

“HEAVEN”

INTRODUCTION

In trying to think of a “scripture” to use as a title for this lesson, there seems to be none better than the one word, “HEAVEN.” The primary Greek word for “heaven” is the word *topos*, which simply means “a location.” God created the heavens (plural), obviously referring to what we think of as the first and second heavens, but God is said to be “in heaven”, His eternal abode, or location, though in many ways He is said to be everywhere, but His throne is in heaven.

We need to be heavenly minded, in that the 3rd heaven, where God is, should be our goal in life, in contrast with the place called “hell”, for after death every person will ultimately enter one or the other of these places as a final destination of our existence. Read Matt. 7:13-14. Let’s consider “Heaven” as the final destination of the souls of the righteous.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s consider WHAT HEAVEN IS.

A. Heaven IS the 3rd **region** of outer space.

1. The first region of space is that where the birds fly and airplanes travel—within the gravitational pull of the earth.
2. The second region is that of the stars, sun, moon and planets, where space travel is made possible—away from the gravitational pull of the earth.
3. The third region is that of eternity where God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and angels reside, and the final abode of redeemed souls. 2 Cor. 12:2

B. Then, heaven IS described as a “**place**”, in some 14 different ways.

1. Heaven is a place that is “prepared.” John 14:1-3
2. Heaven is a place of “inheritance.” 1 Pet. 1:3-5
3. Heaven is a place of eternal “rest.” Heb. 4:9; 2 Thes. 1:6-7; Rev. 14:13
4. Heaven is a place of “joy.” Matt. 25:21-23
5. Heaven is a place of “glory.” John 17:5; Rom. 8:17; Rev. 21:23
6. Heaven is a place where people “go intentionally.” 2 Thes. 1:6-9
7. Heaven is a place of “many mansions.” John 14:1-3
8. Heaven is a place of “beauty.” Rev. 21:10-21
 - a. We sing the song “*How Beautiful Heaven Must Be.*”
 - b. A little girl was watching the stars at night and said to her father, “*If heaven is this pretty on the wrong side, how beautiful it must be on the other side.*”
9. Heaven is a place of “perfect environment,” without storms or moral decay.
10. Heaven is a place of “perfect peace and health.” Rev. 22:1-3
11. Heaven is a place where “no sin, sickness, sorrow or death” can enter in. Rev. 21:4, 27
12. Heaven is a place of “treasure.” Matt. 6:19-21
13. Heaven is a place where the “spirit is united” with the resurrected body.
14. Heaven is a place of the “saved.” Rev. 21:24, 27; cf Acts 2:47; Mark 16:16

II. Briefly, there are 2 things said about WHERE HEAVEN IS.

A. First, heaven is NOT directly connected with the earth.

1. The first heaven was created along with the earth. Gen. 1:1
2. The first heaven will cease to be at the end of all material things. 2 Pet. 3:13, 10; Rev. 21:1

B. Second, heaven IS where the the Paradise of God is located. 2 Cor. 12:1-4

1. With a full realization of the inferiority of the earth to heaven, how can anyone really NOT want to be there in eternity?
2. The Lord came to earth to reconcile fallen man to God, in view OF eternity.
 - a. The Lord reveals a plan of salvation. Mark 16:16
 - b. The Lord asks the saved to be faithful until death. 1 Cor. 15:58

CONCLUSION

I. Illus. I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT. The story is told about a wealthy oil man in Texas who took a preacher to his house, and began showing him his property . He told the preacher that he came to that area some 25 years before, and was penniless. He pointed to one direction and said, *"Now I own all the oil wells in this direction."* He then turned to the opposite direction and said, *"I now own all those fields of grain. It's all mine, I own all you can see in that direction."* He then turned to a 3rd direction and pointed to huge herds of cattle, and said, *"These are all mine, as far as you can see in that direction."* Finally, he pointed to the west and looking at a great virgin forest, said, *"It's all mine. Twenty-five years ago I was penniless, but I worked hard and saved, and today I own everything, as far as you can see in this direction."* He paused, as if waiting for some expected praise from his preacher, who, upon putting his hand on the wealthy oil man, pointed upward and said, *"How much do you own in THAT direction?"* Ducking his head in shame, he said, *"I hadn't thought about that."*

II. There is a song in some hymnals simply called "HEAVEN" with 3 stanzas.

1. There'll be no shadows in heaven, No cares to darken the way; God's face with light will be shining,
Thru-out that eternal day.
2. There'll be no weeping in heaven, No sorrow ever can come; God's hand all tear-drops will banish,
In heaven our home sweet home.
3. There'll be no parting in heaven, For time and space count no more; God's love will there reunite us
With dear ones who've gone before.

CHORUS:

'Twill all be joy up in heaven, Beautiful city of Gold; Contentment reigneth eternal, The half
has ne'er yet been told.

III. Don't you want to be there after this life is over?

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