

“HEAVEN”

PART 2

“preparing for the trip to heaven”

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Since heaven is the “real home” of those who know Jesus Christ personally, it is probably safe to say most believers have a desire to know where it is and how we will get there. After all, there are some giant hurdles. First of all, do we have any indication in Scripture where heaven is located? Second, how is it possible that these frail, temporary bodies can make the trip to heaven? What must be done for believers on this earth to be safely placed in heaven?

How thankful we must be when we realize that the Holy Scriptures give us insight into each of these perplexing issues. The Living God desires that we understand enough about heaven, and how we will get there, to keep our perspective “on things above.” By the way, if we concentrate on things above we will not succumb to the strategies of “here below.”

THE LOCATION OF OUR HEAVENLY HOME

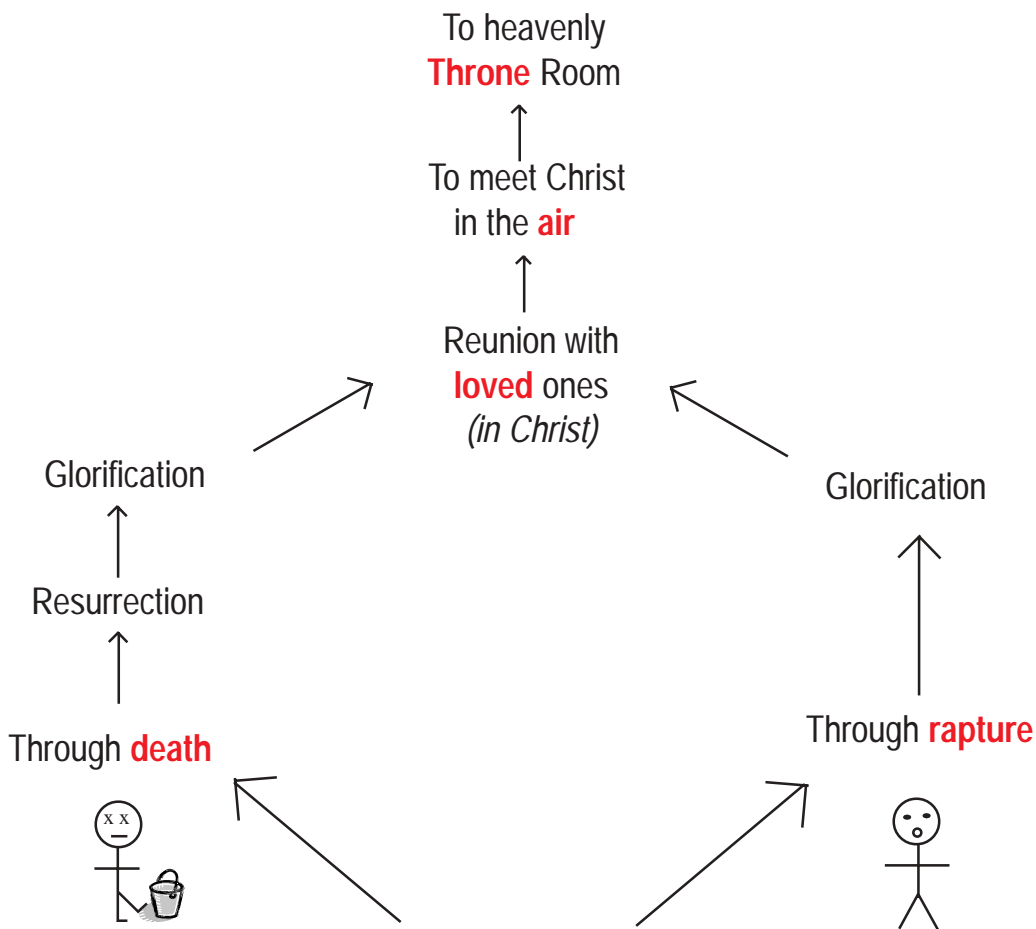
2 Corinthians 12:1-4

- Our heavenly home is located in the **third** heaven.
 - First heaven = The **earth** and its atmosphere.
 - Second heaven = The **starry** spaces.
- The indication of Scripture is that the third heaven is **up** and in the **north**.
(*Isaiah 14:13*)
- Most importantly, heaven is a **place** where Jesus Christ **resides**.
(*John 14:3; 2 Corinthians 5:8*)

TEMPORARY BODIES TO EVERLASTING BODIES

Philippians 3:20-21

- Our earthly bodies must be **changed** dramatically and completely for us to enter heaven.
- A major **provision** of grace in heaven will be our resurrected, glorified bodies.
- The "**pattern**" for our resurrected, glorified body will be the post-resurrection body of the Lord Jesus. (*1 John 3:2*)



THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR EARTHLY BODIES

Some characteristics of that body

- A distinguishable **voice** recognized by others.
- A distinguishable appearance, yet **perfect**.
- A real body of **flesh** and **bones**.
- A body that is not restricted by **time** or space.
- A body that can eat, yet does not need **food** for strength or life.
- A body that will welcome *the* very **presence** of Christ.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Don't take heaven for granted! It is a prepared **place** for a prepared **people**.
(*John 14:3*)
- You are not heaven-bound until you are heaven-**born**!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Are you ready to spend forever with Jesus Christ?
2. Are your priorities on earth driven by heavenly principles? Explain.
3. Do you really trust the Living God with your future body?
4. This past week did you experience that "tug" or longing to be with Christ in your heavenly home?