

# VISIONS OF HEAVEN AND HELL BY JOHN BUNYAN

## John Bunyan's Visions of Heaven and Hell Elijah Explains, Chapter 3 - Part 2 June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

We continue today with John Bunyan's visit to heaven, so please read page 6, the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph to the end of page 7 of the PDF above of John Bunyan's, "Visions of Heaven and Hell" with the title; **Chapter 3 – Elijah Explains.**

In most churches today, the praise and worship is a very calculated time slot that is dedicated to God, with preset restrictions that limit the congregation because of the need to accommodate lengthy, unnecessary announcements from the pulpit, that could all be done sufficiently through church bulletins or social media. Neither God nor yourself will have to endure this in heaven, simply because it does not exist and the worship of Him will be 24/7. So, when you are sitting in Church, bored out of your mind with all the unnecessary announcements, programs and distractions that flood your mind to keep you from whole heartedly worshipping the Lord and hearing His word preached, it won't be that way in heaven.

The story opens by saying; *"Here is one," said my conductor to Elijah, "who by the commission of the Imperial Throne has been permitted to visit these realms of light, and I have brought him to you, to learn from you." "That," said the prophet, "I shall gladly do. For it is our meat and drink in these blessed regions to do the will of God and the Lamb, to sing His praises, and serve Him with the humblest adoration, saying, 'Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne; and to the Lamb for ever and ever: for He has redeemed us to God by His blood out of every kindred and tongue, and people and nation, and has made us unto our God kings and priests: even so, Amen.'" And I likewise added my "Amen" to that of the holy prophet."*

What Elijah is referring to is the same as what the Apostle John writes in **Revelation 5:11-13**; *"11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!' 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and [a]lways!"*

Elijah says: *"When the soul and body are both happy, as mine now are, I count it a complete state of happiness. For throughout all the coming ages of eternity, it is the soul and body joined together in the blessed resurrection state that shall receive this happiness. But concerning the object of our happiness, which is the ever-adorable and blessed God, our vision of Him is forever new. For as the divine perfections are infinite, nothing less than eternity can be sufficient to display their glory. This makes our happiness eternally added to, as well as our knowledge of Him to be eternally progressive also."*

Our knowledge of God will continually grow in heaven, it is eternally progressive. The Apostle Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 2:8-10**; *"8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God."*

Although God gives us glimpses of heaven by His Holy Spirit, there is always going to be more to know in heaven, and there will be no such thing as that term, 'suddenly arrived to a knowledge of all things' in heaven, simply because God is eternal with no beginning and no end. You will grow in the Lord and the knowledge of

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God in heaven. Even as you grow in knowledge from a child through to adulthood, it doesn't end when you die on this earth, but will continue on in heaven.

**Revelation 1:8** says; “8 *I am the Alpha and the Omega, [a]the Beginning and the End,*” says the [b]Lord, “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*”

If there is a beginning, Jesus is the beginning, and if there's an end, then He's the end. But Jesus is both. It's almost a play on words to say the beginning and end, since there is and has never been a beginning and an end to the God-head. Jesus is the 'I am', in essence saying 'I've always existed'.

There will be no yawning, or thoughts of Sunday after noon lunches, or distractions of any sort in heaven, but rather the gain of inexhaustible understanding of God and heaven that has no limits. It's like a circle that has no beginning or end, it keeps on going infinitely.

The story continues with Elijah saying; *"Therefore the apostle Paul said, 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor can it enter into the heart of man to conceive what God has prepared for those who love him.' Yet the human eye has seen many admirable things in nature. It has seen mountains of crystal, and rocks of diamonds, it has seen mines of gold, and coasts of pearls. Nevertheless, the eye that has seen so many wonders in the world below could never pry into the glories of this triumphant place. And though the ear of man has heard many delightful and harmonious sounds, even all that man and nature could supply him with, yet he has never heard the heavenly melody which both saints and angels make before the throne."*

A glimpse of heaven is given to us, but this is only a portion of what God has in store for the Christian in heaven. God is named I AM.

Moses asked God His name in **Exodus 3:14-15**; “14 *And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” 15 Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’”*

This present generation is included in that statement. He is still called, I AM.

No one created God. He always existed, always will and He can not be measured, or fabricated in fullness, even through computer generation (CG) in movies and films, which only can give us once again a glimpse of what God and heaven could look like. In the Old Testament, God spoke to Moses in the burning bush, He revealed to him His name as I AM, and in the New Testament He revealed Himself in the person of His Son Jesus, who also revealed himself as, I AM.

**John 8:53-58** says; “53 *Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?*” 54 *Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is [a]your God. 55 Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” 57 Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*

Jesus clearly states here that He is God who is named, I AM.

**Philippians 2:5-11** says; “5 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [a]robbery to be equal with God, 7 but [b]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He*

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*humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”.*

God has given us a glimpse of who He is thru the person of Jesus His Son, and this same Jesus is the one who John sees in a vision where Jesus is revealed to be the Alpha and Omega.

**Revelation 1:17-18** says; *“17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying [a]to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of [b]Hades and of Death.”*

Isn't it interesting that the very person that the world is rejecting to be their Lord and Savior, is the very one who is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, who always existed and always will exist without an ending.

**In 2 Corinthians 5:1-8**, Paul preaches about the assurance of the resurrection of our earthly body; *“5 For we know that if our earthly [a]house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our [b]habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as [c]a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”*

Our guarantee, our deposit, our pledge, our down payment, is the Holy Spirit, The Taste of Heaven on Earth!

**Colossians 3:1-4** says; *“3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”*

Elijah says: *“The heart of man is so fine and imaginative that it can conceive almost anything that is, or was, or ever shall be in the world below, and even what shall never be. Man can conceive that every stone on earth shall be turned into pearls, and every blade of grass into the brightest of shining jewels. He can conceive that the whole earth be turned into a mass of pure gold, and the air turned into crystal. He can conceive every star to become as bright as the sun, and the sun to be a thousand times larger and brighter. But all this is infinitely short of what the eternal Majesty has prepared for all His faithful followers.”*

It's amazing that there is no limit to a person's imagination – it's limitless – yet is infinitely lacking compared to what God has in store for us in heaven.

Keep in perspective that Bunyan is hearing from Elijah, who operated in the supernatural above and beyond those of his day and age, (except for maybe his successor Elisha who followed after him), and also is one of the few who did not die a natural death, but was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire. Here's a list of just some of the miracles that Elijah performed.

1. Shut up the heavens causing a drought	<a href="#">1 Kings 17:1</a>
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2. Multiplied flour and oil for a widow	<a href="#">1 Kings 17:14-16</a>
3. Raised the widow's son from the dead	<a href="#">1 Kings 17:22-23</a>
4. Defeated the prophets of Baal with fire from heaven	<a href="#">1 Kings 18:25-38</a>
5. Brought rain to end the drought	<a href="#">1 Kings 18:41-45</a>
6. Destroyed 51 soldiers with fire and lightening	<a href="#">2 Kings 1:9-10</a>
7. Destroyed another 51 soldiers with fire and lightening	<a href="#">2 Kings 1:11-12</a>
8. Parted the waters of the Jordan River	<a href="#">2 Kings 2:8</a>

Including all of these miracles that God performed thru Elijah, it fell short of what God had in store for him in heaven. They were just a taste of heaven on earth.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit that we can receive with all of its supernatural signs, wonders, miracles, casting out devils, speaking in new tongues and all the rest of the Gifts of Holy Spirit, are just a taste of heaven on earth, but will always fall short in comparison to what God has in store for us in heaven.

My question to you today, what have you done with The Taste of Heaven on Earth – the Holy Spirit? Have you rejected the Holy Spirit or have you operated in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and operated in that Taste of Heaven on Earth? A day will come when you stand before God and He'll reveal to you all of the opportunities that you had to experience heaven on earth, that you missed because you grieved the Holy Spirit by not allowing His gifts to operate through you. Even Elijah, who was not filled with the Spirit, but had the Holy Spirit on him, did not have the opportunity you have, which is to be filled with and have the Holy Spirit live in you. Elijah did not have the opportunity that you have today. All of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to you...so what are you doing with them?

We know about the parable of the unjust steward who buried the talent given to him; will that apply to you on judgement day or will you allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to move in and through you to a broken and dying world, giving them the opportunity to experience a taste of heaven on earth? With this taste of heaven on earth, you will be able to bring a miracle into someone's life, to lead them to Jesus, to cast the devil out of them so that they might have life again.

You will be accountable on judgement day, even if you are filled with the Holy Spirit and speak or have spoken in new tongues. Jesus says in **John 3:34** that "*He gives the Spirit without measure*". Don't put a cap on the Holy Spirit thinking that 'you've arrived', you've 'done and received' all He has. The Holy Spirit desires to grow and grow in you, without measure or limits, there is always more to know about Him and always more that He wants to do thru you. Don't stand before God with a cup half empty when He wanted your cup to overflow with unceasing power and glory of the Holy Spirit into the lives of those around you.

God gave you a taste of heaven when He gave you the Holy Spirit, don't grieve Him. Elijah, Elisha and all of the prophets and saints under the Old Testament did not have available what you have today. Do not grieve Him, step out in the gifts He's given to you as it's an ongoing flow, just like it is in heaven. People need to see heaven on earth through your life. Now is not the time to be silent or idle, now is the time to allow the Holy

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Spirit to use you while you have a short window of opportunity to impact peoples lives for eternity. Allow your light shine bright.

What are you doing, what have you done and what are you going to do with the Holy Spirit in your life today?