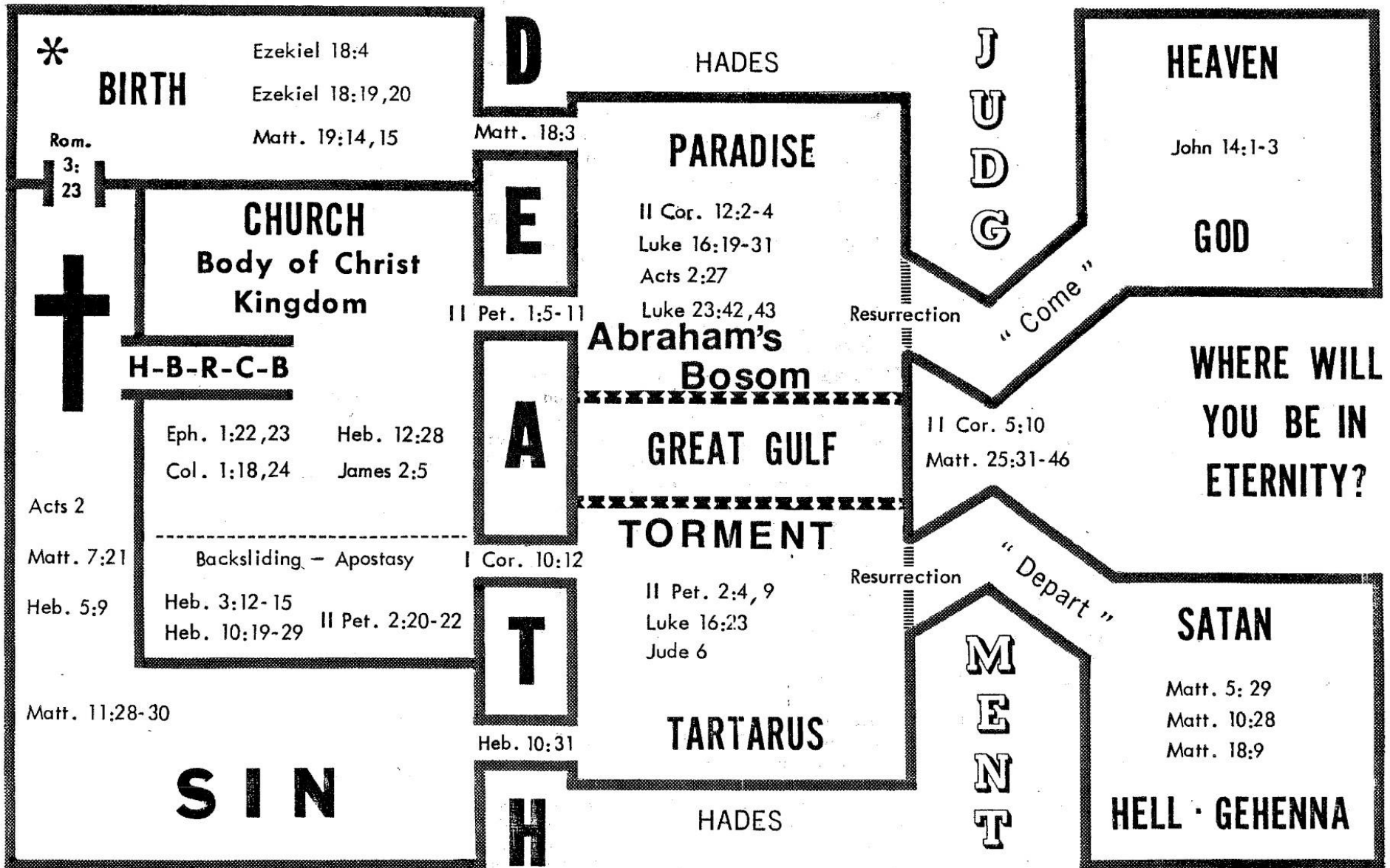


EARTH ----- DEATH ----- HADES ----- JUDGMENT ----- ETERNITY



Where Are The Dead?

HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND USE THE CHART

God's Plan for You

By Harold Buckles

God does have a plan for YOU. That plan is revealed in the Bible. God was willing that you should be born. He sent Christ to die on the cross for the salvation of your soul. Everything essential from EARTH to ETERNITY has been provided. By studying this chart you will be able to grasp God's overall plan for YOU in a better way.

EARTH At the upper left hand corner of the chart an asterisk (*) was placed. This shows where to begin in studying the chart. Your entrance into the world or EARTH was by physical BIRTH. Anyone who will follow Christ's plan for him and be obedient to the Word of God will be glad that he was born.

You were born into this world without sin (Matt. 19:14,15). You could not inherit the guilt of sin from your father, or ever-so-great-grandfather Adam (Ezek. 18:4 and 19,20). Man commits sin by choice. If a baby dies before it reaches the age of responsibility, it goes directly to paradise. After one reaches the age of responsibility, sin must be atoned for. It is God's plan that every guilty sinner is to come face to face with the demands of Christ. This is represented on the chart by a cross. Christ died on the cross in order that guilty sinners might not have to be in hell in eternity.

In Acts 2 the first sermon preached after Christ arose from the dead is recorded. The letters **H-B-R-C-B** on the chart stand for Hearing, Believing, Repentance, Confession, and Baptism. If you want to be saved from your sins you must believe the gospel, repent of your sins, confess Christ as your Savior and be baptized for the remission of your sins. On this basis you enter the Church of Christ, which is

the Body of Christ or the Kingdom.

The devil will never give up on you as long as you are upon this EARTH. Once you are a part of the Church, he will try to get you to backslide and apostatize. Anyone who thinks he stands should take heed lest he fall (I Cor. 10:12).

DEATH "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9:27). There are only four conditions in which a person may die. These are: (1) As an innocent baby who has never sinned (Matt. 18:3); (2) As a faithful Christian (II Pet. 1:5-11); (3) As a backslidden apostate (I Cor. 10:12); or (4) As a lost sinner who has never surrendered himself fully to Christ (II Thess. 1:7-9). The important thing for you to do is to be ready to die. God would have all men to be saved (Ezek. 33:11).

HADES There are only two places for anyone between death and the judgment: PARADISE and TARTARUS. The word "HADES" literally means the place where they cannot be seen. It is never used to signify the grave nor any permanent condition of the lost. Hades occupies the intermediate time between death and the resurrection.

PARADISE and HEAVEN are not the same place. Jesus told the thief on the cross that "today" he would be with Him in Paradise (Luke 23:43). Three days later He told Mary Magdalene that He had not yet ascended to His Father. It follows that Heaven and Paradise are not the same place.

Likewise TARTARUS and GEHENNA or HELL are not the same place. Peter reported that "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to Tartarus [hell- King James Trans], and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Pet. 2:4). Tartarus and Gehenna cannot be the same, for these angels mentioned have

not yet reached the judgment.

JUDGMENT Immediately after the resurrection (John 5:28,29), all of mankind will be gathered before the judgment throne of Christ. The lost will be condemned and the Christians will be invited to receive their reward (Rev. 20:11-15 & II Cor. 5:10).

ETERNITY It is impossible for us to grasp the span of eternity. Suffice it to say that it will last as long as God will. The important thing for you to determine is where you will be in eternity-- **HEAVEN** or **HELL**. You are preparing for one or the other at this very moment!

Where Are The Dead?

This teaching on death is included, not that you might speculate, but that you may have comfort when some Christian dies.

Whenever the word death or its equivalent occurs in the Bible it always means a separation. Physical death is separation of life from the body. Spiritual death means separation from God.

Such verses as Ps. 139:8 and Phil. 1:23 could not be true if there were such a thing as "soul-sleeping". Neither are there any souls in purgatory, nor have there ever been. The doctrine of purgatory is completely foreign to the Bible.

The dead are now in Hades. Their condition is forever and eternally settled. This is represented by a "great gulf" which Jesus mentioned in Luke 16:26.

Use this chart to fix God's plan for you firmly in your mind. Use it in teaching others the wonderful truths of God. You will find that **IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS!**