

THE 'THREE HEAVENS' FOUNDATION

The basic concepts are that 'heaven' is higher than the 'earth'. The parallel parable attention is drawn to the fact that there is a higher thinking than what we experience on our part of planet earth. We are introduced by Paul to the 'third heaven' which we will speak of later. We conclude that there must also be a 'second heaven' even though it is not specifically spelled out in 'chapter-and-verse' within our bibles. From the command in Revelation given to John (and us) "*to come up higher*" ... that too relates to our thinking ... *for as a man thinks in his heart, so is he*. This challenges us to think outside our 'comfort-zone' without any anxiety for He has promised to lead us into all truth.

THE FIRST HEAVEN:

This arena is the NATURAL realm which includes everything in the 'seen' realm. The heavens wherein are the galaxies, constellations and stars — all that we see is in the first heaven and all peoples can see and experience this aspect of God. The literal 'letter-word' is all important ... this is good but one needs to open up oneself to the Spirit who the Bible says, will teach us all things (John 14:26) ... which does not leave much over for people who have just been to school to solve!

The heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19) and the plan of God is introduced to us there as each of the twelve constellations with their three secondary constellations depict the 'contents page' of the life of Christ Jesus and the true Church. This would total to 48 constellations which equates with the 48 boards of the tabernacle tent which contained the glory of God ... the destiny of the 'called-out' ones. God said that He would name all the stars and He did if He said so. Thus every star reveals in its name the step by step the life of Christ from His virgin birth (constellation VIRGO) all through the others to the judgment time (constellation LIBRA ... scales). In the sequence Jesus, being labelled '*the lion of the tribe of Judah*' would connect Judah to LEO constellation. When Israel left Egypt, each tribe had their ensign carried out front which each tribe respectively followed. All twelve signs of the zodiac were the twelve ensigns of the twelve tribes of Israel. Judah led the exodus and their ensign had on it a lion (LEO) depicting the foremost purpose of the Lion, Jesus Christ who would come forth later in the plan of Father-God and lead spiritual Israel out of servitude of Egypt!

This arena of the 'first heaven' is unveiled to us while we are surrounded by the darkness of ignorance. Just as Jesus had 'HIS STAR' (which the wise men followed to arrive at the new birth), we each have our destiny which the Spirit lays out and enables us to follow. Our earth which we are to care for has come under the Divine planned influence of certain stars at certain times. For the past 2000+ years we have been under the strong influence of the constellation PISCES, the two fish and you will recall, the sign of the fish the Church adopted. The book of Job shows examples of how the constellations affect or influence the earth (Job 38). This earth at the beginning of this new millennia, moved to come under the influence of AQUARIUS which shows a man holding a pitcher of water and pouring it out upon the earth. A dynamic parable for us of the many-membered mature man of Ephesians 4 who is being brought to maturity through the water of the Word... now called upon to pour out that life upon all flesh. Even in the earth realm, folks have emphasized the drinking of pure water ... it is right before our eyes.

THE SECOND HEAVEN:

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than yours ... This arena of thinking, understanding and wisdom is are higher than where we have been in the earthly realm ... it is now in the spirit and most definitely there begins a release into spiritual things but is not yet the full union with our Father. This is the realm between the natural heaven(s) and the ultimate union with Christ, who is God and who is Spirit. In this second heaven realm it is all too easy to slip back into what 'was' ... yet we are constrained to press towards the prize of the High calling in Christ

Jesus ... namely to experience the oneness with our Father.

This 'heaven' corresponds to 'the Holy Place' of the Tabernacle pattern ... it brings the believer out of the influence of the natural intelligence (natural light) into a receiving of supernatural revelation that did not come just from education. In the Tabernacle Pattern it was seen by the lighting. The outer Court was in natural lighting but as one moves into the Holy Place, natural reasoning is superimposed upon by the mind of Christ pictured for us by the light from the oil burning in the lampstand. It is a stepping-stone towards everything that is God ... but being a stepping-stone, it must lead one on to a higher way and expression. The Holy Spirit-Teacher will lead us on *teaching us ALL things* (John 14:26) bringing the seeker into an awareness (consciousness) of spiritual things and especially the activity of the 'spirit realm' — some good and some the opposite!

The 'gifts of the Spirit' will release what is good and will unveil the heart of God towards His creation. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the essential door into the purposes and revelations of God and in parallel releases the ability to touch the lives of others. It is not the ultimate plan of God, so one cannot say that they have 'arrived', but it will bring each one into a full relationship with His thinking and ways (Isaiah 55:9) if we keep on walking into what He unveils.

This realm is also another stepping-stone towards worship *in the spirit and in the 'truth'* of God's instruction, Man's ideas as to 'how' things ought to be can lead into some strange expressions mis-called 'worship'. In this realm the true seekers can be led off track in seeing and trying to deal with negative expressions of the devil, demons and the occult. Some moving in the 'good' side of this spirit-realm endeavour to see others who are bound up in the 'evil' of this realm, released. Depending upon their progress of faith is their results. A great blessing to many but the overriding importance of pressing towards *the high calling of God in Christ-Jesus* must not wane. Remember in the pattern-parable of Israel of old ..., the children of Israel were required to walk through this second heaven arena of the wilderness into the promised land. Likewise as the promised land equates with the Kingdom of Heaven, we too are required to walk in the spirit into that similar destiny.

This realm is where many with the 'Pentecostal experience' have parked instead of pressing on into the 'Holy of Holies' of the third heaven — the kingdom of God in the earth (the arena of His authority). It is an essential step in our growth and progress which should draw from each an utter reliance on the Holy Spirit within to keep them from 'falling' for what, most times, will excite the emotions and not bring forth glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. The baptism in the Spirit is not the end in itself but rather the provision to attaining our purpose or calling which is full union with our Father. Every step forward is by faith for *you have not been this way before*.

Worship is very important in this arena for true *worship in spirit and truth* will bring the worshipper into a pure relationship with Father. Such oneness will produce the nature of God in our lives as an ongoing reality and not just an emotional uplift that is repeated at every meeting of the fellowship. The second heaven is a realm of opposites whereas the third heaven is simply oneness or union. The Lord spoke to John in Revelation 1 to *come up higher*. One receives the vision of the journey in the second heaven and then in the third heaven it gets expression and we are enabled to climb higher ... maybe even with the throne/mercy-seat coming into view.

THE THIRD HEAVEN

Paul's testimony (2 Corin.12:1-4) was that *he was caught up to the third heaven ... in the body or out of the body* he could not fully discern (and it did not matter!). However, he was caught up into Paradise, the Garden-of-Eden relationship with God. This is satisfying to God and us for it is a realm of 'being' ... being who He says we are which comes from believing who He says He is! In this place in the spirit where Paul was caught up to (the real 'rapture' that many have been robbed of by the substitution of a 'first-heaven' letter-word reasoning) and heard 'words' that were not for the ears of the 'second-heaven' and 'first heaven' people ... who would not be able to fit them into their 'law' whether written in the scriptures or created by them. Transfiguration or transformation (Rom.12:1-3) will bring us

across (trans-) into this realm and as a result, our thinking becomes His thinking and our ways become His also ... remembering too, *as a man thinks in his heart, so is he*. Above all ... this third heaven realm or experience produces RELATIONSHIP — firstly with our Father and then with those around us who He brings across our path. The emphasis is now seen to be front and centre on whom we believe not what we believe.

SUMMARY:

30-fold blessings of the first heaven(s) on to the 60-fold blessings of the second heaven to the 100-fold blessings of the full harvest of the Christ-Seed planted in our earth. *Every seed brings forth after its kind*. The Feast of Tabernacles is the feast of harvest. All aspects of God's plan of the ages will cause us to be *changed from glory to glory* into full Christ-likeness. All will transpire in the earth ... heaven (3rd) will be on earth as we were taught to base our prayers on. There are many imitations to this progressive expression of the Lord in this world but only in Christ-Jesus and His provision will there be any fulfilment. Eastern Religions will introduce reincarnation ... another 'chance' of being redeemed and making it into God's purpose! Once we grasp that the provision of Jesus at Calvary was for all men ... why go to such extremes to obtain what has already been provided?