

HEAVEN ON THEIR MINDS Studies in the Revelation

"Blessed is he who (1) reads and those who (2) hear the words of the prophecy, and (3) heed the things which are written in it; (why) for the time is near.
Revelation 1:3

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT HEAVEN?

Then I saw a (1) new heaven and a (2) new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.
Revelation 21:1

Some simple facts:

There are three heavens mentioned in Scripture:

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a man was caught up (where) to the third heaven. 2 Corinthians 12:2

First Heaven: Atmosphere (birds, clouds and rain)
Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens."
Genesis 1:20

Second Heaven: Space (sun, moon, stars and planets)
And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."
Genesis 15:5

Third Heaven: Where God dwells
Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.
Deuteronomy 4:39

The location of heaven: Up!

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come (where) up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."
Revelation 4:1

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a man was caught (where) up to the third heaven. 2 Corinthians 12:2

1. **Moon - 211,463 miles away / 27 years / 1.5 seconds**
2. **Jupiter - 367 million miles away / 35 min, 11 sec**
3. **Saturn - 790 million miles away / 1 hour, 11 seconds**
4. **Alpha Centauri - 20 billion miles away / 4.37 light years**
5. **The North Star - 400 billion miles away**
6. **Betelguise - 880 quadrillion miles away / 640 light years**
7. **Milky Way - diameter of over 100,000 light years**

THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

Then I saw a (1) new heaven and a (2) new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.
Revelation 21:1

Some key words:

"Then I saw a *new heaven* and a *new earth*..."

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind."
Isaiah 65:17

"For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure."
Isaiah 66:22

"first heaven and first earth *passed away*..."

"Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out (how) like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed."
Psalm 102:25-26

The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, (why) for the LORD has spoken this word. The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. The earth is (what) also polluted by its inhabitants, for they (1) transgressed laws, (2) violated statutes, (3) broke the everlasting covenant.
Isaiah 24:3-5

"Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in His sight."
Job 15:15

"and there is no longer any sea"

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."
Revelation 22:17

HOW ARE WE TO LIVE THEN?

Our joy and life should be focused on heaven:

From the Old Testament:

Whom have I (where) in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing (where) on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 73:25-26

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul (mind, will and emotion) pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?

Psalm 42:1-2

From the New Testament:

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking (what) the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on (what) the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Colossians 3:1-2

For our citizenship is (where) in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the (1) lust of the flesh and the (2) lust of the eyes and the (3) boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself (what) an enemy of God.

James 4:4