**What the Bible Teaches about Heaven**

**Dr. Thomas M. Strouse**

**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).

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