noted at this point that directionally heaven is ALWAYS UP.
 - (1) Heaven is above (Genesis 1:20; Genesis 27:39; Genesis 49:25; Exodus 20:4; Deuteronomy 4:39; Deuteronomy 5:8; Joshua 2:11; 1 Kings 8:23; Psalm 103:11; Jeremiah 4:28; Jeremiah 31:37; Acts 2:19; Romans 10:6).
 - (2) Heaven is up (Exodus 9:10; Deuteronomy 4:19; Deuteronomy 30:12; Deuteronomy 32:40; Joshua 8:20; Judges 13:20; Judges 20:40; 1 Samuel 5:12; 2 Kings 2:1, 11; 2 Chronicles 30:27; Psalm 107:26; Psalm 139:8; Proverbs 30:4; Amos 9:2; Matthew 14:19; Mark 7:34; Mark 16:19; John 3:13; Acts 1:10-11; Acts 7:55; 2 Corinthians 12:2; Revelation 4:1).
 - (3) Earth is down (Psalm 102:19; Micah 1:3; Revelation 12:12; Revelation 18:1).
2. The creation of the heavens
 - a. The third heaven (Genesis 1:1)
 - (1) In the creation account, this is simply identified as heaven and was apparently in existence before the literal six-day creation.
 - (2) This is God’s dwelling-place (Deuteronomy 26:15; 1 Kings 8:30; Psalm 11:4; Psalm 33:13; Psalm 89:6; 2 Corinthians 12:2).
 - (3) It is from this location that a city will come down in the future (Revelation 3:12; Revelation 21:2).
 - b. The second heaven (Genesis 1:6-8)
 - (1) This is the place known in the creation account as “the firmament of the heaven” (Genesis 1:14, 15, 17).
 - (2) This is where God placed the lights (the sun, moon, and stars) (Genesis 22:17; Genesis 26:4; Exodus 32:13; Deuteronomy 4:19; Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7).



- (3) The introduction of the firmament parted waters, moving some beneath the firmament (on the earth) and the rest above the firmament (Genesis 1:7; Psalm 148:4; see also Revelation 4:6; compare with 1 Corinthians 13:12).
- c. The first heaven
 - (1) In the creation account, this is called “the open firmament of heaven” (Genesis 1:20).
 - (2) This is the home of the fowl that fly (Genesis 7:23; Job 35:11; Psalm 79:2; Psalm 104:12; Jeremiah 7:33; Jeremiah 9:10; Matthew 6:26; Revelation 19:17). This is sometimes identified as “the air” (Genesis 1:26, 28, 30; Genesis 2:19-20; Genesis 6:7; Genesis 7:3; Genesis 9:2; Proverbs 30:19; Matthew 13:32; 1 Thessalonians 4:17). Note: While most tend to agree that the spirit world’s base of operation is the second heaven, it is possible it is the first heaven (see Ephesians 2:2; 2 Kings 6:17).

B. Hell

1. The location of hell
 - a. The generalization
 - (1) When the Bible generalizes God’s creation, it divides it into two parts: heaven and earth.
 - (2) We have already discovered that heaven is actually found in three stories (Amos 9:6; see Genesis 6:16).
 - (3) It would stand to reason that the earth may also be a generalization with other parts, pieces, or stories.
 - (4) When the Bible gets a bit more specific, it divides God’s creation into three parts: heaven, earth, and under the earth (Exodus 20:4; Deuteronomy 5:8; Philippians 2:4; Revelation 5:3, 13).
 - b. The specifics
 - (1) The third general location is identified as under the earth.
 - (2) Historically, there were statements suggesting more than one place under the earth.
 - a) The statements
 - i) Lower parts of the earth (Psalm 63:9; Isaiah 44:23; Ephesians 4:9)
 - ii) Low parts of the earth (Ezekiel 26:20)
 - iii) Nether parts of the earth (Ezekiel 31:14, 16, 18; Ezekiel 32:18, 24)



- b) The explanation
 - i) In the least, this is because both Abraham's bosom (the resting place of the saints) and hell were in the same location (see Luke 16:19-31).
 - ii) Abraham's bosom, also known as paradise (Luke 23:43), was emptied out by the Lord at His resurrection (Matthew 27:52-53; Ephesians 4:8-10). The apostle Paul later located the new home as being in the third heaven (2 Corinthians 12:4). It is possible that it was at this time that hell enlarged (Isaiah 5:14).
 - iii) Hell (and Abraham's bosom) was both under the earth and in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40). Historically, the word heart was used in such cases to describe the innermost part of something. Likewise, the word core is from the Latin and means heart.
- 2. The degrees of hell
 - a. There are some phrases in scripture that tend to make one wonder if there are not various levels or degrees in hell.
 - b. In heaven, we understand that there are varying levels of reward and, on the surface, it would seem as though the same is possible in hell.
 - c. Consider the following phrases
 - (1) The lowest hell (Deuteronomy 32:22; Psalm 86:13)
 - (2) The lowest pit (Psalm 88:6)
 - (3) The greater damnation (Matthew 23:14; Mark 12:40; Luke 20:47)
 - d. At the end of the day, this is likely not enough to be dogmatic, but it is at least worthy of consideration.
- 3. The description of hell
 - a. It is a place of fire (Matthew 5:22; Matthew 18:9; Mark 9:43-49) and darkness (Matthew 8:12; Matthew 22:13; Matthew 25:30). This fire is kindled in God's anger (Deuteronomy 32:22; see with Jonah 2:2, 6).
 - b. It is a place of damnation (Matthew 23:33) or torments (Luke 16:23).
 - c. It is a place of conscious sorrows (2 Samuel 22:6; Psalm 18:5; Psalm 116:3).
 - d. It is never full (Proverbs 27:20; Habakkuk 2:5).
 - e. It is a bottomless pit (Compare Revelation 1:18 with Revelation 9:1-2, 11 and Revelation 20:1; Psalm 69:15; Isaiah 14:15).
 - f. It is a holding place for future judgment (2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10-15).