

Lesson 1- “What’s Up With Heaven”

- “When we lose sight of the fact that God has a wonderful destination prepared for those who are His, we start trying to create heaven on earth...If we do not feed the hunger for heaven with biblical truth, we will feed it the superficial baubles and bangles of this world”¹
- The Three Heavens:
 - The First Heaven (Is. 55:9-10)- the atmosphere
 - The Second Heaven (Gen. 1:14-17)- planetary space
 - The Third Heaven ((2 Cor. 12:2-4) - dwelling place of God and His throne.
- Heaven is not a metal and ethereal mental construct; it is a “place” with “physicality”. We cannot see it with our natural eyes at present, in the same way as we cannot see much of the light spectrum with our natural eyes. Just because you cannot see ultraviolet light does not mean it is not “real” and “physically present” in your midst.
- So exactly where is the “third heaven”?
 - Clearly it is “up”, “But depending on where you are standing on earth, “up is a different direction- it just means perpendicular to the surface of the planet.”²
 - One of Satan’s “Five I Wills” in Is. 14:13 says “But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.” (NASB) Here, we have hint as to its direction.
 - Isn’t it interesting that God has designed the earth like a giant magnet, with magnetic polarity at the earth’s poles? This is why a compass always points north. And isn’t interesting that the discovery of magnetic north and the compass have given mankind a stable reference point to find his bearings and navigate his way through the earth? Could it be that God has given us an object lesson here? Heaven, in the recesses of the north, is meant to be the stable point in our lives that helps us navigate our pilgrimage through this barren land until we reach our heavenly home?
- The Preciousness of Heaven
 - Our Redeemer is in Heaven (Heb. 9:24)
 - Our Relationships are in Heaven (Heb. 12:23)
 - Our Resources are in Heaven (1 Pet.1:3-4)
 - “...our inheritance is “reserved in heaven”...we have an inheritance in heaven...that has preceded us to heaven- it is already there waiting for us to arrive and claim it”³
 - Our Residence is in Heaven (Phil. 3:20)
 - “Our citizenship is in heaven...that’s our official residence.... Our real place of birth is heaven (the phrase in Greek, “born again”, can also be translated in John 3:3, 7 as “born from above”).”³
 - Our Reward is in Heaven (Matt. 5:12; 2 Cor.5:10)
 - Our Riches are in Heaven (Matt. 6:19-21)
 - “How do you store up treasure in heaven? By investing on earth in the only things that are going to be transferred to heaven...”⁴
- **Question:** Are you storing up treasures on earth or treasures in heaven? How EXACTLY are you doing either one of these?

¹ David Jeremiah; *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven- Study Guide; Turning Point; 2009; p.14*

² *Ibid.* p.17

³ *Ibid.* p.18

⁴ *Ibid.* p.19