

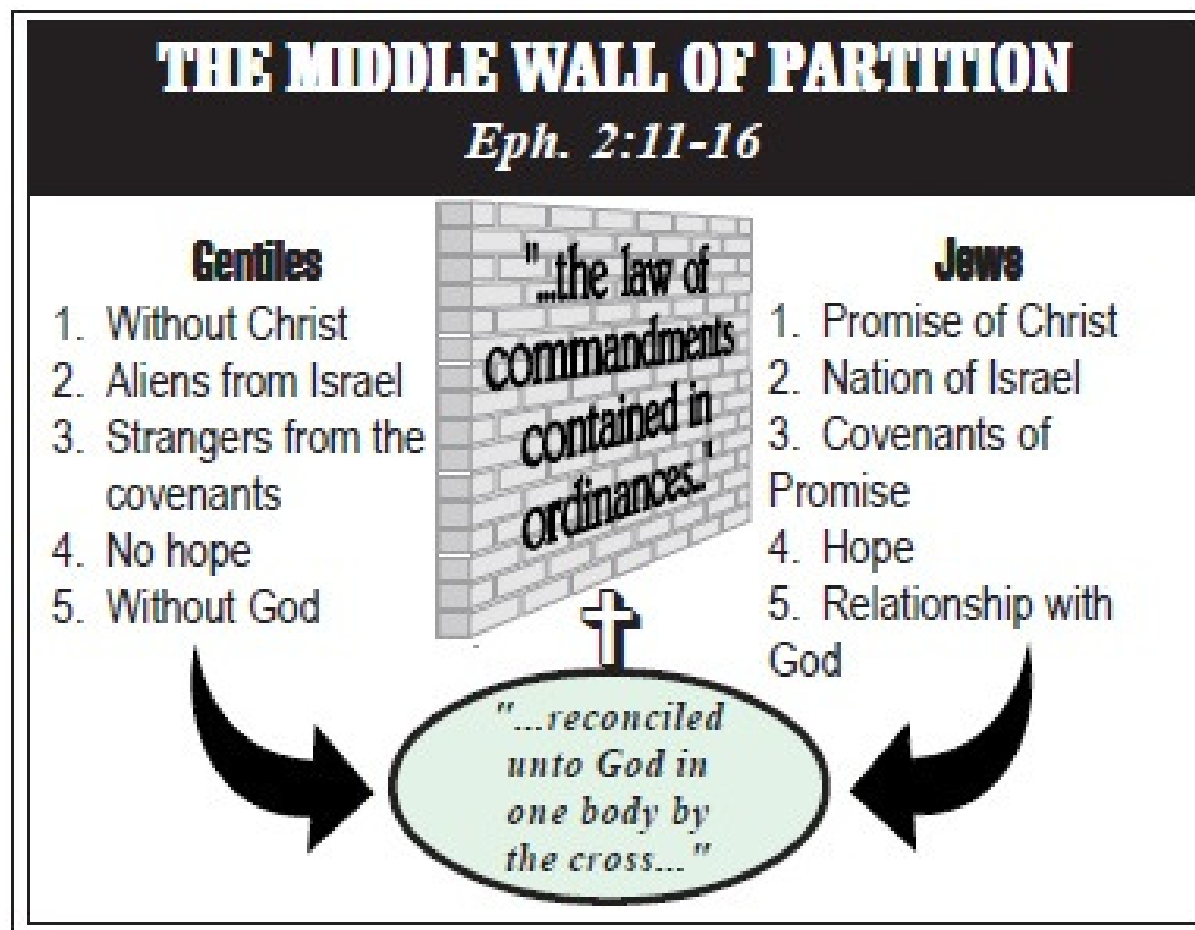
[Ephesians]

Lesson 4

**Jewish and Gentile Believers
Have Been Made One in Christ.
Paul Again Prays for Believers.
(Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:14-21)**



1. Paul Described the Gentile Believers' Condition Before They Trusted in Christ.



(Ephesians 2:11) *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles (other nations/NOT Israel) in the flesh, who (Gentiles) are called Uncircumcision by that which (Jews) is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

Jews = God's chosen nation/people [circumcision]

Gentiles = All other nations/peoples [uncircumcision]

[Genesis 17:1-11] God ONLY made a covenant (agreement) with Abraham and his children (Israel/Jews)

(Ephesians 2:12) *That at that time ye (Gentiles) were without Christ, being aliens (foreigners—not belong) from the commonwealth (citizenship—belong) of Israel, and strangers (foreigners—not know) from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

*The Jews had been waiting for the birth of Christ; The Gentiles had NOT been waiting.

*All other nations were like foreigners to God and His people, Israel.

[Genesis 12:1-3] God promised to Abraham that Christ would be His descendant—child. Later God also made the same promise to David. No promise was made to the Gentiles.

*Israel had hope that Christ was coming; the Gentiles had NO hope of Christ.

*God revealed Himself to Israel; but the Gentiles did NOT know God;

The Gentiles worshipped idols.

2. Gentile and Jewish Believers Have Been Made One in Christ.

The Middle Wall of Partition is Broken Down

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.” *Ephesians 2:14*



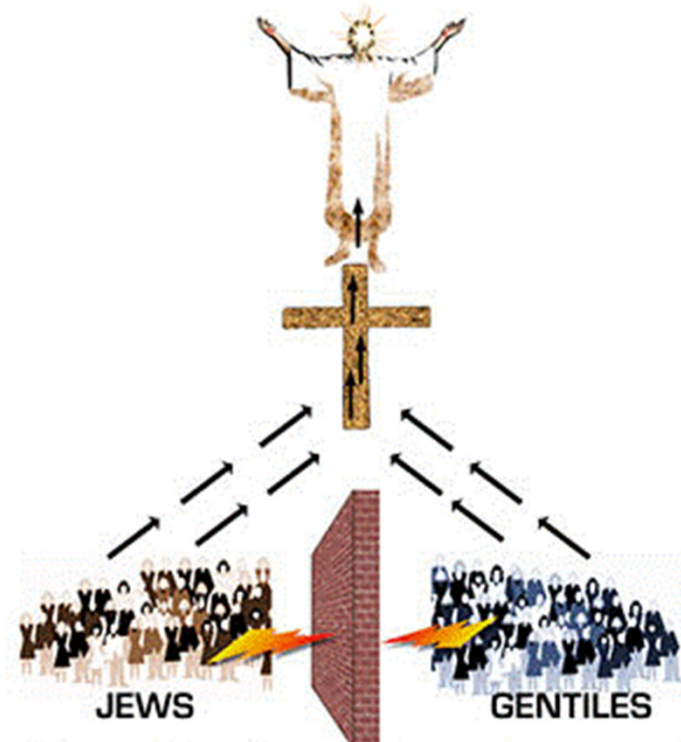
(Ephesians 2:13) *But now in Christ Jesus ye who (Gentiles) sometimes were far off are made nigh (near) by the blood of Christ.*

Before Jesus' blood, there was need of animal sacrifices and many religious rules to forgive sins... still Israel had limited access to God.

After Jesus' blood, there was **NO MORE** need... and we now have full access to God.

(Ephesians 2:14) *For he (Jesus) is our peace, who (Jesus) hath made both (Jew and Gentile) one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition (separation) between us (Jew and Gentile);*

Christ made
peace between
Jew and Gentile
and God.



(Ephesians 2:15) [**Jesus**] *Having abolished (ended) in his (Jesus') flesh (body) the enmity (hate/enemies), even the law of commandments contained (kept) in ordinances (rules); for to make in himself (Jesus) of twain (two) one new man, so making peace;*

[Acts 10] Peter first brought the Gospel to the Gentiles (Cornelius).

*God taught Peter that there is now NO difference between Jew and Gentile.



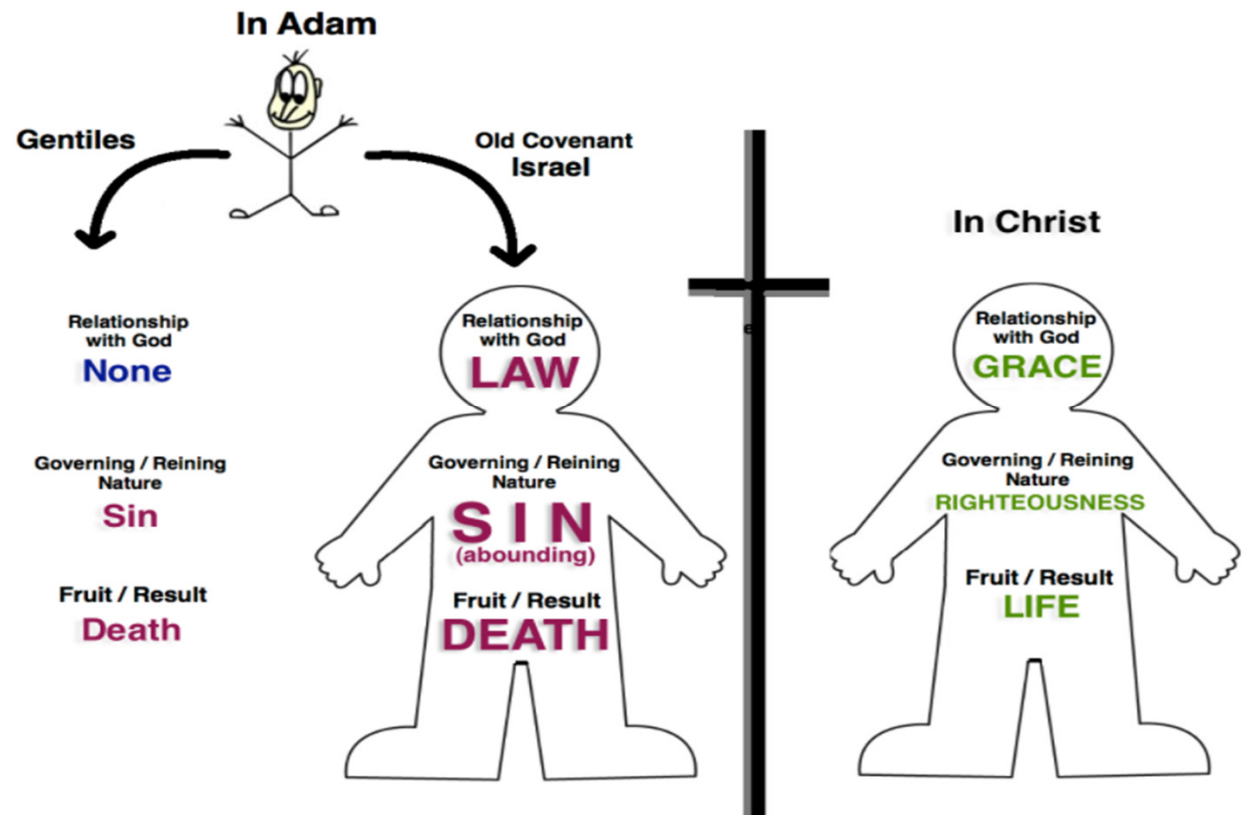
(Ephesians 2:16) *And that he (Jesus) might reconcile (make peace) both (Jew and Gentile) unto God in one body (the Church) by the cross, having slain (killed) the enmity (hate—war) thereby (by the cross):*



(Ephesians 2:17) *And came and preached peace to you which (Gentiles) were afar off, and to them (Jews) that were nigh (near).*

*In Christ we are no longer separated from God.

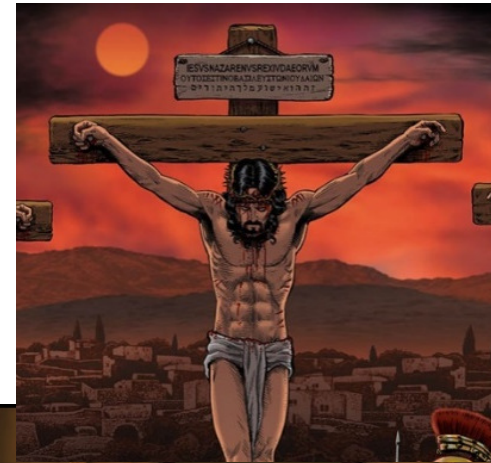
*In Christ Jews and Gentiles are no longer separated; we are joined together.



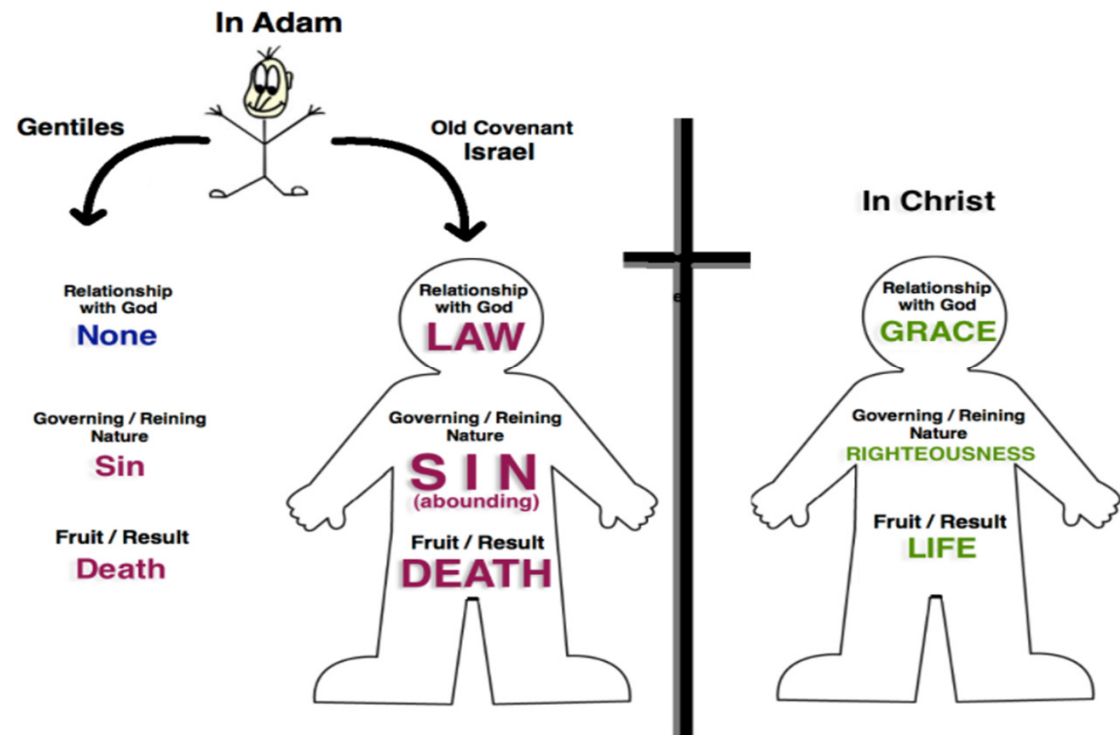
(Eph 2:18) *For through him (Jesus) we both (Jew and Gentile) have access (open) by one Spirit unto the Father.*

*Because the Holy Spirit is in us,
we all have access to God.

*Before Christ came,
Gentiles could not enter
the Temple area.



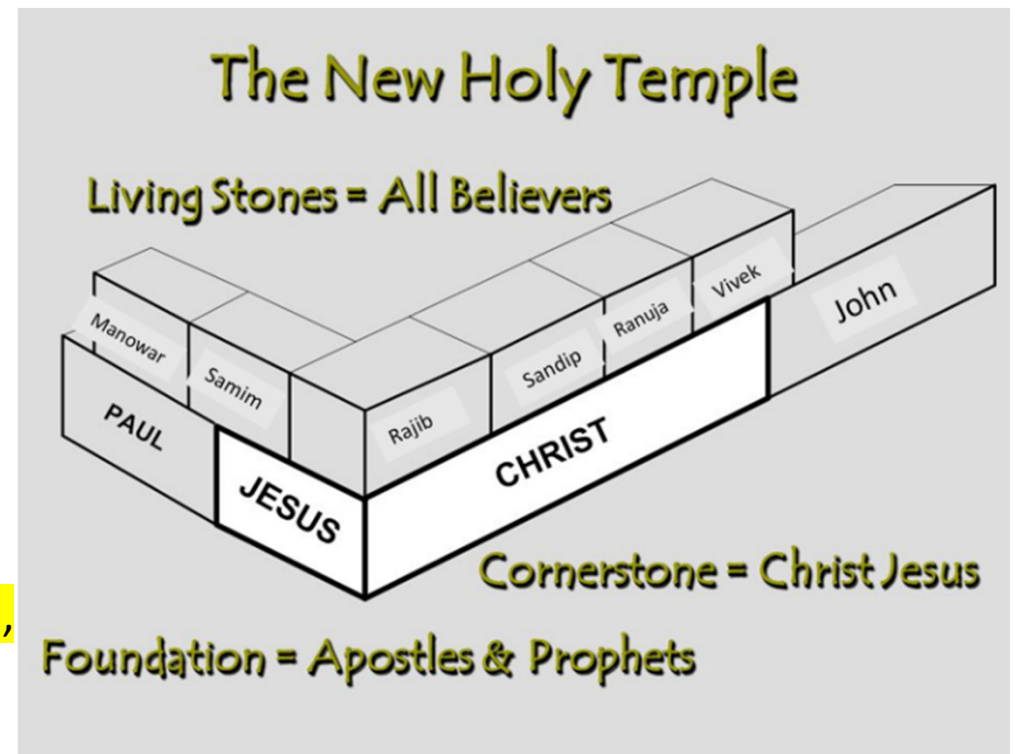
(Ephesians 2:19) *Now therefore ye (Gentiles) are no more strangers (not know) and foreigners (not belong), but fellowcitizens (same belong) with the saints (Church), and of the household (family) of God;*



(Ephesians 2:20) *[We] And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

[Mark 3:13-19] Jesus chose men to be His **Apostles**. They and all who wrote the N.T. Bible are **Prophets** and are the foundation of the Church.

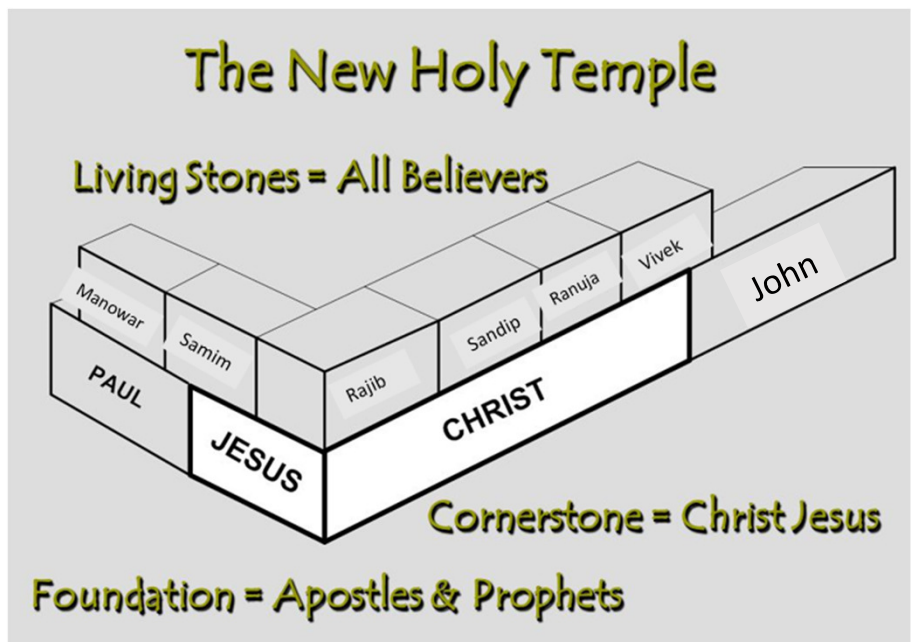
*Jesus is “**the chief cornerstone**”
—the first stone laid in God’s Temple (Church),
and we are all built up around Jesus.



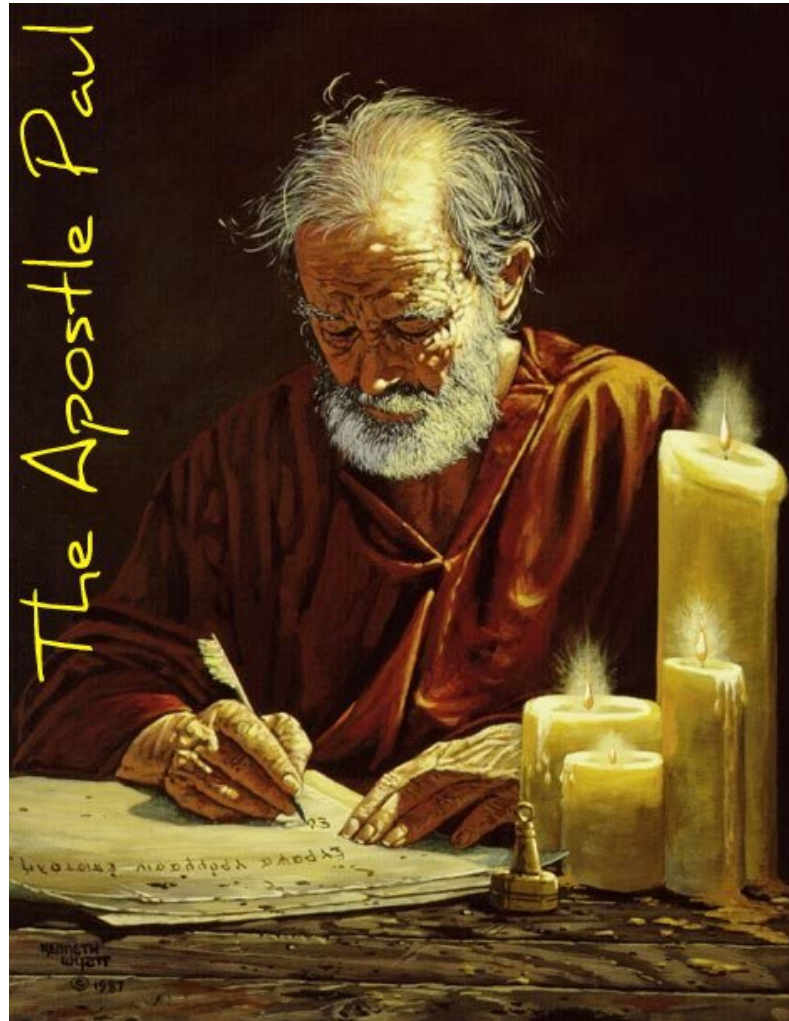
(Ephesians 2:21) *In whom (Jesus) all the building (Church) fitly framed (made) together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom (Jesus) ye also are builded together for an habitation (home) of God through the Spirit.*

*God is building His Temple.

When it is completed,
He will return to take us
to be with Him in Heaven.



3. Paul Again Prayed for the Ephesian Believers.



(Ephesians 3:14) *For this cause I bow my knees (pray) unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) Of whom (Father) the whole family (God's family) in heaven and earth is named,*

*Some of us in God's family are still here on the earth, but many have died and are with God in Heaven.

[Eph. 2:19] We all have one Father and are one family.

(Ephesians 3:16) *That he (**Father**) would grant (**give**) you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man (**our spirit**);*

**The “inner man” of the unsaved is dead. Our “inner man” is alive and must be “strengthened”.*

**If we allow God’s Spirit to control our spirit, then we will have God’s strength to obey Him though we have temptations and problems.*

(Ephesians 3:17) *That Christ may dwell
(free control in home) in your hearts by
faith; that ye, being rooted and
grounded in love,*

*Let the Holy Spirit have access to every part
of your life. Don't limit His control of your life.

*The Holy Spirit will make you strong by His love,
to stand against temptations and problems.



(Ephesians 3:18) *May be able to comprehend (understand) with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

*God wants us to understand His great love to us.

[Romans 5:3-5] Even through problems God teaches His love toward us.

*As we allow the Holy Spirit to control us, we become more like Jesus—we will be filled with Jesus' love.

(Ephesians 3:20) Now unto **him (God)** that is **able** to do exceeding (**much**) abundantly (**much**) above (**more**) all that we **ask or think**, according to the **power that worketh** in us, (21) Unto him (**God**) be glory in the church **by Christ Jesus** throughout all ages (**time**), world without end (**forever**). Amen.

*God has the power to do **much more than we can ask or think.**

*[Eph. 1:19-23] This is the **same power of God** that raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him in Heaven.