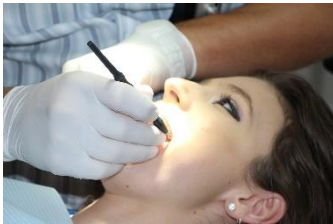




I must tell you about my most unusual visit to A and E. A number of years ago I had a nasty fall and on visiting the A and E and having had x-rays, was told that I had cracked ribs. My left arm, on which I had fallen, was also hurting, but unfortunately, I did not have it x-rayed at the time.

Over the following weeks it was very painful on some days, yet on others it seemed to be absolutely fine. One day, about six weeks later, I was out in the car and my arm suddenly locked and I was unable to change gear. I went to A and E, but, because the injury was more than three days old, I was classed as low priority so was way down on the waiting list to be seen.



That afternoon I happened to have a dental appointment so after waiting at the hospital for four hours, I asked the gentleman sitting next to me if he would listen out for my name to be called as I was going to go to the town to keep my appointment. He was highly amused and thought I was joking, nevertheless, I kept the appointment, went back to A and E, took my

place back in the queue and waited a few more hours. When I had originally fallen, apparently I had chipped a piece of bone off my shoulder, which was moving round into different positions; anyway, at least I had managed to keep my dental appointment!



We spend a great deal of time waiting during our lives. We wait for buses, trains, flights, meals, the end of the working day, programmes on TV, birthdays and special events. I have to admit that I am not very good at waiting and often take my knitting with me!

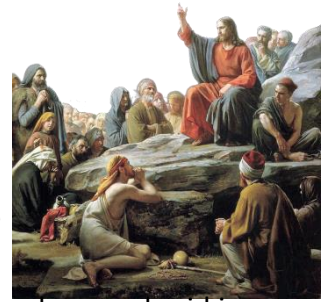


Back to the continuation of the Doodle 'Timeline of Jesus.'

Waiting is not only limited to our life-times, but it also plays a prominent part in time after our deaths. This is what happened before Jesus came to the earth as a human being. The spirits of everyone who died went to a waiting place. In Hebrew this waiting place is called 'Sheol'; in Greek it is called 'Hades'. Sheol and Hades is the general word for 'waiting place', which means 'not seen'. The spirits of both believers (Those who believed in the same God as do Christians today) and non-believers went to the waiting place. Sheol/Hades was divided into two parts. One part was the waiting place for the spirits of believers and was called 'Paradise'. Things were to change in Paradise after Jesus came to the earth. The other part was called 'Hell' and was the waiting place for the spirits of the non-believers. Those who were waiting in this part are still waiting there today, along with all other non-believers throughout the ages. They will be waiting there until the End Times.

We can read in the Bible (Luke 16: 19-31) how between these two parts of Sheol/Hades, there was a great chasm that could not be crossed. At the point of death the spirits of believers went to one side of the chasm and the spirits of the non-believers went to the other. No matter what was done, it was impossible to cause those who had already died, to move from one part to the other.

Jesus often spoke about life after death and was always encouraging everyone to believe in God and to live their lives as God would wish. He not only preached many times about this, but also went to the extreme and gave His life in an attempt to draw everyone into God's Kingdom.

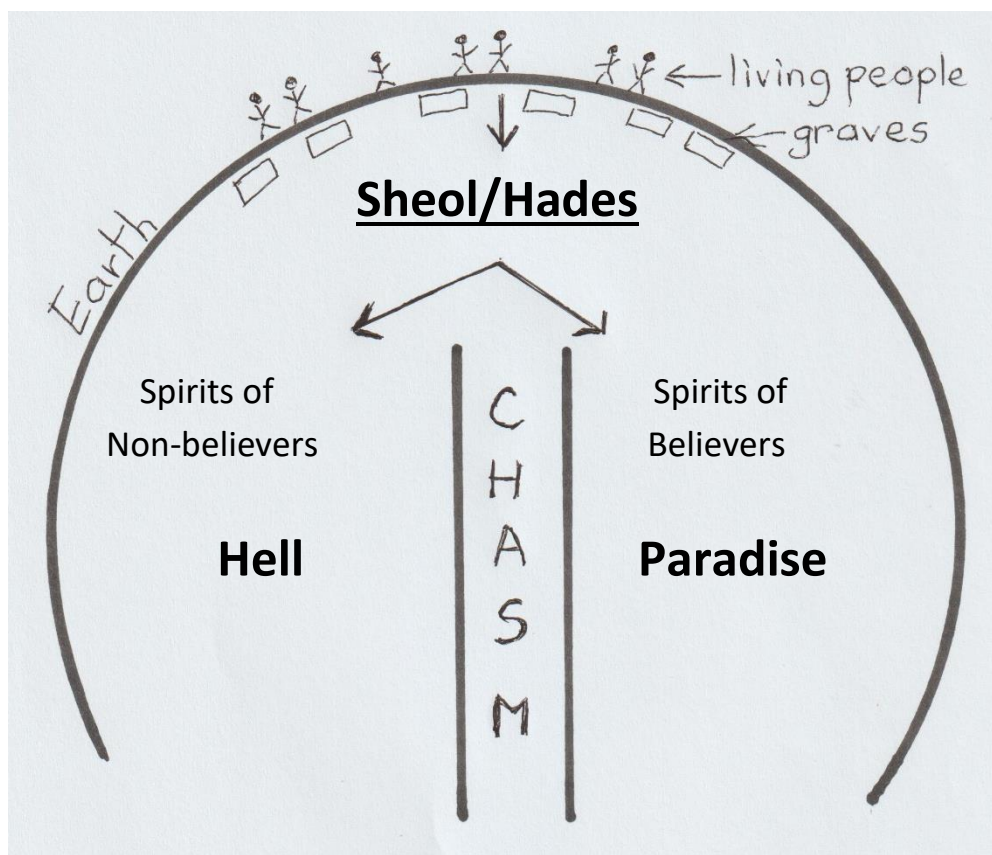
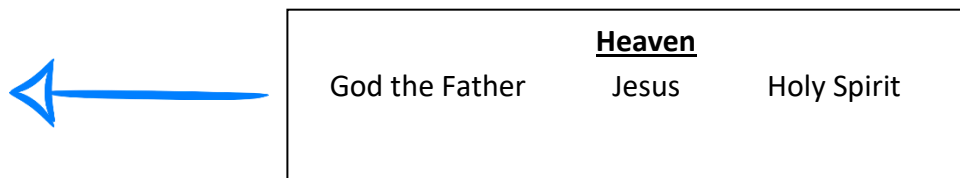


What difference does someone dying on the cross nearly 2,000 years ago, make to us today? Well, none of us are fit to go into God's presence after our death, so Jesus, God's Son, took the punishment for all of the wrong things that we have done and said in our lives. This means that we can then receive forgiveness and enter into the presence of a holy God. Unfortunately, the spirits of those who do not believe still go to the waiting place of Hell instead of being in the presence of Jesus. This is why it is so important for us as Christians, to tell others what Jesus has done for us and encourage them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. God's forgiveness is available to **everyone**, yet does not happen automatically but has to be accepted. What a wonderful thing Jesus did for us! John 3:16 says, 'God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.'

#####

TIMELINE OF JESUS

4. Before Jesus came to the earth as a human being



#####