**What the Bible Teaches about Heaven**

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**I. The Preparation of Heaven**

 ***A. The KJV Terms*** > Gen. 1:1 > Rev. 21:10

 1. *“Heaven”* (582x) and *“Heavens”* (133x)

2. Hebrew > *shamayim > sha* (which [related to]) and *mayim* (waters > Miami River [Indian word for “water”) and comes from unused singular *shameh*! *Shamayim* always has the dual ending in Hebrew (2 heavens > atmosphere and outer space)!

 3. Greek (Mt. 3:2 ff.) > *ouranos* (284x) > e.g., Uranus

***B. The First and Second Heavens were created on Day Two (Gen. 1:6-8).*** > cf. Mal. 4:2 (Jer. 31:35-37)!

1. The space between the sphere of water called earth and the outer layer of water (i.e., the edge of the cosmos) was called *“firmament”* (*raqia`*) since it consists an invisible particulate which has mass. The sun, moon, and stars were created (Gen. 1:14-19) and put in the Second Heaven (i.e. outer space) as lights and time keepers. The sun, in the firmament, goes around the earth diurnally (Ps. 19:6). The earth was not in the firmament and not a planet!

2. The First heaven is the atmosphere around the earth and extends to the height of where birds fly (Gen. 1:20; Pss. 79:2; 104:12).

***C. Presumably the Third Heaven was created on Day Two (II Cor. 12:2).*** The LORD did not live in an eternal, infinite Heaven (cf. Dt. 10:14; I Ki. 8:27; II Chr. 2:6, 6:18; and Neh. 9:6). Nothing is eternal except the LORD and His Words (Ps. 119:89)!

 1. The Third Heaven is where God’s throne exists (Ps. 11:4; 14:2; 20:6; Eccl. 5:2).

2. Deceased and Raptured saints dwell in and worship the Lord Jesus Christ in Third Heaven (Rev. 4:1-5:14).

**II. Place of Heaven**

 ***A. The Preparation of the Place (Jn. 14:1-3)***

 1. At Creation (Mt. 25:34, 41, 46)

 2. With Christ’s Death, Burial, Resurrection, and Ascension

 a. Heb. 6:19-20

 b. Heb. 9:11-15, 23-28

 c. Lk. 23:42-43

 d. Eph. 4:8-10

 ***B. The Name of the Place***

 1. A *“City”*

 a. Heb. 11:10

 b. Heb. 11:16

 c. Heb. 12:22

 d. Heb. 13:14

 2. *“Holy City”* > Rev. 21:2

 3. The *“New Jerusalem”*

 a. Rev. 3:12

 b. Rev. 21:2

 4. *“The Bride” >* II Cor. 11:2

a. Isa. 61:10; 62:5 > OT saints were called Bride

b. Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17 > The City is the Bride containing Saints

 1) OT Saints (Rev. 21:12)

 2) NT Saints (Rev. 21:14

**III. The Promise of Heaven**

 ***A. The Promise of the Place and Presence in the OT*** > *Sheol* > grave > underworld

 1. Gen. 37:35 > Jacob would join his “deceased” son Joseph in *Sheol.*

 2. Gen. 42:38 > Jacob expected again to go to *Sheol.*

3. Ex. 24:10 > Moses and 73 others saw God in the third Heaven upon the top of the water of the outer layer of the firmament (Job 37:18 > canopy-like firmament separating earth from 2nd heaven [Gen. 1:6-8]) colored as sapphire or crystal (Ezk. 1:26; Rev. 4:6).

 4. I Sam. 28:11-19 > Samuel came up from *Sheol* recognized and disquieted (He enjoyed *Sheol*).

 5. Ps. 16:10 > The presence of the Lord will bring joy and pleasures.

 6. Ps. 73:24 > The presence of the Lord will be glory!

7. Eccl. 3:21 > At death, the spirit of man and beast will receive divine disposition.

8. Eccl. 12:5 > Man will go to his *“long* (*`olam*) *home.”*

9. Ezk. 1:4-28

a. The Colors > amber (yellowish-brown), burnished brass (golden brown), beryl (blue-green), crystal (clear quartz), sapphire (blue), fire (yellow-orange)

 b. The Creatures

1) Living Creatures (Ezk. 1:4) = *cherubim* (Ezk. 10:15; Rev. 4:6; see also Gen. 3:24; Ezk. 28:14; 16)

 2) *Seraphim* (Isa. 6:2, 6) = “fiery angels with six wings”

 c. The Communication > instantaneous and immediate movement of angels

 ***B. The Promise of the Place and Presence in the NT***

1. The Placement

 a. Death > *“one event”* Eccl. 2:14; 9:2-3

1) Lk. 16:19-31 (*Sheol* had divisions for saved and unsaved until resurrected Christ took saints into *Paradise* [Eph. 4:8]). *Sheol:* body parts and recognition!

 2) Phil. 1:21-24 > death is *“gain”* (*kerdos* [3x]) and *“far better.”*

 b. Rapture > *harpazo* (13x) “the heavenly harpooning” is imminent!

1) I Thess. 4:13-18 > The comforting message for believers, will be the immediate presence with the Lord and with deceased loved ones!

2) I Cor. 15:20-58 > seed and fruit of seed (better); terrestrial body in image of God, but celestial body greater in glory; also one of incorruption, power, spiritual

 3) II Cor. 5:1-11 > the resurrected body will have substance and will be eternal.

4) II Cor. 12:1-3; Rev. 2:7 > *“paradise”* > *paradeisos* (similar in beauty with Garden of Eden); in vision was he in physical body or not (body of deceased in heaven same as body on earth [?]).

5) Phil. 3:20-21 > At Rapture our bodies will be changed (*meta-schematizo* [5x]) and fashioned (*sum-morphos* [2x]). The basic scheme of our vile body will be changed and but with similar form. Jesus appeared as Himself (Jn. 20:20; 21:1) and ate with disciples (Jn. 21:15).

6) I Jn. 3:12 > Believers resurrected body will be like Jesus’ resurrected body.

2. The People

 a. Lk. 23:43

 b. Mt. 17:1-5

 c. Heb. 12:22

**IV. The Pleasures of Heaven > Rev. 21:1 ff.** (Liken unto an ongoing perfect wedding and marriage)

 ***A. The Bridegroom of Heaven***

 1) The Husband (v. 21:2)

 2) God (v. 2) and Lord God (vv. 21:22; 22:5-6)

 3) Alpha and Omega (v. 21:6)

 4) Jesus (22:16, 20, 22)

 ***B. The Bride of Heaven***

 1) The Lamb’s Wife (v. 21:9)

 a. Adam and Eve and their saved human race including aborted embryos.

 b. The Last Millennial Saint

 2) The Twelve Tribes (v. 21:12) > Those that identified with the God and institution of Judaism.

a. Ruben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, Benjamin.

 b. Shem, Japheth, Ham, Rahab, Ruth, Naaman, Ninevites, etc.

3) The Twelve Apostles (v. 21:14) > Those that identified with the Saviour Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ and institution of the Assembly.

a. Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Lebbaeus, Simon, and Matthias.

b. John the Baptist, Luke, Theophilus, Nicodemus, thief on the cross, Paul, Cornelius, Anabaptists, BBC members!

 ***C. The Building of Heaven***

 1) The Holy City (v. 21:2)

 2) New Jerusalem (v. 21:2)

 3) The Tabernacle of God (v. 21:3)

 ***D. The Beauty of Heaven*** > *vide* alsoI Chr. 29:2

1) The Permanent Structure (vv. 21:15-16) > a perfect cube as the Holiest of Holies (I Ki. 6:20), measured 12,000 furlongs (1500 miles square [distance from Hartford to St. Louis)

2) The Priceless Stones (vv. 21:18-21) > jasper (green), pure gold, clear glass (golden crystal), sapphire (blue), chalcedony (copper), emerald (green), sardonyx (reddish-white), sardius (reddish-brown), chrysolyte (yellow-green), beryl (greenish-turquoise), topaz (yellow-gold), chrysophrasus (apple-green), jacinth (purple), amethyst (deep purple).

 3) The Protective Safety (vv. 21:25-27)

 a. Anti-defilement and Anti-abomination (21:27)

b. Anti-dogs, anti-sorcerers, anti-whoremongers, anti-murderers, anti-idolaters, anti-liars (22:15)

 4) The Precious Saviour (vv. 21:22-24)

**CONCLUSION: Heaven will be a wonderful place for the saints forever, enjoying the precious Saviour Jesus Christ and the saints of old in the beautiful place prepared by the Lord!**