

Biblical Descriptions of Heaven Continued from page 1

Heaven Is A Country

From the Bible we understand that the faithful patriarchs of the Old Testament looked for country (Heb. 11:14-16). In this world Ur of the Chaldees was Abraham's home; but it was no abiding place. Hence, as have all the servants of God, Abraham sought a country that could not be destroyed. At best, life on earth is fleeting and uncertain. We, therefore, must treat our existence here as a pilgrimage. We are sojourners in temporary land that is rushing toward a fiery end. Hence, with that realization in mind we sing such songs as the following one:

*Beyond this land of parting, losing and leaving, Far beyond the losses, darkening this, And far beyond the taking and the bereaving, Lies the summer land of bliss.
Beyond this land of toiling, sowing and reaping, Far beyond the shadows darkening this, And far beyond the sighing, moaning and weeping, Lies the summerland of bliss.
Beyond this land of sinning, fainting and falling, Far beyond the doubtings darkening this, and far beyond the griefs and dangers befalling, Lies the summerland of bliss.
Beyond this land of waiting, seeking and sighing, Far beyond the sorrows darkening this, And far beyond the pain and sickness and dying, Lies the summerland of bliss.
Land beyond so fair and bright! Land beyond where is no night! Summerland—
God is its Light, O happy summerland of bliss!*

Heaven is a Place of Rest

The pilgrim is constantly moving (Heb. 11:13). He a weary traveler who longs for a permanent place to rest (1 Pet. 2:11). By the burdens of life he toil-worn and weighed down (Gal. 6:9). Spiritually seeks eternal comfort, peace, and security (1 Cor. 15:58). Heaven is the only place that can permanently and flawlessly fulfill his needs.

*In the Christian's home in glory, There remains a land of rest; There my Savior's gone before me To fulfill my soul's request.
There is rest for the weary, There is rest for the weary, There is rest for the weary,
There is rest for you.*



BELVEDERE BEACON
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
SUNDAY: WEDNESDAY:
Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley – Tel. No. (803) -279-8663
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BIBLICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF HEAVEN

Because heaven is so far beyond our finite minds to understand, God has chosen things of this life whereby we may have some understanding of that sinless place where God's will is flawlessly carried out and where there is no possibility of sin. Hence, various figures of speech are employed by the Holy Spirit to describe heaven. Let us, therefore, examine heaven as our God has revealed it to us.

Heaven is a City

The ancients were very familiar with great walled cities. They symbolized activity, life, government, and protection. Hence, one of the figures of heaven that of a great city, the New Jerusalem. Great and high are its walls. Twelve gates are set in the great walls of the city and an angel stands at each gate. These gates are made of pearl. Written on the twelve gates of pearl are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. Open are heaven's gates during the day and since there is no night there, the gates are never shut. The city walls are built upon twelve foundations. On these foundations are inscribed the names of the twelve apostles of Christ. Precious stones garnish the foundations. The first precious stone is jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; and the fourth, an emerald. Her street is made of pure gold. The city has a river flowing from the throne of God and the lamb; it is the pure water of life. On each side of the river of life grows the tree of life. Twelve kinds of fruit are born each month and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Its light is the very glory of God. In figurative language John declares that this celestial and eternal city of the saved is large enough to hold all who will go there (Rev. 21). Thus, in hope we sing:

*I am going to a city where the streets with gold are laid, here the tree of life is blooming, and the roses never fade.
Here they bloom but for a season, soon their beauty is decayed; I am going to a city where the roses never fade.*

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Have you ever had a bad day? How about a bad week? Month? Year? At what point does a periodic “slump” become the norm? Should Christians ever be depressed? What can we do to overcome difficulties over which we have no real control but which bear directly on our lives and contentedness and happiness? Now, you might think that I am about to answer each of these pressing questions and thereby solve the problems millions suffer from every day, but you would be wrong in that. Whereas I do believe in the power of prayer, and I understand and daily benefit from the value of Bible Study, and further I appreciate the value of Christian friends and the ever present “etc.,” I also know that sometimes when we have exhausted every available avenue (at least of which we are aware) our troubles are still there—and we still hurt—and we wonder how much more we can take...and...and...and...

In other articles I have addressed various means of dealing with trouble, and Lord willing I shall again; but in this article I merely want to point out that if you have studied and prayed and talked to Christian friends and thought and meditated and have done everything you know to do and still hurt: you are not alone. Other Christians are experiencing what you now are. More: Jesus and Paul both experienced anxiety—Jesus once said, “I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!” (Luke 12:50). Paul wrote of his perils and on one occasion said, “Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches” (2 Cor. 11:28). Remember the great remorse Peter felt at having betrayed the Lord? And how about Paul’s personal assessment that he was a logical impossibility—less than the least of the apostles? Was it the fault of Jesus that He had to face the cross? No. Had He done anything wrong? Again, no. Yet, did that lessen the anguish He felt? No. And what about Paul? Did not he do a great amount of good? Would he not properly be classified as a successful apostle and Christian? I think so. Yet, still he knew pain. And Peter—what shall we say of him?

All three of these (and we could list others) knew great pain here—seemingly to the very end of their earthly sojourn; yet they all (and again others like them) went on to the heavenly rest that awaits the faithful. I do not know why certain people have to bear so much grief, but I do know that when they get to heaven God will make it all go away. I do not know why some have to live with a broken heart, but I do know that when they get to heaven God will heal it. I do not know why a lot of things happen, but I do know that my duty, whether I feel good or hurt terribly, is to do the will of God all of my life and trust Him to take care of the rest of it after-a-while.

One of the beauties of the eternal City of the Saved is that there will be nothing at all there that offends or causes the least grief. One of the difficulties of life is that we cannot go to heaven until it is over. If you are hurting: study the Bible, pray, attend the services of the Lord’s Church in your community, talk to those who want to help you—but above all else, be faithful to the Lord. He knows what you are going through. He wants to help you. He invites you to come to Him for that help (cf. Mat. 11:28-30). May God bless you as you study and obey His Word.

*Tim Smith
Dothan, AL*

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Jean Peebles Daughter, Betty, is in the hospital in Charleston. They have done the procedure and they hope she will return home early in the week. There will possibly be more surgery soon. Jean asked that she be kept in prayer.

We will be having a pot-luck following the morning worship. Plan to stay and eat with us Ken Chumbley appreciates Ron Wilson, Les Culpepper and Michael Farmer for fulfilling his preaching and teaching obligations while he was with the Bellview church in Pensacola, FL. for the lectureship.

Biblical Descriptions of Heaven Continued from page 1**Heaven is the Eternal Home of the Faithful**

I cannot think of home without thinking of a residing place—a residence. In this life, when our earthly homes are as God would have them, there no place of greater love, security, happiness, fellowship, and peace. If things are as they should in a home, the nearest and dearest of earth reside therein. On this basis the word *home* strikes soft spot in our hearts. Fond memories of days gone by are recalled and we are made happy with such reminiscing. Hence, to liken heaven to the good homes of this world strikes a harmonious cord with us. Who are some of the persons that will make up the populace of heaven? Such great and good men and women as Abel, Enoch, Noah, “Mrs. Noah,” Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, Gideon, Deborah, Barak, Jephthah, David, Samuel, Elijah, and all the faithful prophets (Gen. 5:24; 2 Kin. 2:11; Heb. 11). Along with the Old Testament worthies will be the faithful of which we read in the New Testament the apostles, Luke, Mark, Timothy, Titus, Barnabas, James, Dorcas, Lois, and Eunice. We will also be with the cherubim, seraphim, and the holy angels. Above all, we shall enjoy the personal association with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Just imagine such associations in that perfect bliss that is heaven.

*David P. Brown
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