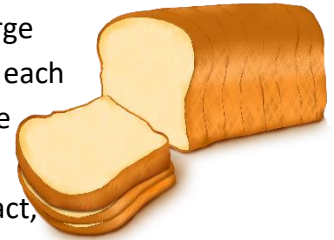




As children, the daily tea at our house consisted of bread and jam. Our weekly order for bread was twenty one loaves. As there was no sliced bread at that time, Mam used to slice the loaves into great thick 'hollucks', spread each one very scantily with margarine and place them on a large plate in the middle of the table. The jam pot was passed around and we were each allowed to spread our own jam. Mam would keep an eagle eye on us and if we



exceeded the allowed limit, she would make us scrape some of it off the bread and put it back into the pot. In fact, the amount allowed was so meagre that the bread hardly saw the colour of the jam! My favourite jam is blackberry. I still have bread and jam for my tea each night, but now there is no limit as to how much I can have, so as I spread it lavishly on my bread I say, "Look Mam, I am not putting any of it back into the pot!" My mother died six years ago so I am not expecting her to come back from the grave and see what I am doing; in any case, if she did, I think that she would just smile and be pleased that I can afford to eat as much jam as I please!



Thinking about coming back from the grave turned my thoughts to the resurrection of Jesus. Naturally, I often hear about the resurrection, but, as I have been preparing this Doodle I have spent time thinking about how people would have reacted when they saw Jesus alive again. His mother saw him die, would be numb from the bereavement and then would see Him alive again. One of our sons died a few years ago and I am sure that if he suddenly appeared alive in front of me I would probably have a heart attack! Mary knew of course, that Jesus was no ordinary child but, was she expecting Him to come alive again?



Like Jesus, I have had four brothers. I wonder how I would have felt had one of them told me that he was the Son of God who had come down from Heaven? The brothers of Jesus would most likely have been aware that there was definitely something different about Him, but, 'Son of God', well, that would be quite another matter. We know that His brother James was a believer so was he expecting to see Jesus alive again?

In some unique way the body of Jesus had come out of the tomb, His spirit had come out of Paradise and they had united again so that He was seen alive, as a person, back on the earth on quite a number of occasions. In some ways His body was recognisable, yet in other ways it must have been different as several times people to whom He spoke did not immediately recognise Him. When He first appeared to the disciples, they were in a room with the door shut and Jesus suddenly stood there in the room. It must have been quite scary to see Him appear like that without entering through the door in the normal way. What would you have thought had you been there to witness such an event? I wonder if His appearances in this way helped to confirm in their minds that He was actually whom He said He was. Despite all of His teaching I would have thought that even His closest disciples would have difficulty in trying to understand how the Son of God could actually be a person walking around on the earth.



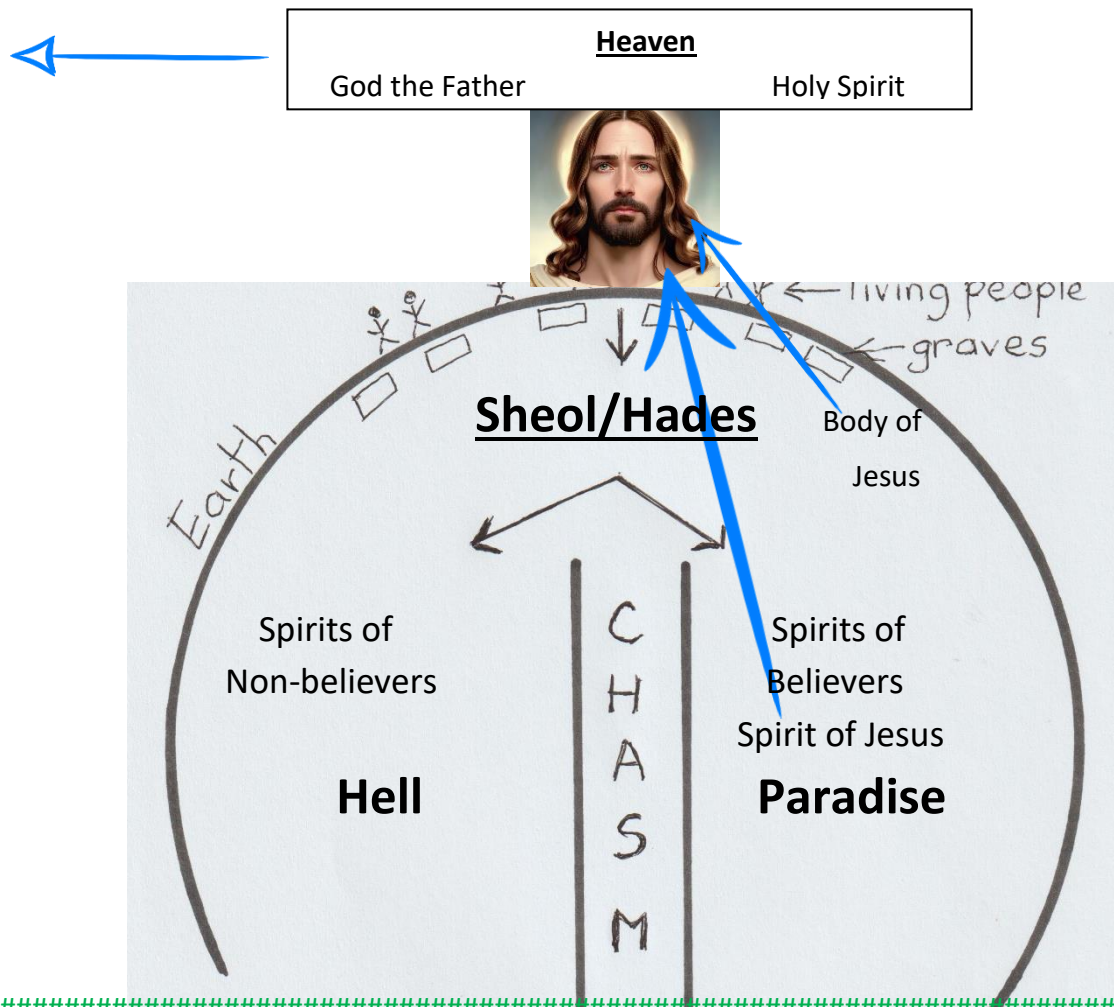
One day two of His disciples were travelling from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a distance of about seven miles. Jesus joined them and talked with them for some considerable time, but they did not recognise Him. It was only at the end of their journey that they realised that it was Jesus who had been with them. We are not told why they were going to Emmaus, but the thing that amuses me about this event is that they walked seven miles, then on finding out that it was Jesus who had been with them, they turned round and walked the seven miles back in order to tell the other disciples what had happened!

## 7 Miles

I have no idea what I would have thought had I seen Jesus on some of those occasions, bearing in mind that at that time we would not know the full ending of things as we do now. How He came back to life again is beyond anything that I can imagine. We know that God is capable of doing whatever He pleases, yet there are some things He does that are quite incomprehensible to us. If Jesus had remained as a dead person, then we would not have the means of salvation and way to Heaven today that we have as Christians. The resurrection of Jesus is a basic foundation of our Christian faith and if we take that away, Jesus becomes no different from any other human being. It is His resurrection that affirms His position as the Son of God, as part of the Trinity and as our Lord and Saviour.

### TIMELINE OF JESUS

#### 7. Resurrection of Jesus



#### Bible Readings:

John 20: 19 - 31 Jesus appears to the disciples.

Luke 24: 13 - 35 On the Emmaus road.