

Divine Principle
Bible Study
201

Resurrection

- The concept of resurrection is an important topic for Christians. It is a biblical phenomenon which has given hope to Christians, while at the same time seeming to be at odds with modern science.
- In this presentation, we will explain Resurrection from the Divine Principle perspective.

Resurrection Topics

1. The meaning of resurrection
2. Biblical concepts of life and death
3. How does resurrection take place?
4. Resurrection in the Last Days

Common Biblical References on Resurrection

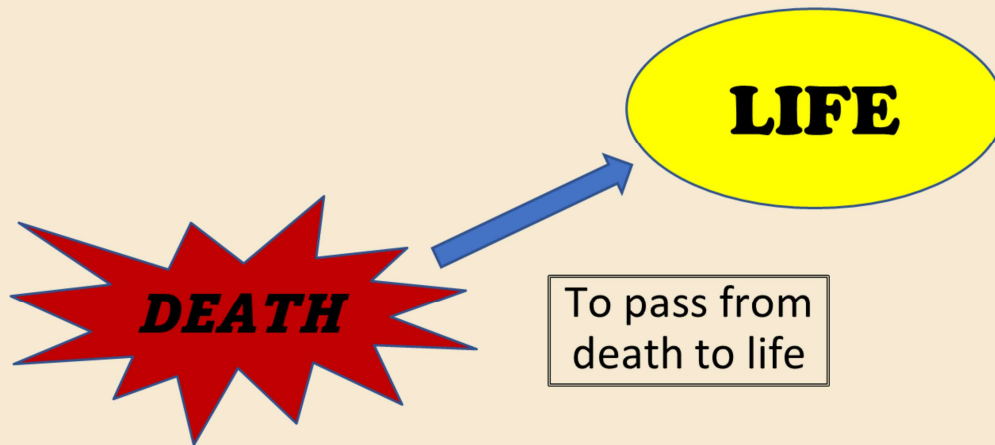
... and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. Matt 27:52-53

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thes 4:16-17



- While people tend to associate the concept of Resurrection with Jesus alone, the Bible talks about many people who have resurrected or who will resurrect.

The Meaning of Resurrection




- The fundamental meaning of resurrection is to pass from death to life.
- But in order to fully understand what this means, we need to explore how the Bible defines Death and Life.
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2 Kinds of Life and Death

Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father.

*Jesus said to him, "Let the **dead** bury their own **dead**, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."* Luke 9:59-60


 How could a dead person bury a dead person?

In this quote from Luke, we can see that the concept of death has 2 meanings in the Bible.

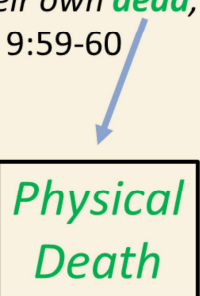
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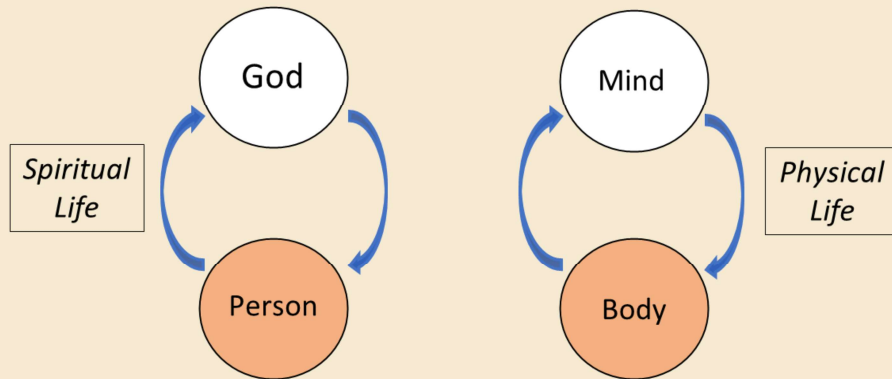


*Spiritual
Death*



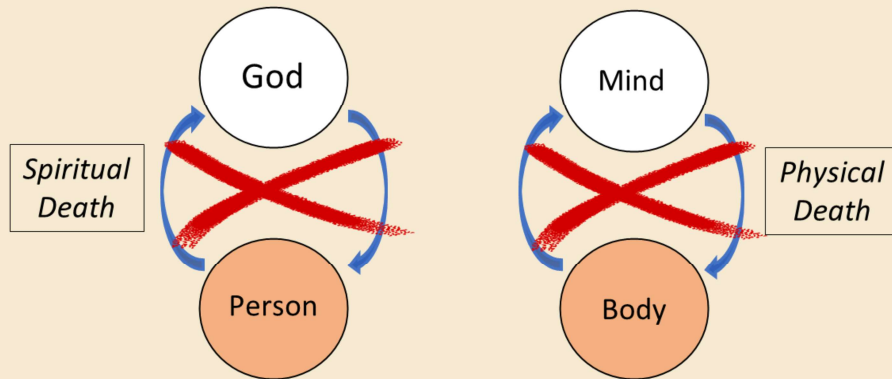
*Physical
Death*

Spiritual Life comes from a Relationship with God



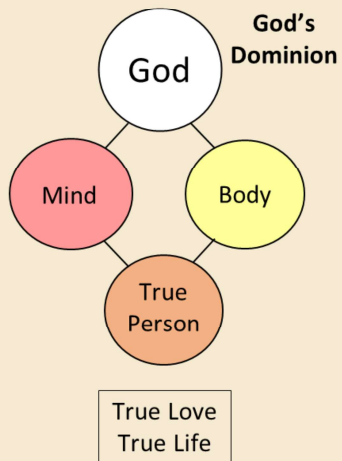
- Just as a body is not designed to function without the mind, a person is not designed to function without a relationship with God.

The Result of the Fall of Man was Spiritual Death

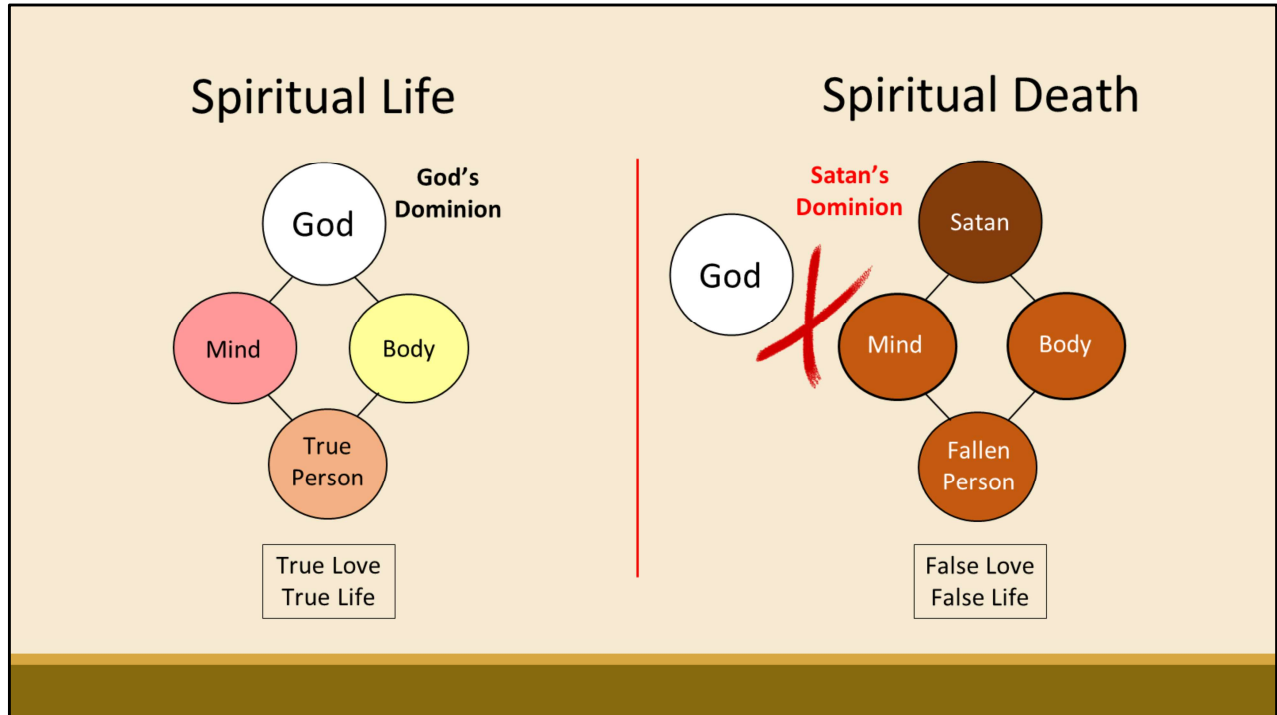


- A person who has no relationship with God can be compared to a person who has a body with no mind to guide and direct it.

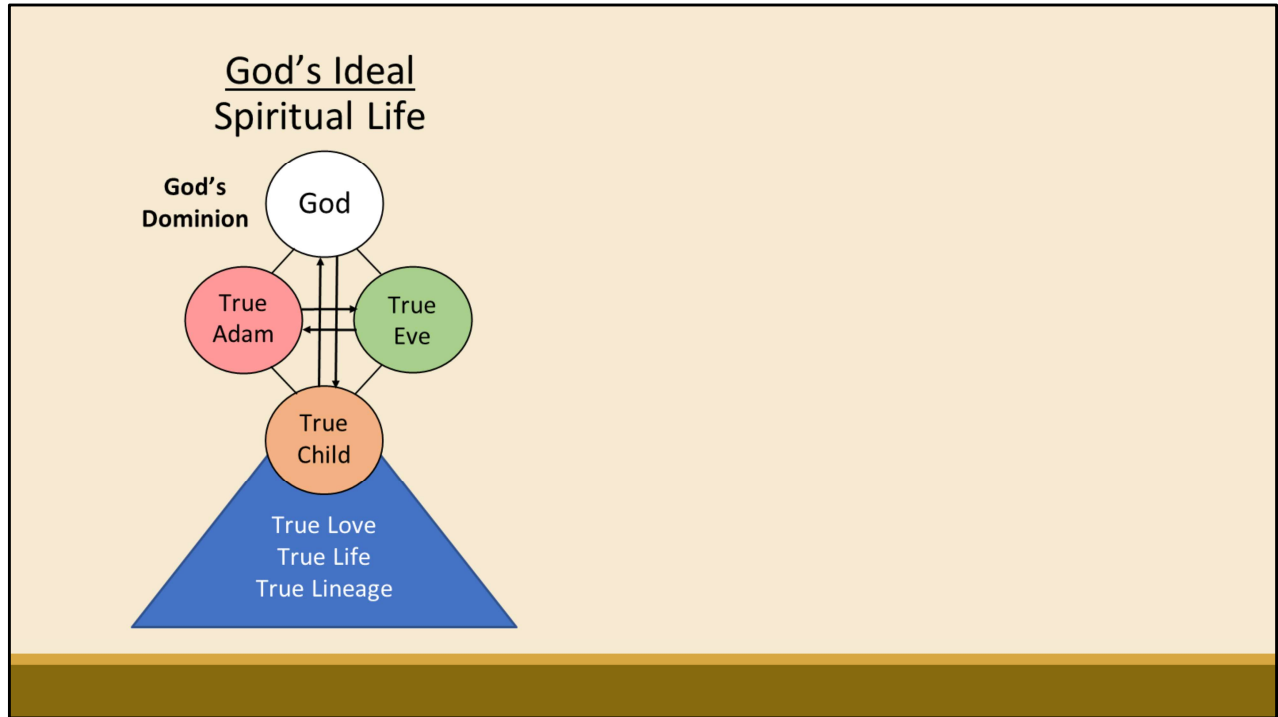
Spiritual Life



- As an individual, spiritual life comes when our mind and body are united, with God at the center, forming a 4-position foundation centering on God.

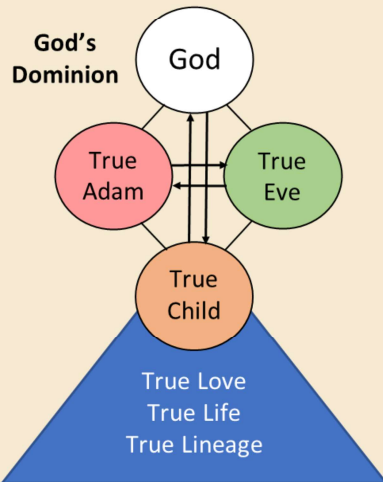


- Instead of God being at the center of our mind-body relationship, Satan came to dominate human beings through our sin which separated us from God.
- Human beings became spiritually dead as a result of the Fall.



- How did human beings come into the state of spiritual death – separation from God?
- God's original plan of creation was for Adam and Eve to become his True Son and Daughter, living fully in the love and life of God, creating a family, society, nation and world.
- This would have been the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, which would have continued in the spirit world after they died.

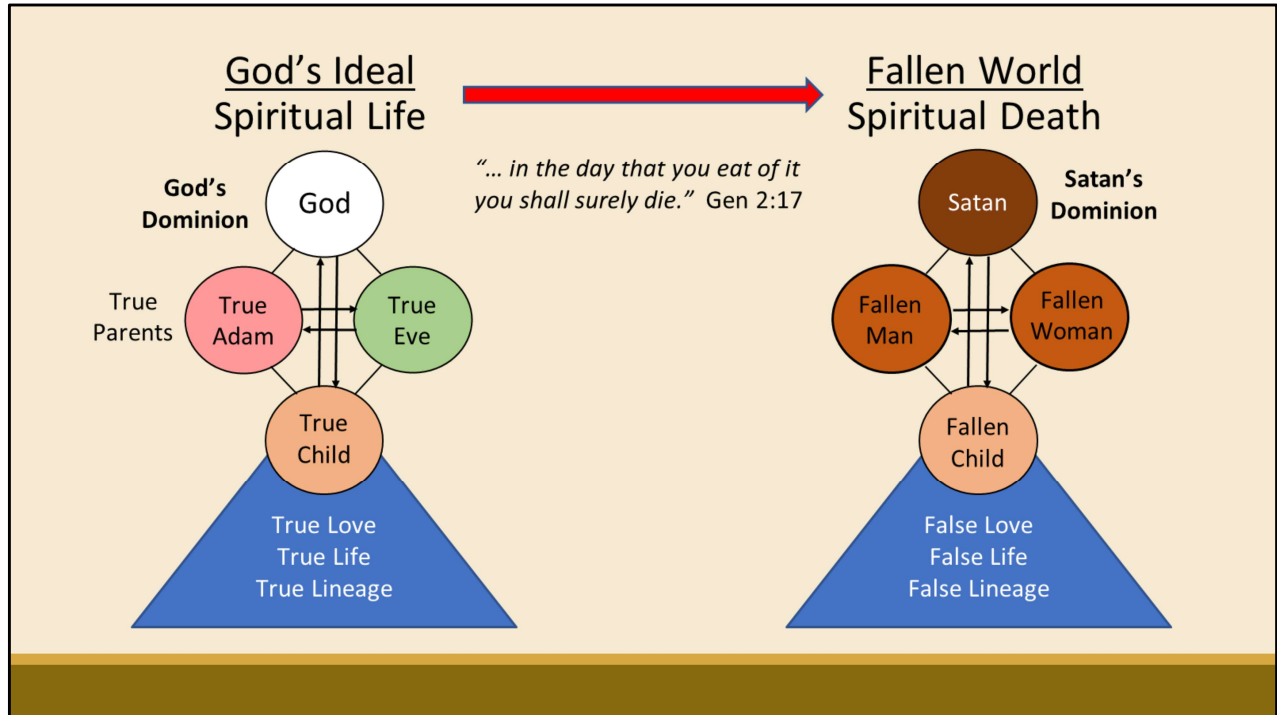
God's Ideal Spiritual Life



*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"*

Gen 2:16-17

- In order for God's Ideal to come about, Adam and Eve needed to fulfill their portion of responsibility, which was to keep the commandment not to eat the fruit.



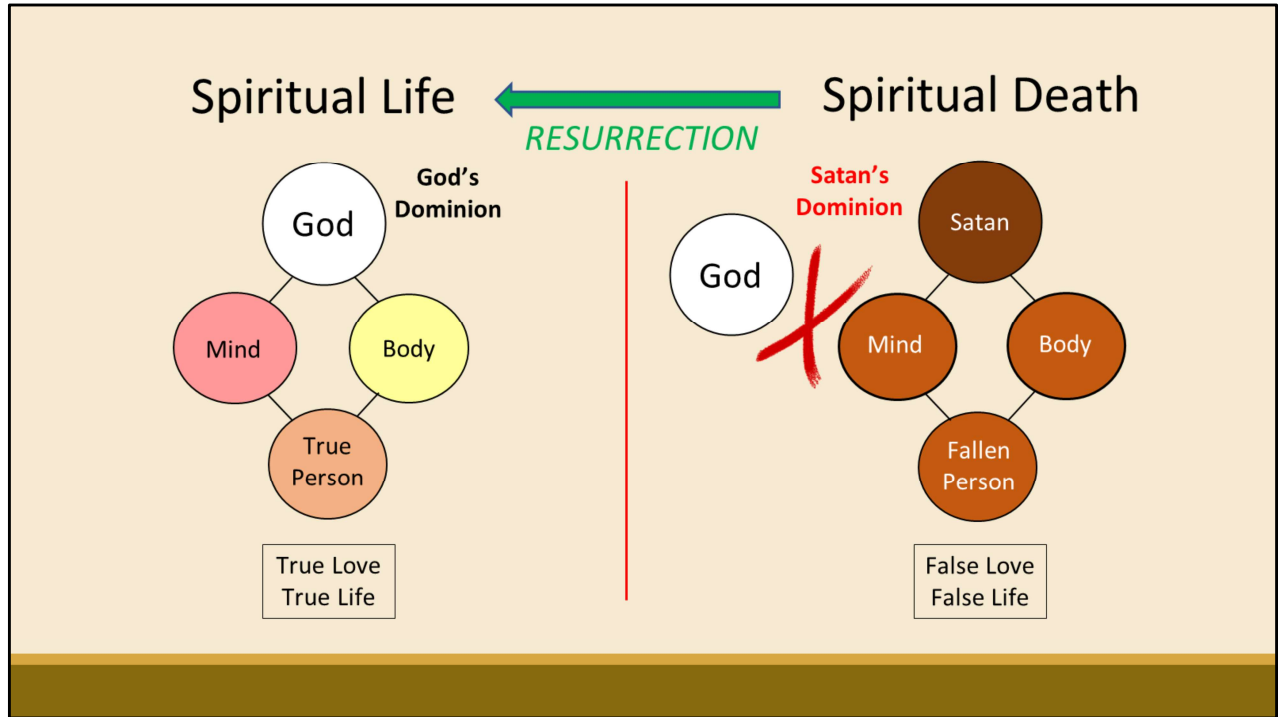
- Instead of God's original ideal being established through Adam and Eve as True Parents, Satan dominated them, and they became the fallen ancestors of mankind.
- Human beings have been cut off from God, living in spiritual darkness – spiritual death – separated from the true love of God.
- God's Word came to pass; the day that Adam and Eve ate the fruit they died. It was a spiritual death.

The Death Caused by the Fall

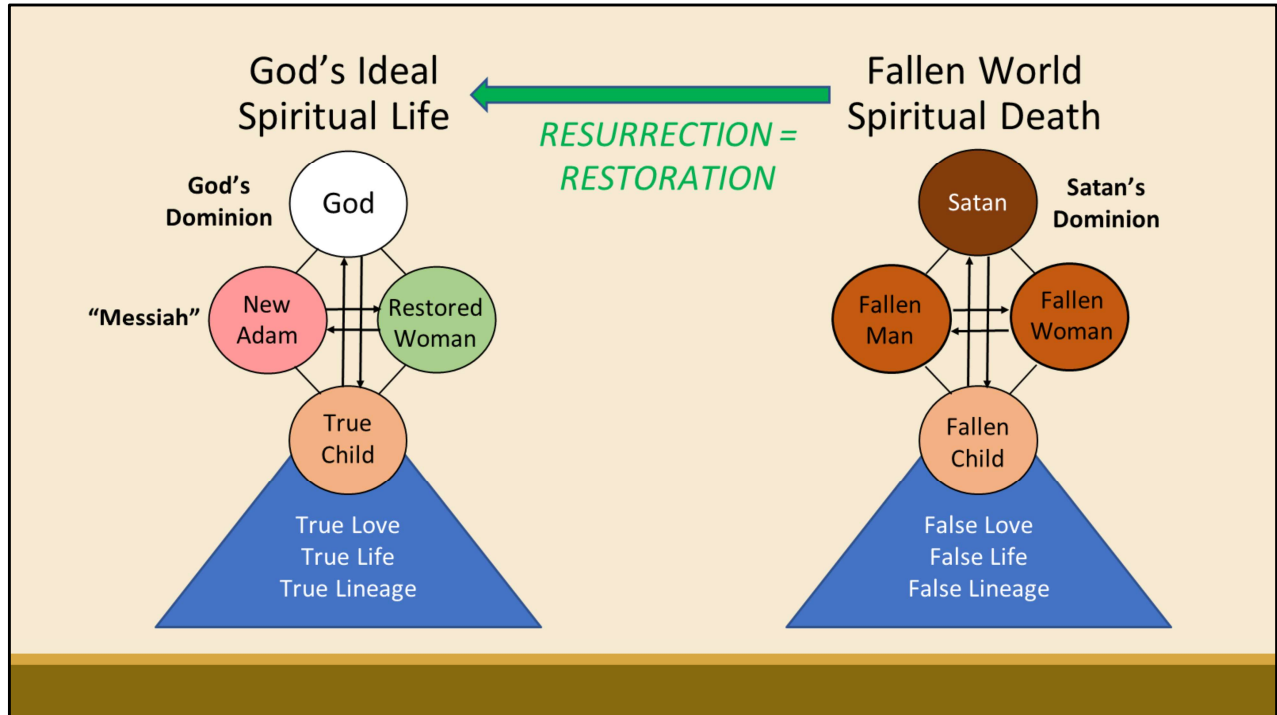
We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. 1 John 3:14

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 6:23

- Without God's love dwelling with us, we may be physically alive, but we are spiritually dead.
- The result of man committing sin was death – and yet we are still walking around with our physical bodies.
- When we receive Christ and come back into a relationship with God, we enter the realm of spiritual life. Externally there may be no change in the way a person who has received salvation through Christ looks.
- The death caused by the Fall of Man – the disobedience of the commandment, the misuse of love – was spiritual death, not physical death.

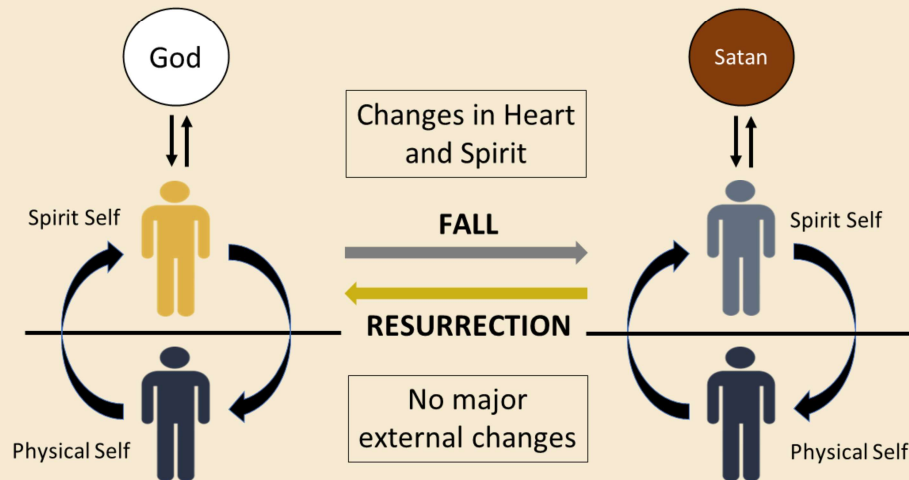


- Since the death caused by the Fall was spiritual death – separation from God – resurrection would mean that as individuals we come back into the love of God, under God's dominion.



- All mankind came into the realm of death through fallen Adam and Eve – our families, societies, and nations.
- In order to come into the realm of true spiritual life, the position of True Adam and Eve must be established. This is the Messiah who comes to establish the True Parents of mankind and give rebirth.
- This is the reason that God works with fallen man to prepare a foundation to receive the Messiah, and ultimately to receive the Messiah Himself.
- Through the process of restoration, all human beings can return to the realm of God's dominion of spiritual life – the Kingdom of Heaven.
- God is our parent of love, and desires all children to be restored – resurrected – to a state of spiritual life and relationship with Him.

How Human Beings Change through Resurrection



- There are no major external changes – A sinful person who repents and comes into a relationship with God looks the same as he did before.
- The body, rather than being used by Satan for evil purposes, becomes a temple of God.
- Even Jesus, who was without sin and walked in the spirit of God, looked like any other person externally.
- The changes that take place as a result of resurrection are primarily in the person's heart, spirit and lifestyle.

The Principles of Resurrection

How Resurrection Takes Place

Resurrection



Restoration



Re-creation

- In order to resurrect, we must go through a process of restoration to bring us back to the state we were in prior to the Fall – a state where we were fully alive in a relationship with God, our Heavenly Father.
- This is also a process of re-creating, where we are re-created according to the original Principles of Creation and come into the state God created us to live in.

The Principles of Resurrection

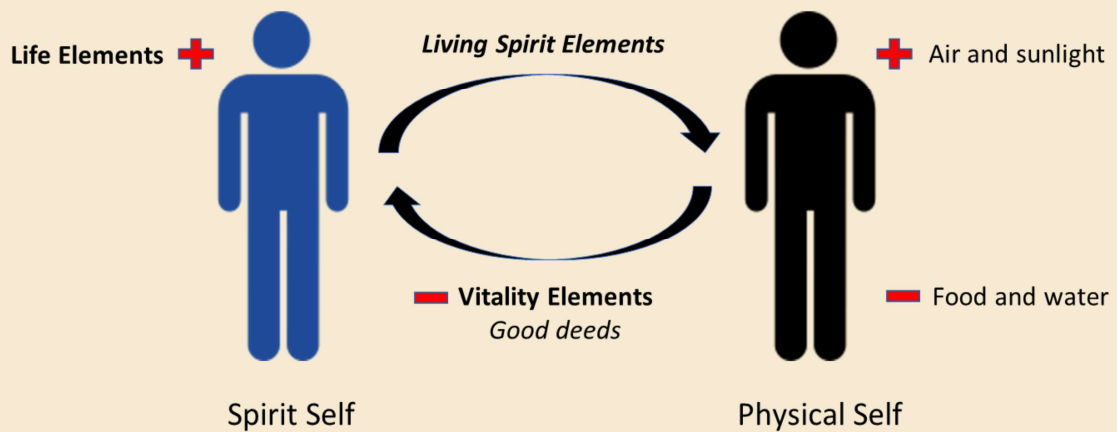
How Resurrection Takes Place

1. Learn, believe and practice God's Word

- God's original Principles are eternal, unchanging and absolute – regardless of what man does.
- According to the Principle of Creation, it was God's responsibility to create human beings and give them His Word, while it was the human portion of responsibility to reach maturity by believing in and living according to it. Similarly, in conducting the providence of resurrection, God's responsibility is to give us His Word and guidance, and our responsibility is to believe and practice it in order to fulfill the providence.

The Spirit Grows in Relationship to the Physical Body

Matt 16:19, Matt 18:18 – “whatever you bind on earth ...”



- God's original Principles of Creation – including the principle of how the human spirit grows – did not change after human beings fell.
- In order for the spirit of people to grow and reach the full potential of oneness with God in love, give and take with the physical body on earth is essential.
- According to the Principle of Creation, the growth of the human spirit requires two kinds of nourishment: life elements received from God and vitality elements received through give and take action with the physical self. Spirits can neither grow nor be resurrected apart from a physical self.
- **Matt.16:19** “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- **Matt.18:18** “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”

The Principles of Resurrection

How Resurrection Takes Place

1. Learn, believe and practice God's Word
2. The spirit self grows in relationship with the physical self

- According to the Principle of Creation, a person's spirit self can grow to maturity only through receiving the vitality elements generated from give and take action with the physical self.
- Likewise, in the providence of resurrection, the resurrection of a spirit can be achieved only through give and take with a physical body.

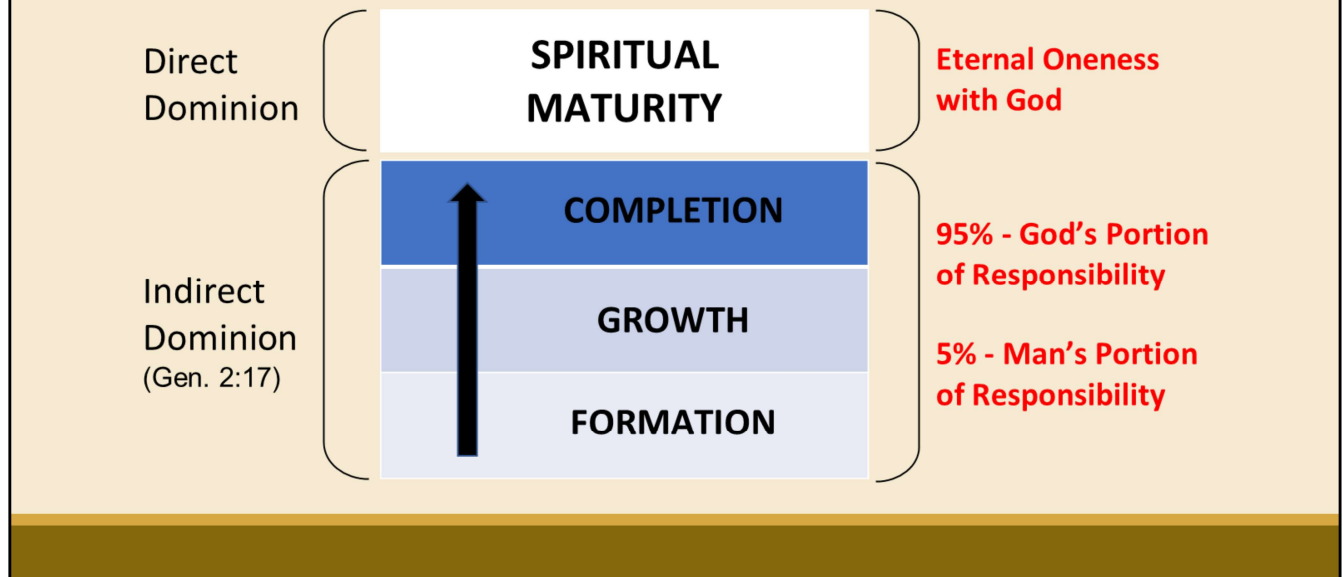
The Principles of Resurrection

How Resurrection Takes Place

1. Learn, believe and practice God's Word
2. The spirit self grows in relationship with the physical self
3. The spirit self grows through 3 orderly stages

- According to the Principle of Creation, a person is meant to reach maturity through the three ordered stages of the growing period.
- A person may have an experience with God's Word and His unconditional love, but the process of growing in mature love requires time.
- Therefore, the providence of resurrection for fallen people is also to be completed through three ordered stages, manifested as three ages in the providence of restoration.

Achieving Oneness with God



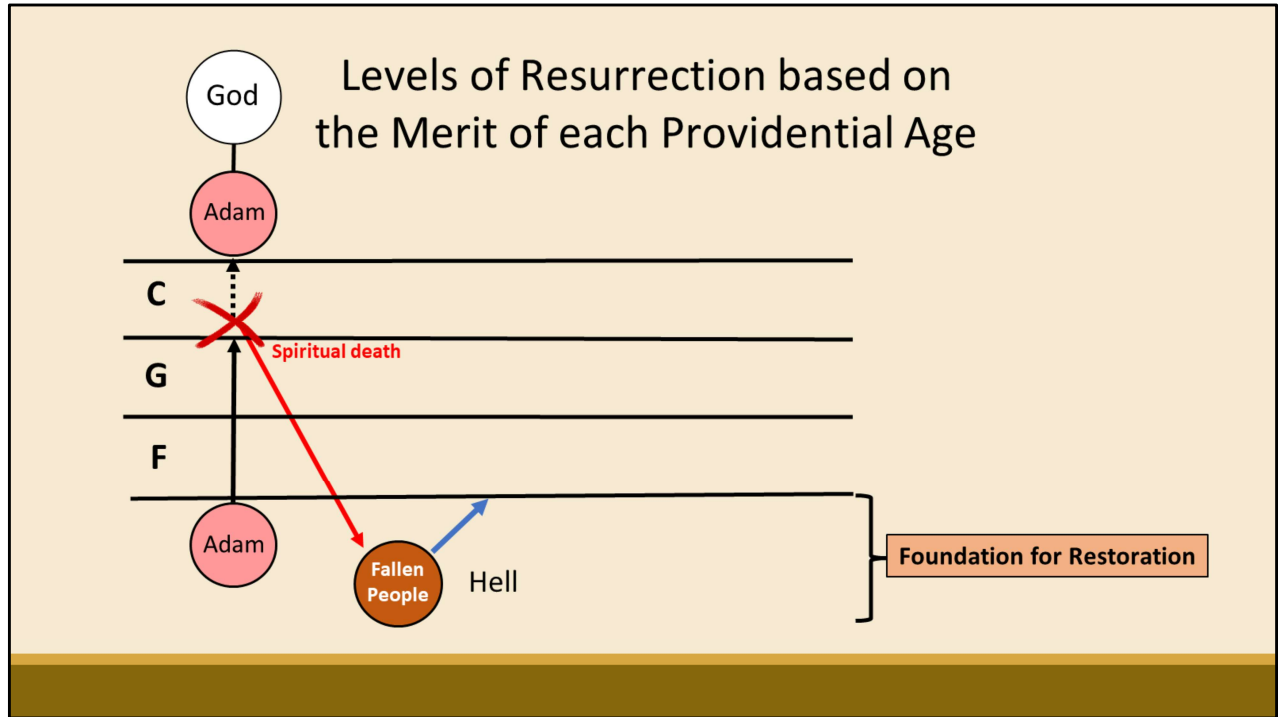
- **Gen 2:17** “. . . But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”
- All created beings are created with the capacity to relate to their Creator.
- It is only after that child grows up and reaches maturity can the child fully relate to the heart of the parent.
- In the same way, God and human beings can only fully relate when human beings embody mature, unselfish love.
- The period prior to maturity is the period we call indirect dominion, meaning relate to our Creator through receiving God's truth from the Bible, parents and others.
- Then, when we have grown to spiritual maturity, we are capable of relating directly to God.

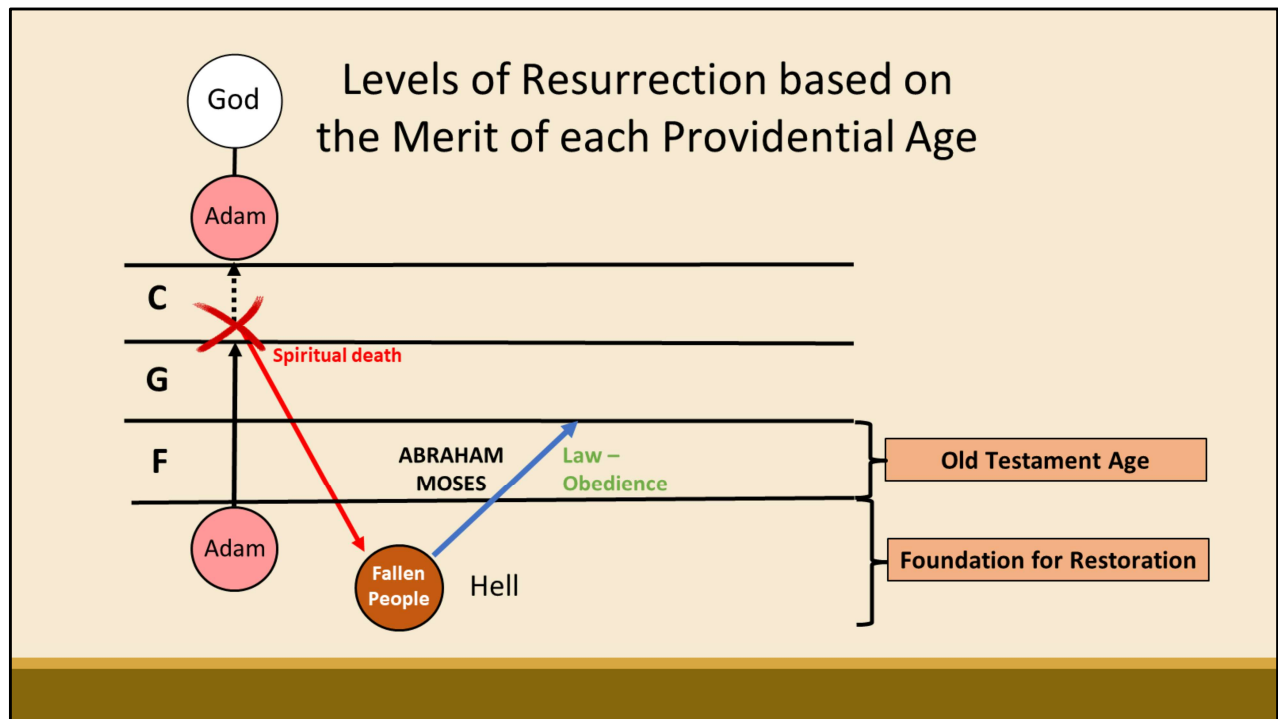
The Principles of Resurrection

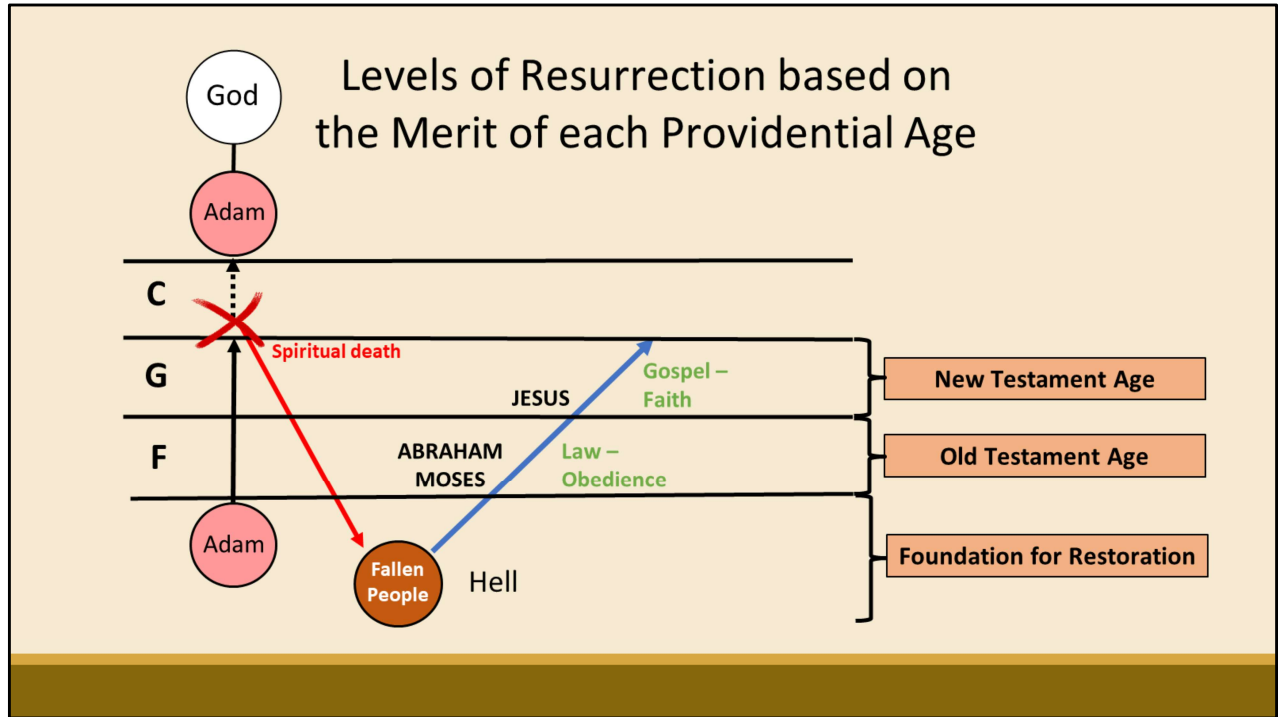
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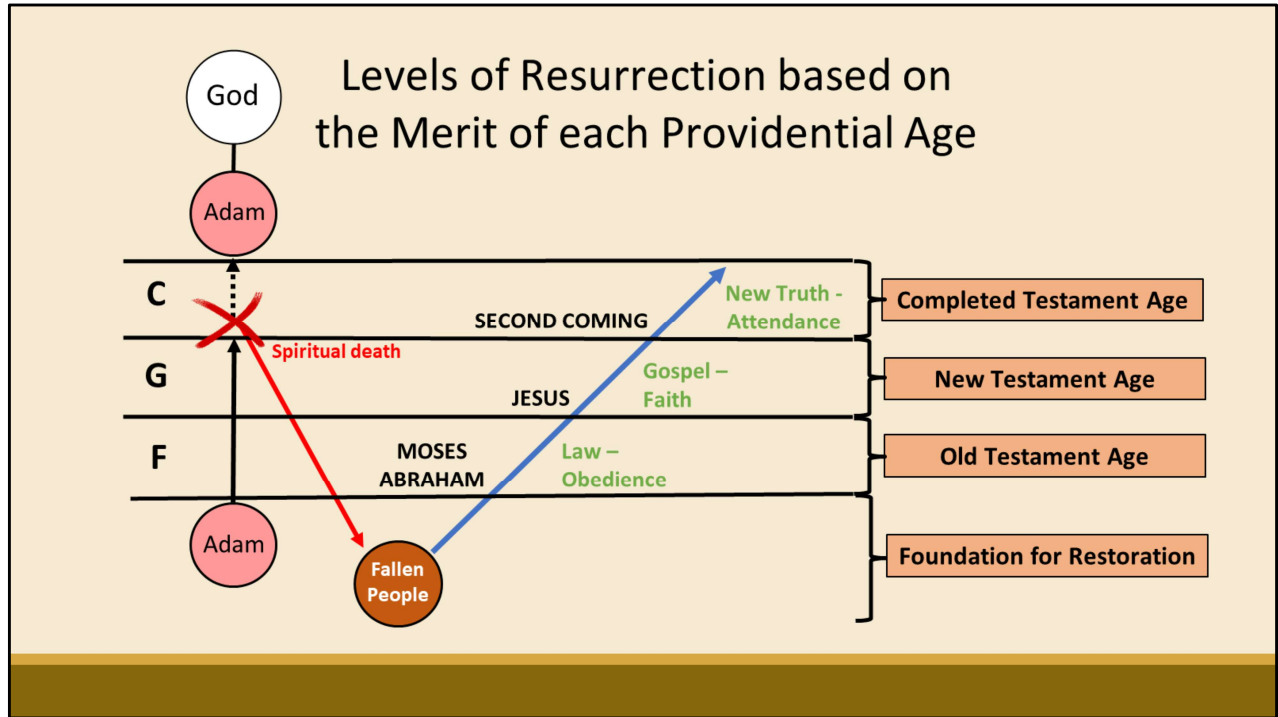
1. Learn, believe and practice God's Word
2. The spirit self grows in relationship with the physical self
3. The spirit self grows through 3 orderly stages
4. The spirit self grows based on the merit of the age

- In the history of the providence of resurrection, prophets, saints and other people of God invested their heart and action based on the foundation of what had already been established.
- By being obedient to the Word of God during their lifetime, they could broaden and raise up the spiritual level of mankind.
- Generations which followed them could then stand on the foundation previous generations established.
- This gave mankind the opportunity to resurrect to a new level as they received God's Will for their age.

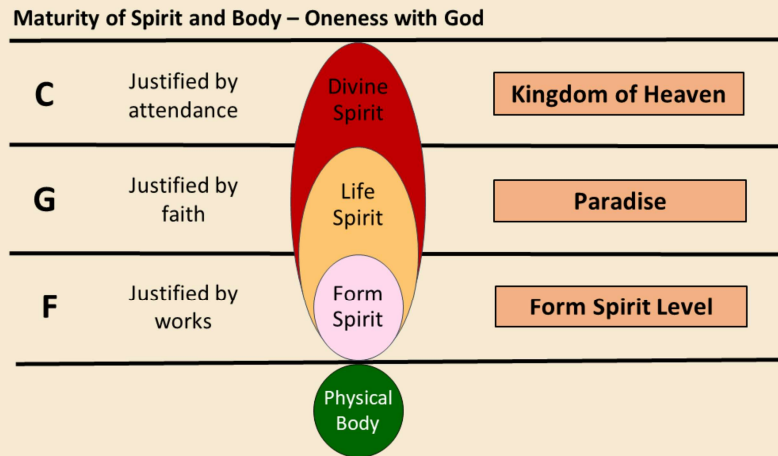








The Providence of Resurrection of People on Earth



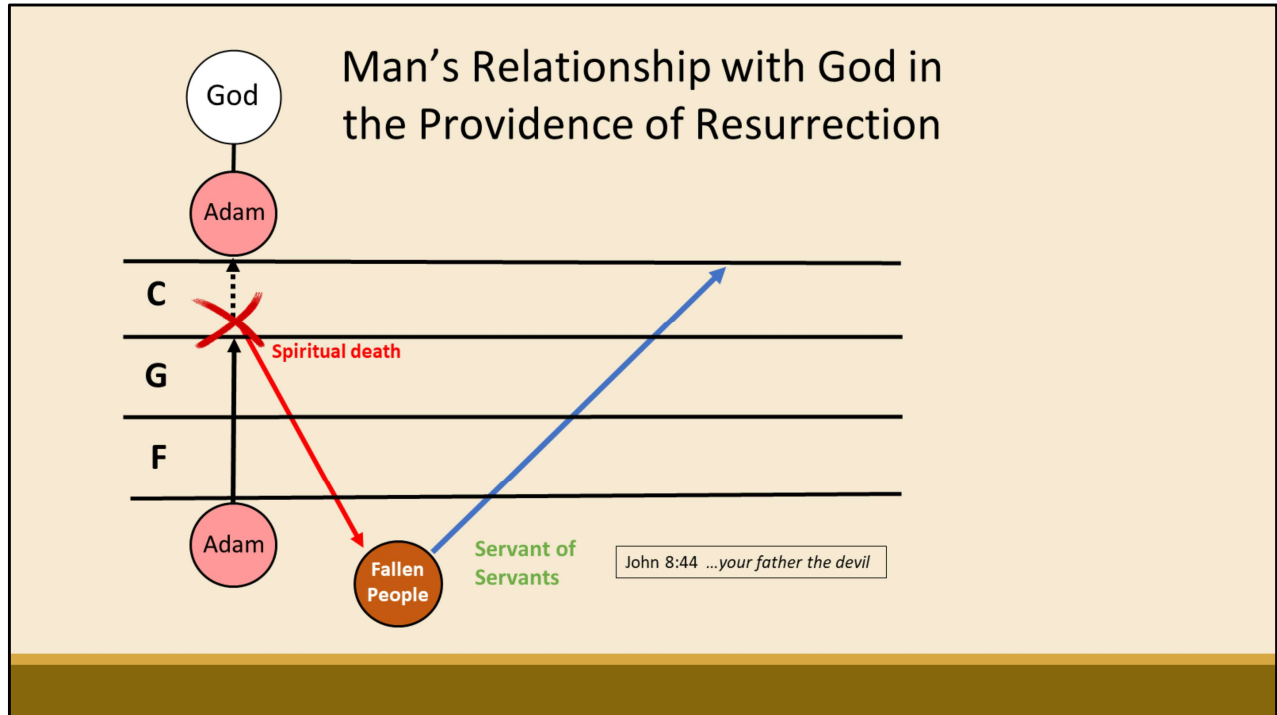
- By believing in and serving the Lord and devoting themselves to his work, people of this era are to be fully resurrected both spiritually and physically, become divine spirits, and live in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.
- Some Christians have been unclear in their concepts of the Kingdom of Heaven and Paradise because they lack a full understanding of the Principle. Had Jesus completed his mission as the Messiah on earth, the Kingdom of Heaven on earth would have been established in his day. The Kingdom of Heaven in heaven would also have been realized at that time, once people of perfect character living in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth had passed into the spirit world as divine spirits. However, because Jesus died on the cross, the Kingdom of Heaven on earth was not realized. The earth never saw the appearance of people who had reached the level of a divine spirit. No one has ever become a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven in the spirit world, which was created as the home of divine spirits. Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven in heaven remains empty and incomplete.

Levels of Spirit World

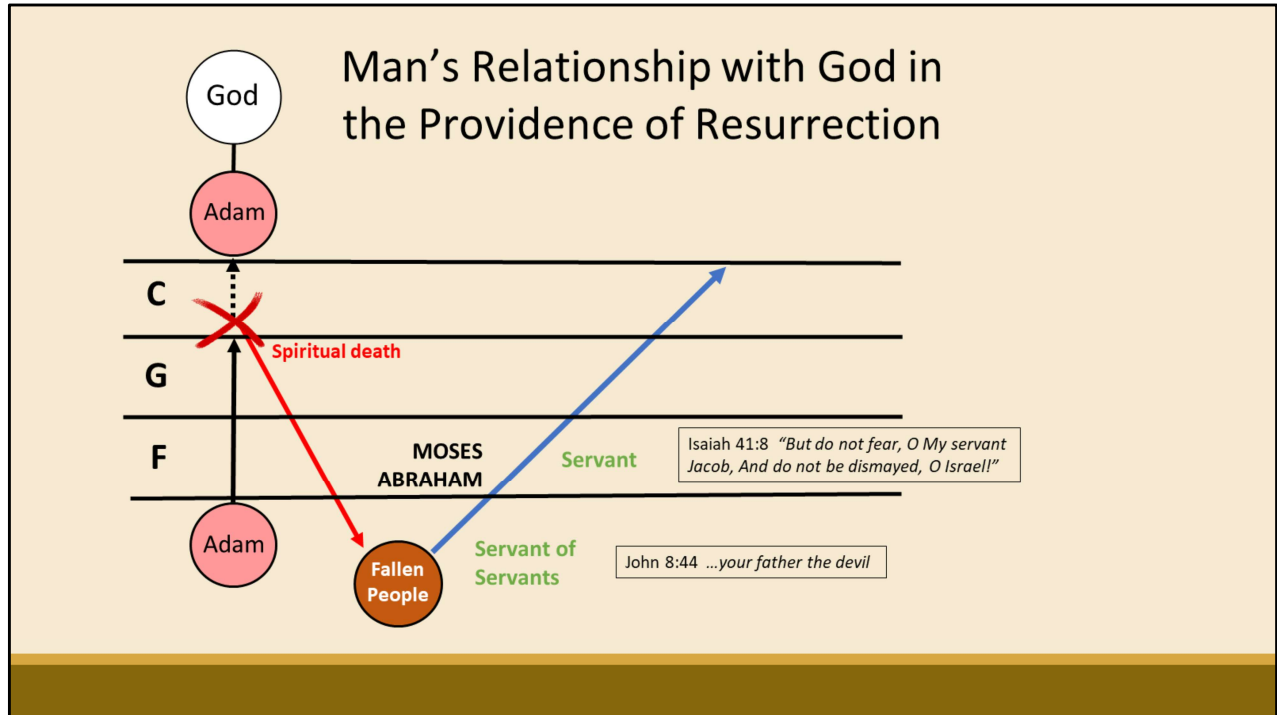
*And being in torments in Hades, he (a rich man who went to hell) lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, **between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.**" Luke 16:23-26*

*It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one **was caught up to the third heaven.** 2 Cor 12:1-4*

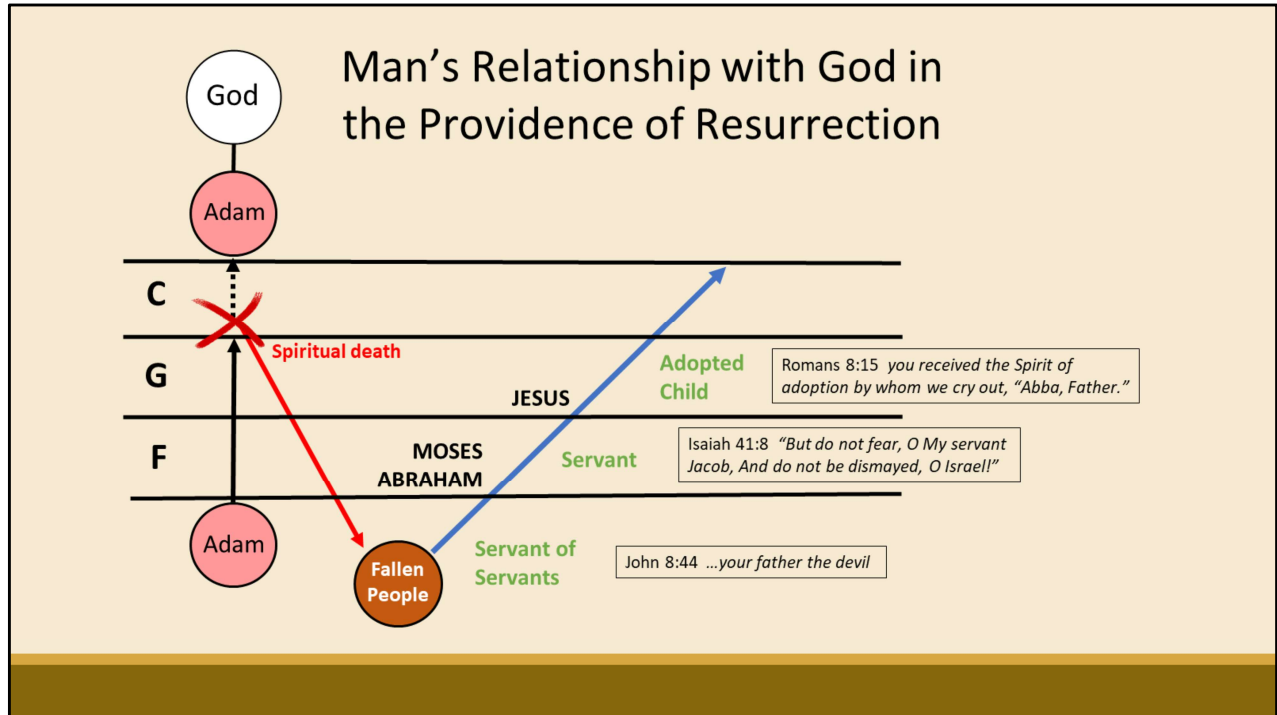
- In the first quote, Jesus tells the story of a rich man who lived a selfish and evil life. The rich man had looked down upon Lazarus, who was diseased and living in poverty. The spirit of that rich man was now suffering in hell. He was aware that Abraham was living in a higher spiritual realm. However, due to the immutable laws of the spirit world, Abraham could not come to the lower realm to help him escape his suffering.
- In the second quote, Paul refers to a vision of the spiritual world which involved three "heavens", or levels of spiritual life.



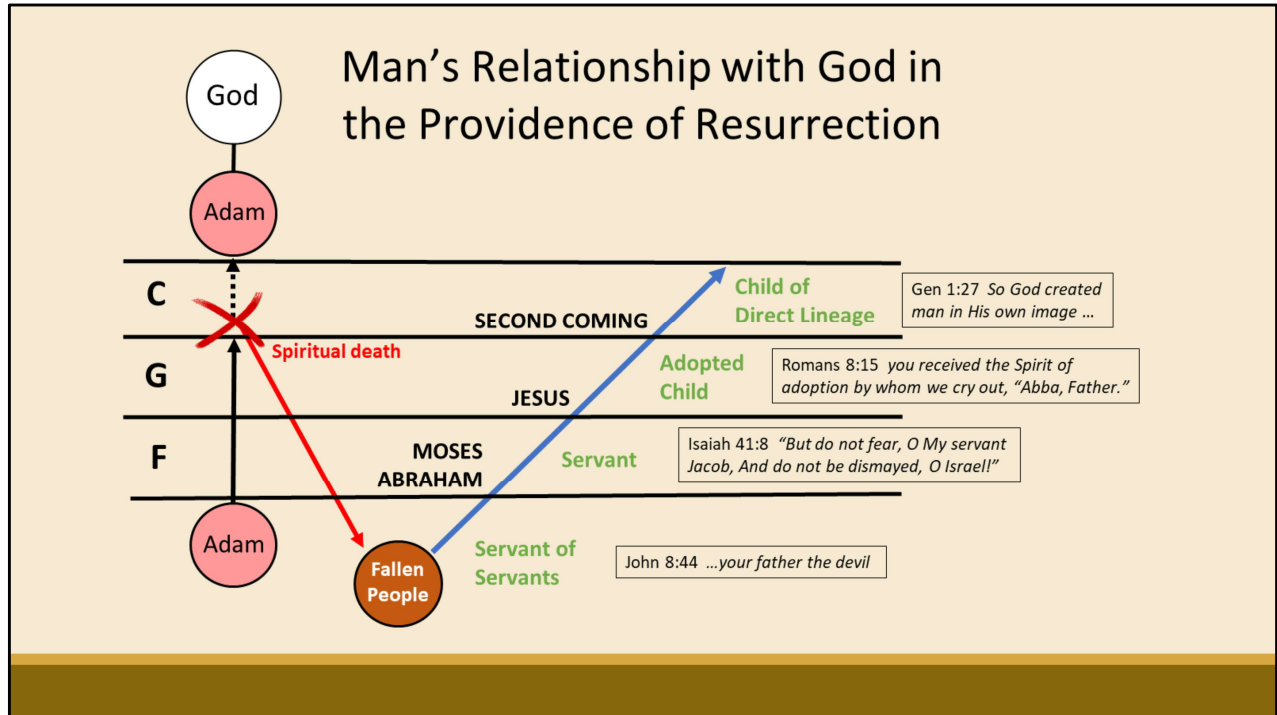
- Adam was originally created with the purpose of becoming the full embodiment of God's perfect, loving character. He was to have become a true son of God, attending God directly as his Heavenly Father.
- However, as a result of the Fall, human beings came under the dominion of Satan, who was an angel. Angels were created to be servants of God and man.
- The spiritual death of Adam resulted in Adam falling from the position of God's son to the position of servant of servants, being dominated by the fallen angel Lucifer, who became Satan.



- In the Old Testament age, which began with the 3 generations of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, human beings could begin to restore their relationship with God from the position of servant.
- Rather than serving the false gods of the fallen world, they came to follow the True God from the servant position, being obedient to the laws of Moses.

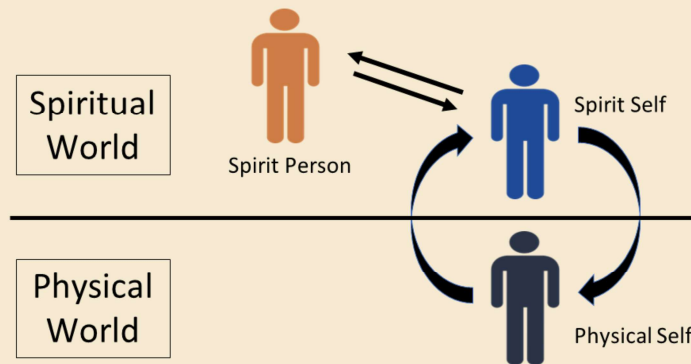


- Jesus came as the Messiah, Savior, and True Son of God. He was the True Olive Tree, born of God's direct lineage. He demonstrated the heart of filial piety towards God, His Heavenly Father.
- Those who could believe in Jesus and humble themselves to Him in faith could be adopted into God's family. He could bring spiritual salvation to those who believed in Him.
- However, Jesus could not complete the mission of the messiah during His lifetime. Having been rejected by the people He had come to save, He prepared to go the way of the cross.
- An adopted child is brought into the household of the new parent, but still carries the blood lineage of the old parent. Therefore, it was still necessary for Christ to return as the True Parent to bring full spiritual and physical salvation, including the changing of the blood lineage from Satan's lineage of sin to God's sinless lineage.



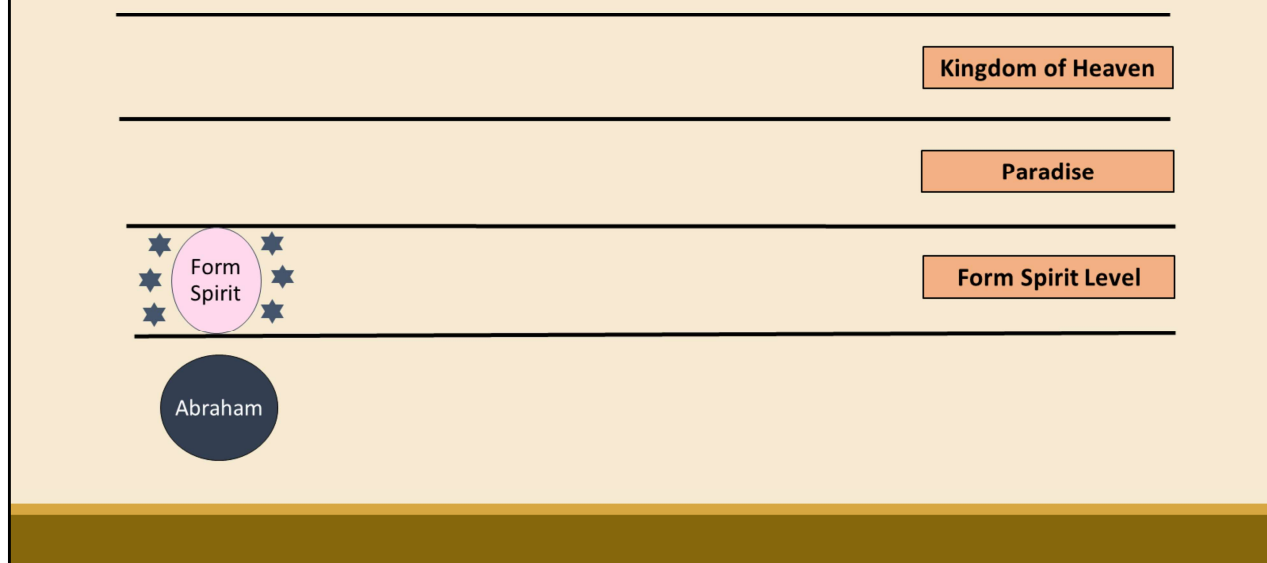
- Adam and Eve - God's children - were not created with sin, and therefore was originally no need of forgiveness of sin. They were created in God's image, without sin, as His own sons and daughters.
- God's work of restoration and salvation is not complete until His original purpose of creation is restored, with every generation of His children being born in His image without original sin.
- Restoration takes place in 8 stages or levels, from the individual to the family and all the way up to the cosmic level. These will be discussed further in advanced DP Bible Study.

Returning Resurrection of Spirit Persons



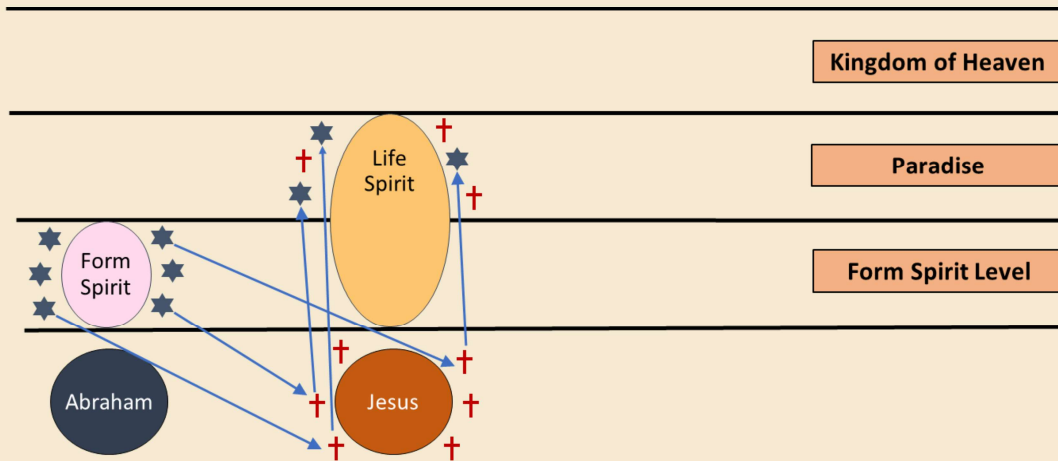
- What about those who lived on earth, and then died before the coming of Christ, the True Parent? Their eternal spiritual selves still exist in the spirit world in an incomplete or suffering state.
- According to the Principle of Creation, the growth of the human spirit requires two kinds of nourishment: life elements received from God and vitality elements received through give and take action with the physical self. Spirits can neither grow nor be resurrected apart from a physical self.
- Consequently, the spirits of people who died before they could reach perfection during their earthly life can be resurrected only by returning to earth and completing their unaccomplished responsibility through cooperation with earthly people.

Returning Resurrection in Providential History



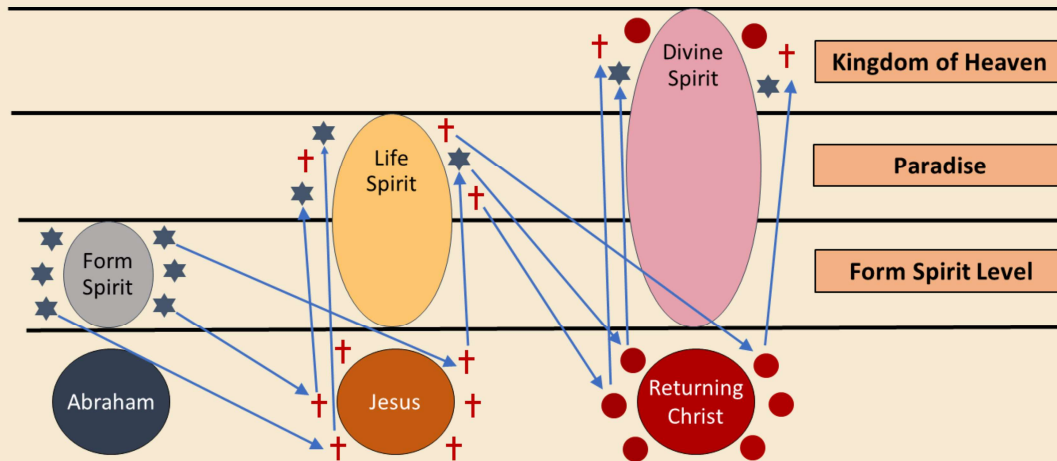
- Those who lived in the Old Testament age could become Form Spirits while on earth. When they died, they would go to the Form Spirit Level in spirit world.

Returning Resurrection in Providential History



- By assisting people of faith living on the earth to accomplish their portion of responsibility, spirit persons who lived on earth during a previous age may receive the same spiritual benefit as the person on earth they are assisting. The Bible explains in Jude 1:14 that in the Last Days the Lord will come “with his holy myriads.” We call this process returning resurrection.
- How do spirits help people on earth fulfill the Will of God? When people become receptive to spirits through prayer or other spiritual activities, the spirits descend to them to form a common base with their spirit selves and work with them.
- For example, they pour spiritual fire on earthly people and give them the power to heal diseases. They give people revelations and the gift of prophecy. They can also give deep inspiration to the soul. In these various works, spirits act on behalf of the Holy Spirit, guiding people on the earth to accomplish the Will of God.

Returning Resurrection in Providential History



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Biblical References to Returning Resurrection

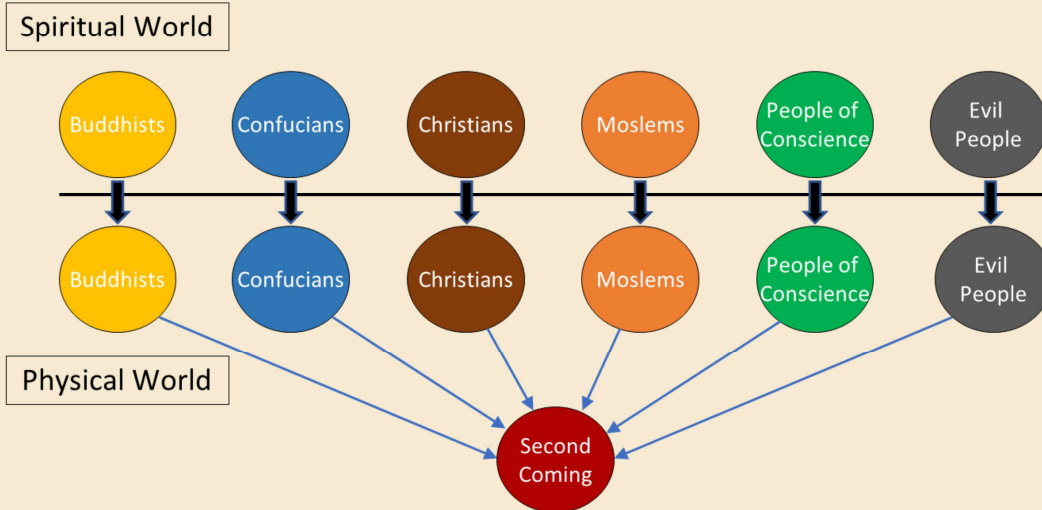
*And all these (Old Testament saints), having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that **they should not be made perfect apart from us.** Heb 11:39-40*

*Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, **Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.** Matt 17:1-3*

*... and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and **coming out of the graves** after His resurrection, they **went into the holy city and appeared to many.** Matt 27:52-53*

- There are many Biblical references to the activity of and interaction with the spirit world in God's providential work. Here are some examples:
- 1. Old Testament saints cannot reach perfection without working with followers of Christ. As expressed in Hebrews 11:39-20, there is a way, according to God's Principle, for those who did not live to see the time of Christ resurrect together with the followers on earth.
- 2. The "Mount of Transfiguration" story
- 3. Apart from the Biblical references, there are no other historical references to the Jewish saints physically coming out of their graves and tombs after Jesus came. That is because this was a spiritual phenomenon. The spirits of the faithful who died and were buried before the coming of Christ came down from the formation level spirit world to testify about Jesus to their descendants.

Unification of Mankind Through Returning Resurrection



- The ultimate purpose of God's providence of restoration is to save all of humanity. In order for God's Will to be completed, all people on earth and in spirit world must be restored.
- At the Second Coming of Christ, all spirits who believed in Christianity or other religions during their lifetime will return to earth to be resurrected, even though the timing of their return will vary depending upon their spiritual position. These spirits must guide the earthly believers of their respective religions to Christ at the Second Coming and assist them to believe in him and attend him in his work to fulfill God's Will.
- Spirits who, in their lifetime, led a conscientious life but did not believe in any religion will also return to earth at the granted time to receive the benefit of returning resurrection. They will guide conscientious earthly people to seek out Christ at the Second Advent, attend him, and assist him in fulfilling God's Will.
- Therefore, God intends to abolish hell completely after the passage of time necessary for each individual to make restitution for his sin. In the Last Days, when the time is ripe, evil spirits will descend to evil people on earth of the same spiritual level and assist them to accomplish God's Will. Even the demons testified that Jesus was the Son of God.
- By participating in these various dispensations over a long course of time, all

people will gradually converge toward the goal of God's ideal world.

Thank You Very Much!