**“Our Home in Heaven”**

**Introduction**

The Bible refers to *“heaven*(*s*)*”* in the OT (420x) and the NT (284x). The OT uses exclusively the dual (not plural) Hebrew form (*shamayim)* referring to the two created heavens, namely the atmosphere and outer space. Interestingly, the Hebrew word *shamayim* is made up of the Hebrew letter *sh* (“which”) and the noun for water *mayim*, and has the dual form (perhaps suggesting H20). The NT word is *ouranos* (source for the planet Uranus), and Paul referred to *“the third heaven”* (II Cor. 12:2) once. The Lord created the perfect heaven and earth and teaches from the physical to the spiritual. He said*, “If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?”* (Jn. 3:12). Even in this fallen world the heavens are still beautiful, majestic, and awesome; so *“the heaven of heavens”* (Dt. 10:14 *et al*) must be far greater!

**I. The Two Heavens**

A. Their Creation

1. The Title to the Creation account (Gen. 1:1)

2. The Timing in the Creation account (Gen. 1:2-8)

a. The sphere of water was created first and God the light source circled the sphere once and called it “Earth” on Day One (vv. 2-5).

b. God divided the sphere of water (Earth) with an outer layer of water of the sphere and from the inner sphere of water called earth, and called the firmament between the outer sphere and the inner sphere “Heaven” as He circled it again for Day Two (vv. 6-8).

B. Their Contribution

1. By Day Four, the Heavens housed the sun, moon, and stars (v. 14).

2. The Heavens with the light bearers gave day, night, and seasons to the fixed earth (vv. 15-19).

a. Josh. 10:12-13

b. Eccl. 1:5-7

C. Their Consumption

1. After the Millennium the LORD will destroy the present Heavens and Earth and everything in it (II Pet. 3:10; cf. also I Jn. 2:17)

2. Everything will be consumed with fire (II Pet. 3:12-13).

D. Their Creation *Redivivus*

1. The Lord will create a New Heavens and Earth *“wherein dwelleth righteousness”* (II Pet. 3:13).

2. The New Heavens and Earth will house the *“City,”* the *“New Jerusalem”* (Rev. 21:1-2; cf. Rev. 3:12).

**II. The Third Heaven**

A. The **Pursuit** for the Third Heaven

1. Abraham looked for the city made by God (Heb. 11:10)

2. OT believers desired the city prepared by God (Heb. 11:16)

3. Believers have access to the heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22)

4. Saints seek the continuing city (Heb. 13:14).

B. The **Preparation** of the Third Heaven

1. The Lord Jesus Christ promised to prepare the place, the New Jerusalem (Jn. 14:2); albeit the New Jerusalem was in existence since the beginning (cf. Mt. 25:34).

2. As the Melchisedecian High Priest, He needed to be the forerunner into the Heavenly Tabernacle (Heb. 6:19-20).

3. The Lord Jesus Christ gave up the Ghost and entered the heavenly sanctuary to prepare by presenting His shed blood (Heb. 9:11-14).

4. He led captivity captive (including the thief on the cross [Lk. 23:43]) from *Sheol* and into the New Jerusalem on the day of His crucifixion (Eph. 4:8-10; cf. Ps. 68:18; cf. also Lk. 16:22-31).

C. The **Place** of the Third Heaven

1. The City will hover over the Earth during the Millennium (Rev. 21:2, 10)

2. The City will continue forever in the New Heavens and Earth (Rev. 22:5)

D. The **People** of the Third Heaven[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. The New Jerusalem in the Third Heaven will be the eternal abode for the Bride (Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17).

2. The Bride will include all believers. Bride refers to a marital term in which we are intimately connected with Christ the Groom (Jn. 3:29).

a. The Bride will include the OT saints (Rev. 21:12; cf. Isa. 62:5).

b. The Bride will include the NT saints (Rev. 21:14; cf. II Cor. 11:2).

E. The **Provisions** of the Third Heaven

1. The New Jerusalem will have water (Rev. 21:6)

2. The New Jerusalem will have light (Rev. 21:11)

3. The New Jerusalem will have walls (Rev. 21:12)

4. The New Jerusalem will have foundations (Rev. 21:14)

5. The New Jerusalem will have size (Rev. 21:16)

6. The New Jerusalem will have dimension (Rev. 21:17)

7. The New Jerusalem will have tree (Rev. 22:2)

8. The New Jerusalem will have fruits (Rev. 22:2)

9. The New Jerusalem will have leaves (Rev. 22:2)

F. The **Practice** in the Third Heaven

1. To Praise (Rev. 4:8-11) and Sing (Rev. 5:8-14)

2. To Serve (Rev. 22:3)

G. The **Perfection** of the Third Heaven

1. The Structure of a Cube > it will be a perfect cube like the holiest of holies (I Ki. 6:20)

2. The Stones of Color (Rev. 21:19-21)

a. Jasper > purple

b. Sapphire > pink

c. Chalcedony > blue

d. Emerald > green

e. Sardonyx > red

f. Sardius > tan

g. Chrysolite > golden

h. Beryl > green

i. Topaz > greenish yellow

j. Chrysoprasus > greenish gold

k. Jacinth > dark blue

l. Amethyst > violent

m. Pearl > whitish

n. Gold > transparent glass

H. The **Privileges** of the Third Heaven

1. To Reign Forever (Rev.22:5)

2. To Recognize His Justice Forever (Isa. 66:23-24)

**CONCLUSION: Heaven will be a wonderful place; but not everyone is going there. It is not to be feared but anxiously awaited!**

1. At death the saint will receive a temporary body (Lk. 16:22-24), but at the Rapture the corpse will be resurrected to live with Christ forever (I Cor. 15:51-58). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)