

A TOUR OF GOD'S HOME

Request: “Recently we were studying the original creation of heavens and earth. You explained that there were three heavens and that the third heaven was the home of God. Could you do a study on this concept?”

This request came from our Wednesday night study of the Book of Genesis - “In a beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen.1:1)

The Hebrew word for heavens is plural with definite article (hashamayim).

We explained that in eternity past God created three heavens.

- 3rd heaven is the home of God.
- 2nd heaven is the home of stars, moon, and sun.
- 1st heaven is the sky or home of the birds.

This lesson will take us on a Tour of the Home of God by the following eight points.

1. Paul declared that he personally toured the home of God in 2 Cor.12:1-10.

He wasn't sure if was an inner body (vision) or outer body experience (death) - “Caught up to the third heaven.” (2 Cor.12:1-4)

Paul was in a discussion on boasting and undeserved suffering (2 Cor.11:16 - 12:10).

We will examine Paul experience with the Tour of God's Home by the following five homiletical points.

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| • Tour | (2 Cor.12:4-7a) | Paradise | Inexpressible things |
| • Thorn | (2 Cor.12:7b) | Pain | Messenger of Satan to buffet me |
| • Third prayer | (2 Cor.12:8-9a) | Pleaded | Answer – sufficiency of God's grace |
| • Trial | (2 Cor.12:9b-10a) | Power | Power of Christ may dwell in me |
| • Triumph | (2 Cor.12:10b) | Principle | “When I am weak, then I am strong.” |

Jesus told His disciples that He was about ready to return to God's Home and to make preparations for them – as well as for all Church Age Believers (CABs)

(John 14:1-3; 2 Cor.5:6-8). “I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2b)

2. Jesus (The 2nd member of Godhead) came from the third heaven and He expected to return to it (John 3:13; 6:38, 41, 51, 58; 8:14, 42; 16:28; Heb.4:14; 1 Pet.3:22).

(John 16:7) “But I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

3. The Holy Spirit (The 3rd member of Godhead) came from the third heaven to indwell every CAB (John 14:16, 25-26; 1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:2-3).

(John 15:26) “When the Helper comes whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of me.”

- 4. The Word of God came from 3rd heaven and it will last forever (Matt.4:11; John 6:27, 49-50; 5:18; 24:35; Isa.55:8-9). It is the language of the 3rd heaven.**

(Acts 20:27) “For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.” (NIV)

- 5. Therefore the Will of God comes from 3rd heaven - to us on earth (Rev.4:11; Matt.7:10-11, 21; James 4:13-15; Heb.10:7; Matt.26:42).**

(1 John 5:14-15) “This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him.” (NIV)

- 6. Therefore prayer returns to the 3rd heaven as the Word of God to be answered (2 Chron.30:27; Matt.6:9-10; 1 John 5:14-15).**

(Matt.7:11) “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him.’

- 7. All good and perfect grace gifts come from third heaven.**

(James 1:17) “Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.”

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is perfect.”

- 8. During the Church Age, Jesus Christ is seated on the throne of the 3rd heaven with ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth (Matt.28:18; Col.1:16-18; 2:15; 3:1; Heb.1:1-3; Eph.5:25).**

Every Church Age Believer is placed “IN Christ” (positional truth; 2 Cor.5:17) by the Baptism of The Holy Spirit (Gal.3:27). Therefore every CAB is positioned in the ALL AUTHORITY of Christ.

This is the reason how Paul can boast in his suffering that the “power of Christ rested upon him” and “when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor.12:9-10)