

SUBJECT: IN HEAVENLY PLACES

TEXT: The Book of Ephesians

Ephesians 1:3. Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 1:20, 21. Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places. (Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come).

Ephesians 2:6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 3:10. To the intent that now, unto the principalities and power in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

Ephesians 4:8. He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.

Ephesians 6:12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF THREE (3) HEAVENS

- Heaven No. 1 – The immediate area directly above the earth; the air; the clouds.

Genesis 1:14 – 17. And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth.

- Hebrews No. 2 – Higher than the first heaven, consisting of the stars, sun, moon and other celestial bodies.

Genesis 1:6 – 8. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament,

and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

- Heaven No. 3 – The highest heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:2, 4. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell, or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth): such an one caught up to the third heaven. How he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful a man to utter.

THE FOLLOWING THINGS ARE REVEALED ABOUT “IN HEAVENLY PLACES”

- God, the Father, dwells in heaven (Matthew 5:16; Luke 11:2)
- God, the Son, came from heaven and is in heaven (John 3:13; Hebrews 9:24)
- God, the Holy Spirit, came from heaven (Acts 2:2 – 4; 1 Peter 1:12)
- The habitation of angels (Matthew 18:10; 22:30)
- From heaven (the third heaven), Jesus will descend to the air (the first heaven) to receive His saints (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)
- The Christians eternal dwelling place (John 14:3; 2 Corinthians 5:1)
- Satan cast out of heaven (the third heaven) to the air (the first heaven) from where he now rules over the kingdom of darkness (Luke 10:18; Ephesians 2:2)

HOW THE HEAVENS WERE CREATED

Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:6a. And God said, Let there be a firmament.

Psalms 8:3. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.

PRESENT HEAVENS vs. NEW HEAVENS

- 2 Peter 3:7, 10 – 13. But the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are in it, shall be burned up. Seeing, then, that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation (living) and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, in which the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless

we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, in which dwelleth righteousness.

- Revelation 21:1, 2. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I, John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

We praise you Lord God that You have highly exalted Jesus,
And given Him a Name which is above every name,
that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow,
of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth,
and that every tongue should confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of You, Our God, Our Father.

(Philippians 2:9 -11)

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