

In the passage in John 14 in which our Lord attempted to comfort his disciples and to answer some of their questions, we discover some answers to some questions of our own. What is the way to *Ouranos*? Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Lord and Savior. Where is *Ouranos*? Where Jesus is! What is *Ouranos* like? It is like Jesus! He is the life and light of *Ouranos*! *Ouranos* is filled with His truth, His goodness, His beauty! Let us contemplate Jesus, when we wish to think of *Ouranos*. There will be no lie there. There will be no wickedness or uncleanness there. There will be no ugliness there. Truth and goodness and beauty will fill and permeate every dwelling-place and every dweller in *Ouranos*!

Now having considered the Intermediate State in general, let us look at the second sub-head which we shall subsume under the main heading "A Consideration of the Scriptural Data." Let us briefly examine:

*Scriptural Data Regarding the Possibility of a Dispensationally-Related Change in the Intermediate State*

Some years ago I ran across a fascinating quotation in a book entitled *The Second Coming of Christ*, by Clarence Larkin. I should like to quote this material as a useful entree into the present question. Larkin wrote:

"The Underworld" (Hades) in Christ's day was made up of two compartments, "Paradise" and "Hell," separated by an "impassable gulf." "Hell" is the abode of the *souls* of the Wicked between the death and resurrection of their bodies.

When Jesus died on the Cross His *body* was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea ... and His *soul* went to Paradise, where He had an engagement that day to meet the *soul* of the "Penitent Thief"... whose *body* was buried in the "Potter's Field." It was in their "*soulish bodies*" then that they met in Paradise. When Jesus "*soul*" returned from "Paradise" on the third day to reoccupy His body in Joseph's tomb, He did not return alone. He led "captivity captive" ... and brought out with Him all the souls of the "Righteous Dead" imprisoned in the Paradise section of the "Underworld." and placed them in the "Paradise" of the "Third Heaven," to which Paul was caught