

## Some Scriptural Particulars of Heaven

by Franklin Ferguson

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WHEN a person contemplates visiting another country for the first time, the mind gets full of it, and all available information is eagerly sought after; and the visit becomes the chief topic of conversation, with the very interesting sights you expect to see, and the pleasures to be enjoyed shortly.

We are going to a Country surpassing for glory and beauty the utmost stretch of our imagination—Heaven. Concerning it we often sing:

"Heaven is my Fatherland,  
Heaven is my Home."

Through infinite grace we have become the Children of God, redeemed by the "Precious Blood of Christ" (1 Pet. 1.18,19), and can look up to Heaven to the One who fills the Throne, and say, Father! We are going to a land "that is fairer than day," with the sweet thought that it is *Home*.

Yet, strange it is, how seldom we have heard an address, or read an article on Heaven. Perhaps this earth engages our attention out of all proportion, so that we are not declaring, as we should, that we "seek a Country" (Heb. 11.13-16).

### **There are Three Heavens.**

(1) The Heaven of the clouds, the rain and the lightning; (2) the Heaven of the sun, the moon, and the stars; and (3) the "Heaven of Heavens," or "third Heaven" as it is called (2 Cor. 12.2).

The latter is the abode of God, the angels, and the church. The distance there must be infinitely great. Astronomy can penetrate and measure the vast spaces of the starry Heavens, but no telescope can locate the dwelling of our God, and the place of His throne.

How LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GO THERE? seeing that astronomers tell us that light has been hundreds of thousands of years in reaching this earth from certain stars? We reply in the words of Scripture, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5.8); the inference being that the interval between leaving the body and being with Christ is of the briefest duration.

How this incredibly quick passage can be, forms no part of revelation; but faith accepts it as one of the great wonders of our Almighty God and

Father. We already know that a sound can go round the world in a fraction of time; but there are hidden secrets of travel yet withheld from the knowledge of Man.

### **What is Heaven?**

It is a place, literally (John 14.2), not simply a condition, though it will be certainly ecstatic. It is a Place to which our Lord has gone, and He calls it His Father's "House," where there are many "Mansions," or abiding places. Yonder He has prepared a "place" for us, and if it were not so He would have told us.

THERE IS A PARADISE (2 Cor. 12.4). God made a Paradise for our first parents—a specially beautiful spot in the midst of a creation fresh from His hand; there He walked and talked with Adam and Eve until sin was committed.

What a charming "garden of delights" it must have been! It has gone from this scene; yet there is another in the realms above, where you and I, sinners saved by the Blood of the Lamb, will "eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God" (Rev. 2.7), where no sin can enter, nor the communion be hindered. How gladsome is the prospect!

HEAVEN IS A COUNTRY (Heb. 11.14-16), as truly a country as any on earth, but transcending all human conception. How beautiful has God made this earth, with its magnificently varied scenery; still wonderfully lovely notwithstanding the fall of man. If this earthly scene has such charm, then what will the Heavenly be like, as our eyes behold the "better country, " where, indeed, "every prospect pleases" and man no longer is vile, and God and the Lamb are there.

THERE ARE INHERITANCES IN HEAVEN (1 Pet. 1.4), which will be as truly possessed and enjoyed, as ever Israel of old did in the Land of Promise. Likewise there are many REWARDS (1 Cor. 3.14) for faithful service. We know how a country will honour its illustrious citizens; even thus will it be with those whom the King Eternal delights to honour—honour surpassing all earthly glory (compare Esther 6.7-9).

### **The Conditions of Heaven**

will differ greatly from our present experiences. For instance, there will be no night there, but one eternal glorious day; no sun or moon will shine, for God Himself will lighten all the fair scene; the inhabitants will feel no fatigue, and they never grow old, and they count not time by years; nor shall sorrow, pain, tears, or death be known any more at all, for God will wipe away all tears and make all things new.

WE SHALL NEITHER BE ANGELS OR SPIRITS IN HEAVEN, but shall have bodies just like our Lord's resurrection body, and that body could be handled (Phil. 3.21; Luke 24.39). Our present mortal bodies will undergo the needful "change" to enable them to bear the "eternal weight of glory" to come.

There will be singing and music in Heaven (Rev. 5.9; 14.2), which can only be thought of as *rapturous*.

THERE ARE SWEET GLIMPSES OF HEAVEN given us in the Word, in wonderfully descriptive language, which strangely moves us at times, and sets the heart longing for the Day when the eyes shall at last behold our beautiful and everlasting Home. And the best of all is that our Lord Jesus Christ will welcome us there, who loved us and gave Himself for us, and so shall we ever be with Him.

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