

Sanctuary in heaven

Heaven starts where the earth stops; from where the dew falls and extends right out into the domain of the stars. Heaven is the medium where God dwells and from where the divine events occur. I think our concern is not really about heaven itself, but what is in heaven.

I had been studying the saying 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.' This is found in Jeremiah 31:29 and is explained by verse 30, Ezekiel 18:20 and Deuteronomy 24:16. The New Covenant: is that each person will die for, is responsible for, and is accountable to God for their own sin; unless they accept Christ Jesus as the Son of God.

The rich man and Lazarus Luke 16:22-31

- 22 "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.
- 23 "And being in torment in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- 24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'
- 25 "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.
- 26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'
- 27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,
- 28 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'
- 29 "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'
- 30 "And he said, 'No father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'
- 31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Saul consults a medium 1 Samuel 28:11-19

- 11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me."
- 12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!"
- 13 And the king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What did you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth."
- 14 So he said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.
- 15 Now Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do."

- 16 Then Samuel said: "So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy?"
- 17 "And the Lord has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.
- 18 "Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day.
- 19 "Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

Enoch 22 (The lost book of Enoch by Joseph B. Lumpkin)

- 1 And I went out to another place west where there was a mountain and hard rock.
- 2 And there was in it four hollow places, deep and wide and very smooth. How smooth are the hollow places and looked deep and dark.
- 3 Then Raphael answered, one of the holy angels who was with me, and said to me: 'These hollow places have been created for this very purpose, that the spirits of the souls of the dead should be gathered here, that all the souls of the children of men should brought together here. And these places have been made to receive them until the day of their judgment and until the period appointed, until the great judgment comes on them.'
- 4 I saw the spirit of a dead man, and his voice went out to heaven and made petitions.
- 5 And I asked Raphael the angel who was with me, and I said to him: 'This spirit which petitions,
- 6 Whose is it, whose voice goes up and petitions heaven?'
- 7 And he answered me saying: 'This is the spirit which went out from Abel, whom his brother Cain slew, and he makes his suit against him until his offspring is destroyed from the face of the earth, and his offspring are annihilated from among the children of men.'
- 8 Then I asked, regarding all the hollow places: 'Why is one separated from the other?'
- 9 And he answered me and said to me: 'These three have been made that the spirits of the dead might be separated. Divisions have been made for the spirits of the righteous, in which there is the bright spring of water.
- 10 And one for sinners when they die and are buried in the earth and judgment has not been executed on them in their lifetime.
- 11 Here their spirits shall be set apart in this great pain until the great day of judgment and punishment and torment of those who curse for ever and retribution for their spirits.
- 12 There He shall bind them for ever. And such a division has been made for the spirits of those who make their petitions, who make disclosures concerning their destruction, when they were slain in the days of the sinners.
- 13 Such has been made for the spirits of men who were not righteous but sinners, who were complete in transgression, and of the transgressors they shall be companions, but their spirits shall not be destroyed in the day of judgment nor shall they be raised from here.'
- 14 Then I blessed the Lord of glory and said: 'Blessed be my Lord, the Lord of righteousness, who rules for ever.'

Egypt cut down like a great tree Ezekiel 31:14,16-18

14 'For they have all been delivered to death, to the depths of the earth, among the children of men who go down to the Pit.'

16 'I made the nations shake at the sound of it's fall, when I cast it down to hell together with those who descend into the Pit; and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, were comforted in the depths of the earth.

17 'They also went down to hell with it, with those slain by the sword; and those who were it's strong arm dwelt in it's shadows among the nations.

18 'To which of the trees in Eden will you be likened in glory and greatness? Yet you shall be brought down with the trees of Eden to the depths of the earth; you shall lie in the midst of the uncircumcised, with those slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude,' says the Lord God."

Demons beg Jesus for permission to enter the swine Luke 8:31

31 'And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.'

Isaiah 38:17-18

17 'Indeed it was for my own peace that I had great bitterness; but You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

18 For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.'

The parable of the tares Matthew 13:37-43

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

41 "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Matthew 16:27

27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

1 Peter 3:18-20; 4:6

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

- 6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

2 Peter 2:4,9-10

- 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,
10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.

Hebrews 2:9

- 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:11

- 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

1 Corinthians 15:20-21

- 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:42-45,50-52

- 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.
43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.
44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.
45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.
50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.
51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed-
52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Hebrews 3:3-6

- 3 For this One (Christ Jesus) has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.
4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.
5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward.
6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Hebrews 4:8-10,15

- 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.
- 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.
- 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.
- 15 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 5:8-9

- 8 though He was a Son, yet He suffered obedience by the things which He suffered.
- 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Hebrews 6:19-20

- 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,
- 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedeck.

Hebrews 7:28

- 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

Hebrews 8:1-2

- 1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
- 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Hebrews 9:11,15,24,28

- 11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.
- 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
- 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
- 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Hebrews 11 defines faith, and then lists a number of people who demonstrated their faith with righteous deeds, thereby glorifying God.

Hebrews 11:13-16,39-40

- 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

- 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.
- 16 But now they desire a better, that is a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.
- 39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,
- 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Hebrews 12:22-24

- 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,
- 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,
- 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than Abel.

Revelation 11:19

- 19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

2 Peter 3:10,13

- 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night (unexpected), in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.
- 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:1-3

- 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.
- 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

The Lord's promise to Daniel Daniel 12:13

- 13 "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."

Summary

The place of 'rest' for Abraham and righteous people, the other holding places for the unrighteous spirits of Man, and the heavenly tabernacle of God; were all created in the beginning of Creation with everything else by God, before the 7th day when He rested. Moses earthly tabernacle was strictly modelled after the holy tabernacle in heaven, where God dwells.

When we die (sown in corruption), the righteous spirits enter 'the rest' of Abraham's bosom beneath the earth. The wicked spirits are tormented in hell as described in Luke Chapter 16. According to Enoch the really wicked people are damned to remain in places of torment and are not even resurrected for judgement. Righteous people cannot just 'die and go to heaven' they must wait with all the other righteous people, in the place of rest. Otherwise how else can the following scriptures be true?

Matthew 20:16 "So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

Luke 13:30 "And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."

The righteous who die, will rest with Abraham, while Jesus rests with God the Father. Jesus being the first fruits of salvation, is the first 'man' to be perfected and freed from sin and death, and has entered the holy tabernacle of God. He presently functions as our High Priest, interceding with God the Father, with the full understanding of temptation, on our behalf.

At the second coming of Christ Jesus, He will become the righteous judge. The righteous people still alive and the righteous spirits of man, will be gathered from the earth by angels and then we will receive 'the promise' of our new spiritual body. The wicked men, angels and demons, will be judged, and punished by being burnt up in the earth with the judgement of fire.

After the earth is remade without seas, all traces of sin and mans works are removed from creation. Christ Jesus will hand over authority to God the Father and only then will the new Jerusalem, the heavenly tabernacle, descend onto the new earth. We will receive our promised inheritance and there we will live in peace with God forever.

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