

Orthodox Afterlife

By: Steven Mikheal



**Currently No humans are
in the Kingdom of Heaven
or Hell**

So if no one is in Heaven, where did Elijah and Enoch go?

“... Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven” (2 Kings 2:11).

“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him” (Genesis 5:24).

The **answer** is we don't know???? The Bible did not give us any more information or descriptions about where they went.

There are different types of Heavens in the bible.

1. **The Sky** “... let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the **heavens**” (Genesis 1:20)
2. **Outer Space** “... He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the **heavens** to give light on the earth” (Genesis 1:16-17)
3. **Paradise** “I know a man in Christ who was caught up to the third **heaven**. ... he was caught up into paradise...” (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

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Heaven of heavens (Kingdom of Heaven) “You alone are the Lord;
You have made heaven, The **heaven of heavens**, with all their
host...” (Nehemiah 9:6)

We are going to be talking about 4 places:

Hades

Paradise

Kingdom of Heaven

Hell

Hades

**Before Jesus died on the cross
everyone went to hades, nowhere
else.**

**No one went to Paradise, Heaven,
or Hell as we all sinned.**

Hades Analogy

It is like you wrote an exam and you are waiting for the result. The people who studied and worked hard know they did well and are waiting in hope. The people who didn't study and were fooling around know they did bad and are waiting anxiously and hopelessly.



Going to Paradise



Going to Hell

Now **after** the death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ

He took all the good people to Paradise
to be with him.



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

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Joyous Saturday

"Christ descended into Hades to save Adam and release all the righteous souls that had been taken captive in Hades." - St. Athanasius



On **Bright Saturday** we do 2
processions going around with candles
celebrating moving from Hades to
Paradise as the Lord Jesus Christ
opened Paradise



May	our	Μαρε	فَلْتَصْعُدْ صَلَاتُهَا
prayers		ΤΕΝΠΡΟСЕΥΧ	
ascend	unto	Η ΠΕΝΝΗΣ: Ϊ	امَامَك يَا سَيِّدَنَا،
You, O	our	ἐπιψωι	
Master,	like	ἡπεκυθο:	مُحْرَقَاتٍ
burnt		ὠφρη†	مِثْلُ
offerings	of	ἑλαιονοιαι	وَعَجُولٍ كِبَاشٍ
lambs,	and	ἑτε	سِمَانٍ.
fatted calves.		ελαινοιαι:	
		νεμ	
		ελαινασι	

After the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

When we die we will go to either

Paradise or Hades

So before Jesus died where did everyone go?

Hades

After His death and resurrection where did the Good people go?

Paradise

Where did the bad people go?

They stayed in Hades.

Paradise

Paradise Analogy

It is like getting an appetizer
before eating the actual dinner
which is Heaven.

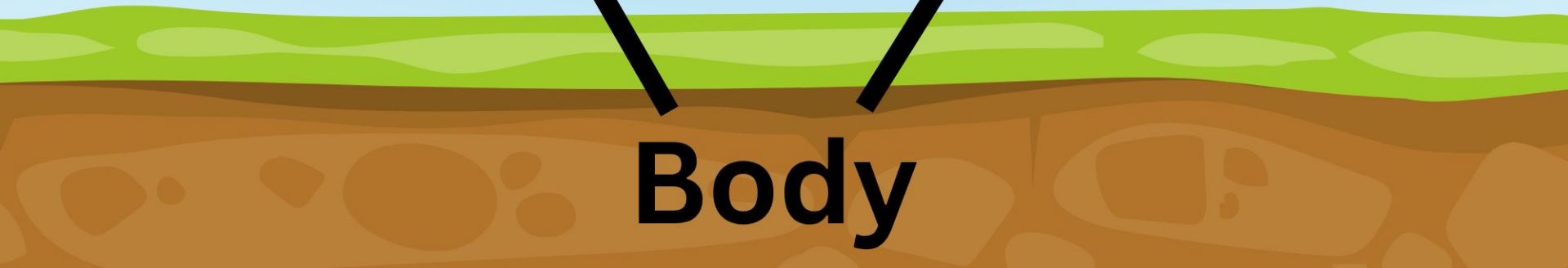
Hades

Paradise

Spirit

Spirit

Body



Heaven & Hell

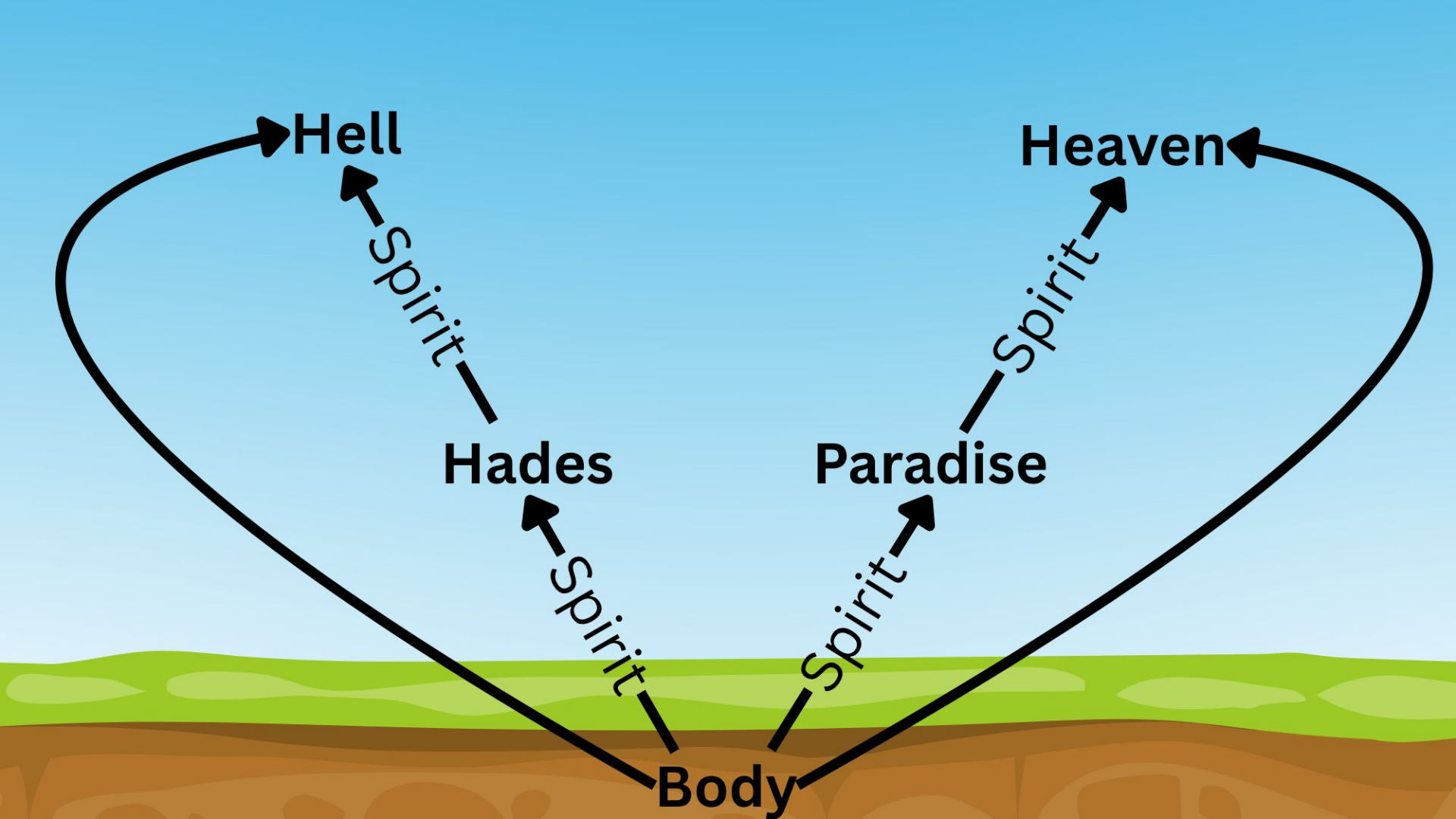
Heaven and Hell

In the second coming of Jesus our bodies will be resurrected.

“... the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life (**Kingdom of Heaven**), and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation (**Hell**)” (John 5: 28-29).

Heaven and Hell are the eternal places. After judgement day (Jesus second coming), everyone who is in Hades will go to Hell and everyone who is in Paradise will go to Heaven.

In Heaven and Hell we will have both a body and a spirit.



In the second coming we shall rise with spiritual bodies

“Who will transform our **lowly body** that it may be conformed to His **glorious body**” (Philippians 3:21).

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in **dishonor**, it is raised in **glory**. It is sown in **weakness**, it is raised in **power**. It is sown a **natural body**, it is raised a **spiritual body**. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” (1 Corinthians 15: 42-44).

Man is spirit, soul and body

As humans we have a spirit, soul and body.

St. Paul says, "May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

This word soul has two distinct meanings in the Holy Bible:

1. The soul which makes a human or animal body alive.

Elijah the Prophet brought a child back to life when "... he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him" (1 Kings 17:21).

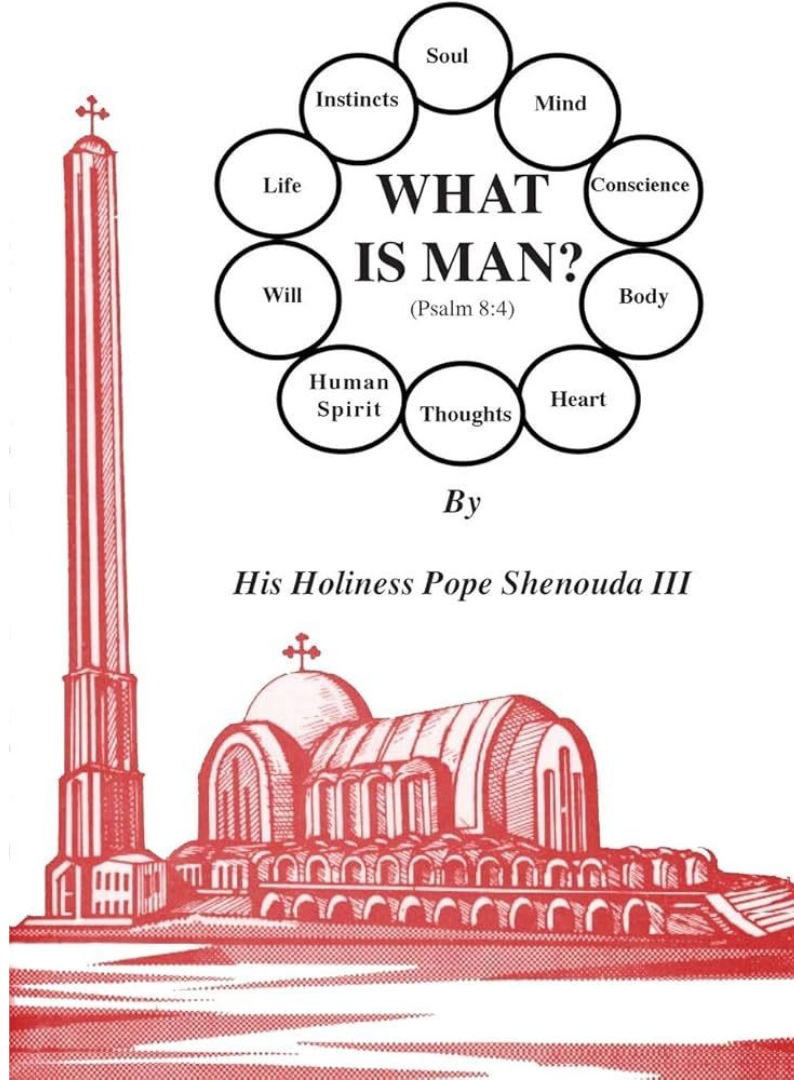
2. The soul referring to the inner life of man, his emotions, and his desires.

"Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul" (Psalm 86:4);

In that case **the spirit** gives a person immortal life. Therefore, animals only have a soul not a soul & spirit like humans.

The term spirit is the part that refers to the spiritual, immortal part in man. It controls all the heart feelings in a spiritual way, so a person may walk in the spirit, in communion with God's Holy Spirit.

Pope Shenouda Book



Hell Analogy

Now you officially got your exam result
..... **Even more sad**. You have **no**
way of redoing your test and you are
stuck with the pain of your result.

Heaven analogy

Paradise was the appetizer. Now in Heaven, you got the dinner. You are happy that you chose what is better, being with God while on Earth, now you enjoy being with him in Heaven.



Our Father
(أبانا الذي)

Make us
worthy to
pray
thankfully:

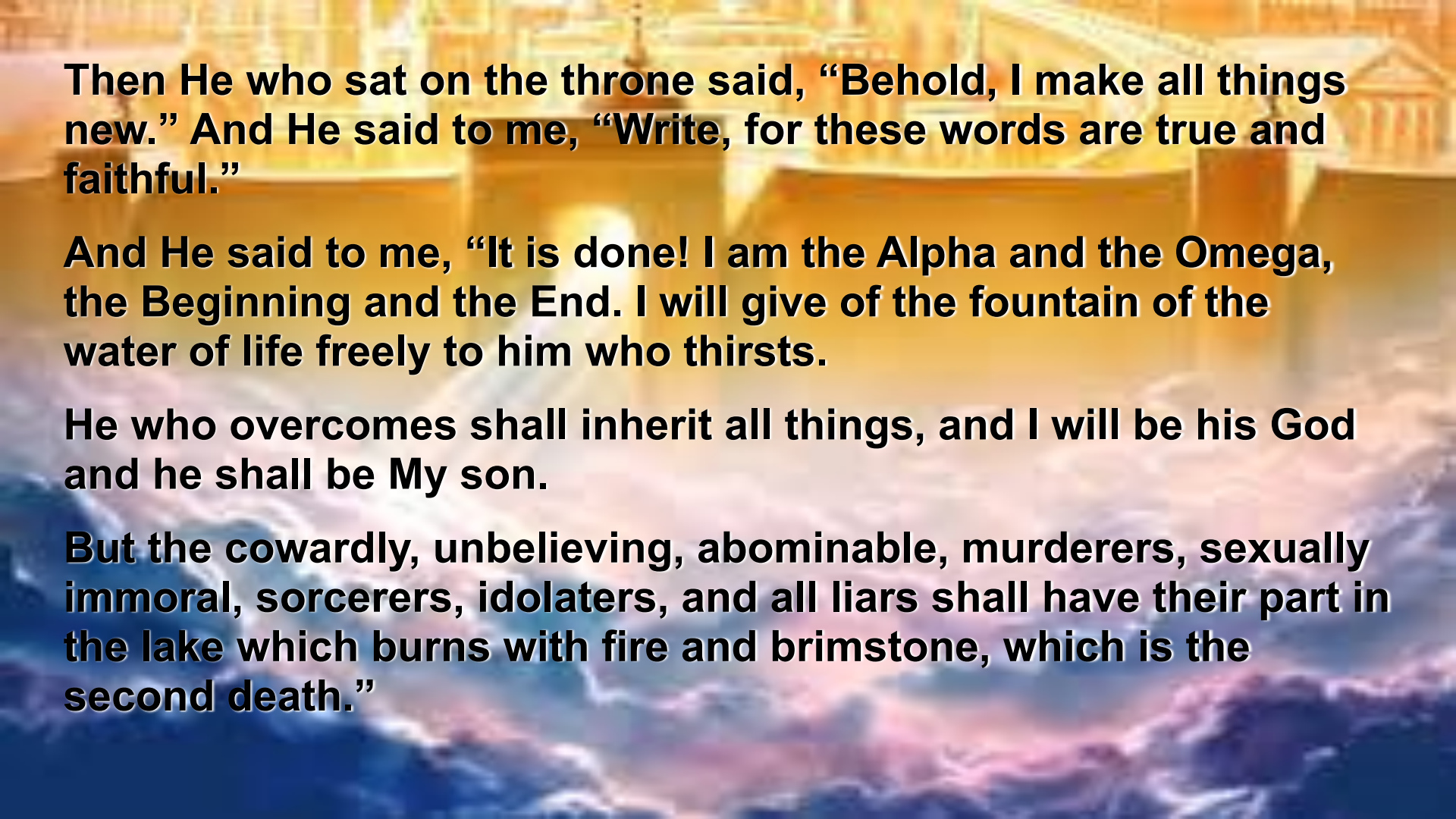
ΑΡΙΤΗΝ
ΝΕΝΙΓΜΑ
ΝΧΟΣ
ΟΥΠΕΝΟΤ:

Revelations 21: 2-8

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”



Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Takeaway

We are lucky that when we die, we don't go to Hades, where even the prophets in the Old Testament had to go to.

We have the opportunity to go to Paradise, where all people are joyful and enjoying the presence of Jesus; this is temporary until we have the utmost happiness in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Yet, there are still some people until this very moment that just seek earthly houses and focus on being very happy here. All the things in this world are nothing compared to the great joy that God has prepared for us in Heaven.

Any Questions?

Recommended Resources:

Type **Suscopts** at the end of your questions

Ton of information about **Salvation** and our **beliefs about various topics**:

<https://www.suscopts.org/resources/literature/orthodox-faith>

Tons of **Spiritual Books**: <https://www.saint-mary.net/collections/books>

Bible Commentary Videos:

<https://www.suscopts.org/diocese/bishop/bible-study>

Coptic Commentaries



Before Jesus' death and resurrection, everyone went to:

- a) Hades
- b) Heaven
- c) Paradise
- d) Hell

Anyone who dies now is going to:

- a) Paradise or Hades
- b) Heaven or Hell
- c) Stay dead and never wake up
- d) None of the above

Which part do humans have that animals don't:

a) Body

b) Soul

c) Spirit

d) Brain

All the saints are currently in:

- a) Hades
- b) Hell
- c) Paradise
- d) Heaven

At Jesus' Second Coming we are going to:

a) Paradise or Hades

b) Heaven or Hell

c) Nowhere

d) Sleep