

Heaven, Heavens and The Third Heaven

There are some 725 references in the Bible describing and explaining the creation and designation of the words we use to describe heaven. These explain and settle the marvelous Wisdom of God our Father and His power of creation of heaven and earth. The purpose of these few chosen scriptures will suffice to describe the, what I have found, the main creation of our present and future existence and hope.

The Bible says, that on the 2nd day of creation, "That God said, Let there be a firmament (Expanse), 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. Ge. 1:6-8.

In Genesis 1, verses 14-19, the fourth day, we learn three important things.

- 1 Let there be lights in the heavens to divide day & night. V14
- 2 They were to give light upon the earth. V15
- 3 Two great lights, the sun and the moon, and the stars to give such light. 16-18

On the fifth day He created the an abundance of living creatures, and **let the birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.** Gen. 1:20-22.

From these verses we conclude that God created the firmament of heaven in which the birds are able to fly. Also, the firmament of heaven in which the sun and moon and stars are created to light the earth and divide the seasons, and for days and years and for signs.

- 1 Wisdom declared, "When HE prepared the heavens, I was there. Prov.8:27
- 2 The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork Ps.19:1
- 3 For all the gods of the people are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. 1Chron.16:26

The Bible teaches, that God made a firmament of heaven in which the birds fly, the clouds float, and the rain descends," And Elijah prayed again and the heavens gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." James 5:18. (1st heaven)

The Bible teaches that there is a firmament of heaven where the sun and moon and stars reside in the vast creation of God to rule night and day, and to measure days and years and to understand the seasons. (2nd heaven).

Then the Bible speaks on Heaven as the abode of God.

1 The Lord looketh down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. Psa. 14:2

1 The Lord looketh from heaven, He beholdeth all the sons of men. Fromt the place of *His habitation* He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. Psa. 33:13,14

3 For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary, from heaven did the Lord behold the earth. Psa.102:19

4 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools; for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon the earth; therefore let thy words be few. Ecc.5:1,2

From these scriptures we can know that there is **the heaven, the habitation, the sanctuary, the abode of God.**

In the Lord Christ's ascension, He passed through the heavens. Heb.4:14

1 He ascended far above the heavens. Eph.4:10

2 He was made higher than the heavens. Heb.7:26

3 He sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens Heb.8:1

4 He is on the right hand of God, having gone into heaven. 1Pet.3:22

Paul was "caught up", whether in the body or out of the body, he knew not. 2Cor.12:2

1 V2, It is referred to as the "Third Heaven"

2 V4 Paul says he was caught up into **Paradise.**

3 Definition: par ad sos, Greek for paradise... an oriental term coined during the Persian period of society denoting a peaceful park or garden, an Eden, a place of future happiness.

It is the same word used in Luke 23:43 by our Lord where He said, **Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**"

Conclusion:

The glad news of the Gospel is that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, lived, died on the cross of Calvary, and was resurrected the third day. He told Mary Magdeline that He would Ascend to His Father and ours, to His God and ours John 20:17. We know that God's abode is in heaven. Jesus told the robber on the cross, "today you will be with me in Paradise". Thus Paradise is in heaven, God's abode, and as Paul would describe as the Third Heaven.

Mankind will abide and give praises to God, our heavenly Father, creator of heaven and earth and all that dwells therein while we live out this life below. We will appreciate and marvel and explore the first and second heavens. But, awaiting all the saints is the Truth that there is a Heaven to be gained where God is the Light, Paradise is that peaceful rest and that Bible might describe as the Third Heaven.

Brother Russ