

HEAVEN - WHERE IS IT?

Beloved of the Lord:

Let us seek from the Word of God the answer to our question - "Heaven - Where is it?"

Some declare it is a condition; so it is, but we know specifically from the Saviour it is a "place" - John 14:2,3, a definite location. All the travel agencies on earth never advertise it, nor are able to direct us how to find it; yet the divine "Traveler's Guide" - the Bible, reveals with accuracy its location. Let us consider what God says: -

1 - THE ATMOSPHERIC HEAVENS are revealed, surrounding the earth. In Jer.4:25 there is a reference to "the birds of the heavens" that fly in the air above. We also know that man is able to do the same, so we definitely understand we are surrounded by the atmospheric heavens.

2 - THE CELESTIAL OR STELLAR HEAVENS far above us, beyond our comprehension, are referred to in Isa. 13:10 - "the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof", and there may be as many stars as there are grains of sand on the seashores of the world - Gen.22:17. Yet God knows them all, and "He telleth the number of the stars: he calleth them all by their names" - Psalm 147:4. The mind of man is occupied in searching the celestial heavens, finding there are greater fields of space beyond his scientific knowledge. The magnitude and vastness of the starry heavens emphasizes the insignificance of puny, wretched man - Psalm 8:3,4.

3 - THE THIRD HEAVEN - by divine inspiration is revealed by the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor. 12:1-4: "I knew a man in Christ (whether in the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth) such an one caught UP to the third heaven...how that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter".

Here we have revealed what is far above the starry universe - "the third heaven". Note the place is where Christ is, "FAR ABOVE ALL" etc. Eph.1:19-21. It is the "heaven of heavens" - the highest pinnacle of God's great universe - 1 Kings 8;27:2 Chron.2;6:6;18 - the abode and dwelling place of God, of our Risen Lord - Heb.9:24. Its locality man is unable to estimate or penetrate, God's eternal throne - Isa.6:1. The "third heaven" where Paul was!

Note what Paul calls it - "PARADISE" - He was "caught up into paradise". This is the place you and I are going fellow believer! God made a paradise on earth for Adam and Eve. Through sin they lost it! Another paradise in realms above is the place where sinners saved by grace and the blood of Christ, are going! We will eat of the "tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God" - Rev.2:7. Note that Paul heard "unspeakable words" - not expedient to repeat on earth! Heavenly conversation is too holy and sacred to be spoken in human language today! How can fleshly lips describe the glories of heaven?

Beloved, the answer to our question - "WHERE is heaven" is clear from the Word of God! Where God is! Where Christ is! The place He promises to take you and me - the "Father's house". Very soon we shall be "caught up together..to meet the Lord, in the air". Think of it! "So shall we be FOREVER with the Lord" - 1 Thess. 4:16,17. Let us comfort or encourage one another "with these words". MARANATHA!

Yours in the "blessed hope",
