

Recognition (enriched) still May 17, 1970 A.M. ✓  
sp. music each. Oct. 5, 1975 P.M. WRI ✓  
Branch's stand showing March 13, 1983 A.M. ✓  
May 27, 1990 A.M. ✓

THE HEAVEN OF HEAVENS

John 14:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever experienced home sickness. I don't think I have ever read a description so moving as the heavenly city prepared as a bride adorn for her husband. Prepared for an eternal city. This is the thing we think about during the wedding march. It is - there is a home.

If all the graves in America <sup>removed</sup> were placed side by side, one could travel around the world over 3 times, stepping on nothing but graves.

It is said every time we breathe, somebody dies.

Life has been compared to the sea. With angry waves covered with human wreckage. Men have traveled around the world and returned home. And perhaps they have been in daylight most of the time.

" I think of that land, when we reach that city, pure and bright. We will dress then in long flowing robes, that ever shall be white. We will strike our harps with gladness and aloud his praises sing. O glory to the lamb that died to take away our sin."

No death, no graveyards, no weeping, for God shall wipe all tears from our faces. No need of light for the glory of God shall lighten it. And the lamb shall be the light thereof. I shall enter that land or city one day.  
Can you say that?

You loved ones are going in. Are you going?

The Bible mentions three Heavens. According to the Hebrew, first the Aerial. The Heaven of the clouds. The wind and the birds.

Second is the Heaven of the Firmament. The Heaven of the sun, moon, and stars.

Third, the Heaven of Heavens where God's throne is. Where the mansions of life and peace are. The home of the blessed. The home of the redeemer. Where the angels dwell.

I read of a man once who walked out, when a man began to speak about Heaven. The speaker later met the man. Why did you leave the meeting last evening. His reply, I went, expecting you to preach on something practical. We cannot know anything about Heaven -- it is all speculation.

Now all the Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. Some is given for warning, some for encouragement. If God had not wanted us to talk about Heaven, there would not be so much said about it in the Scripture. And there would not be so many promises about it.

I tell you, if we thought more about the mansions God is preparing for us, we would be thinking more about the things above and not so much about the things below, here on this earth. Col. 3:1 and 2 - if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above. Where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Put your affections on things above and not on things on the earth.

A man visited an art studio. He said the artist said, he kept some highly colored stones near his easel. After gazing upon these stone for a few minutes, when asked what the stones were, he said - they are eye toners. When the color of my eye runs down and I find myself incompetent for the task, I tone up the colors of my eye by gazing at these stones. Then I am able to resume my work.

Now to those who have discovered that they are incompetent to the task which God calls them - 2 Cor. 4:18, look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal.

And the things not seen are eternal.

First how do we know there is a Heaven. Some would say, no one has come back to describe it to us. How do you know there is a London? Well, you have read a newspaper from there. The same thing is true about Heaven. Do you believe in The Bible. It gives an account of the ascension. In the first chapter of Acts - the 8th verse, do you believe in the story of the transfiguration. Then read the 7th Chapter of Matthew. Verse 1-9. Moses has been dead almost 1500 years, in Heaven, when he appeared to those disciples.

Who was the young man that rolled the stone away, from the mouth of Christ's tomb.

Who stood with Daniel in the Lions' den.

Who appeared with Paul with the call from Macedonia.

Whom did John on Patmos fall down at his feet. Rev. 22:8 and 9. To show John the things yet to come.

Yes, we know there is a London because we see it on the map. I know there is Heaven because the Bible says so. Matthew 24:25. Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away.

According to the (dimensions) John gives us of Heaven, in Revelation, (Paris, London, Rome, St. Petersburg, Edinburgh, Stockholm, Dresden, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia) and all the cities of the earth could be put into that city and yet not fill it. John saw it measured. The dimensions given. The base of it would stretch from Northern Maine to Southern Florida. From the Atlantic to Colorado.

Or (another way), it would cover all of Brittian, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia taken together.

It's streets are numerous. Each street 1500 miles long.

Your remember Nineveh that Jonah had entered the city after a day's journey. How long will it take a man to explore this city. Whose every street is 1/5 the diameter of our earth. And besides which all the cities of our earth are hardly more than country villages. And God knows there will be enough out of the family of man to embrace salvation, to fill it, and to populate.

John seems to climb to the top of a mountain. And he looks out. There are thousands and thousands. Later he comes and says, there are 10 thousand times 10 thousand. He looks again, and he says there are 140 and 4 thousand, and thousands and thousands. And then he comes back - a great multitude which no man can number.

A great multitude and its gates were opened over 1900 years ago. Let the Son of God come out to redeem us. They will never be shut. And until all the redeemed and ransomed - from the East and West - North and South have set down with Abraham. This reminds us of the suffering of our Saviour.

When Mr. and Mrs. Adoniram Judson Baptist missionary to Burma, was on her way to America for her health, she suffered a relapse, on the island of St. Helena. Instead of regaining her strength, she soon died. They buried her on the island. And Judson found a poem which he carried until he died. I quote:

" We part on this green islet, love  
Thou for the Eastern Maine  
I for the setting sun , love  
When shall we meet again. "

When we knealt to see our Henry die  
And heard his last faint moan  
Each wiped away the others tears

Now each must weep alone.

But who can paint our mutual joy  
When all our wonderings 'oer  
We too shall clasp our children's three  
At home, on Burma's shore.

But higher shall our rapture glow  
On yonder's celestial plain  
And the loved ones parted here below  
Nar to depart again.

Some say Jesus has gone, never to return. But his last words were, yea, I come quickly. And on that dark and misty beach going out into eternity, every true believer stands by this love, looking, waiting, and praying for the fulfillment of His word. This man of Galilee will come back. And all are watching. That was a great day when Napoleon took Josephine. It was a great day when the King of Spain took Mercedes. But there is a greater day coming. When our Lord shall take his bride, the church, unto himself. The church has been down through the wilderness and men have written her off time and time again. But he has promised to lift her up. Out of the poverty, with all of his wealth. If I go, I come again, and will receive you unto myself.

Who could not thank God for that time. As one man spoke about his mother's hands, beautiful, beautiful hands. Though heart were weary and sad, those patient hands kept toiling on. That children might be glad. I almost weep as I look back, to childhood's distant day. How those hands rested not while mine were at my play.

But oh beyond this shadowed land, where all is bright and fair. I know full well that those dear hands will palms of victory bear. Where crystal streams through endless years, flow over golden sand. In that land where the old grow young again, I will clasp my mother's hands.

I read of a man once who asked why do look up <sup>up</sup> the earth revolving around. Heaven could be no more up than it could down. The man questioned turned to his Bible. And he found in the 17th chapter of Genesis that God speaking went up from Abraham. The 3rd Chapter of John - the conversion - Christ with Nicodemus. He told him who came down from Heaven.

In Acts the Disciples saw Jesus go up into Heaven, not down, and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Stephen died looking up steadfastly into Heaven. Job is not God in the height of Heaven. David said the Lord looked down from Heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God. Gal. 3:10 says brings the tithes and the Lord will pour out his blessings. He must be above us.

Beech figured this out by the solar system. Talmage used the stars and the heavens.

I might illustrate The man had a farm His neighbor's property was separated by a river. Years passed before he had any desire to cross the river. The buildings seemed barren. He sometimes look across but he never saw any beauty there. But finally the son of that farmer came over, courted his daughter, and at last married her, and then took her over there to live with him. The man said, the other side is the dearest and the brightest to me now. My daughter is over there. I am impatient with my home cares. I long to go across the river where

my daughter is. I know you, like myself. Heaven had no attractions for me once. Oh, sometimes I would think about it. But I really saw no beauty there. Until things began to take place. And I see different loved ones over there. A bright promising boy. And sometimes we get impatient with the cares of this world. Heaven is so bright and dear to me now. Beautiful Heaven. I would cheer up each one of you - Heaven is not far away. Our loved ones are not very far removed from us.

Don't mourn over your loss . They are close by.

Stephen was able to see from earth to Heaven. John on Patmos was able to see the same. The natural eye can see a hundred miles.

John the Baptist heard the voice from Heaven. This is my beloved son. Again 2 Peter 1:16-18, We have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. But where eye witnesses his majesty. For he received from God the Father, honor and glory.

Now Heaven is not so far away. As we think about it, some of our loved ones may be farther away from us in life than they are now in death. The invisible world may be very near to us but the natural eye cannot see it.

Did not the Bible seem to be far off, to you, at once. When with sin, you tried to read it. Did not somehow the mysteries seem strange. And you received Spiritual sight - do you not see it better. That is why Paul says Eph. 2:12-13 - at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens, strangers, having no hope - and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, you are made new by the blood of Christ. Do you not feel that you are made close by his presence. Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Lo, I am with you always.

Now a baby may be ever so healthy and have ever so good of eye sight, it cannot see like older eyes. Because its eyes are not developed. That is why

some dying Christians, because of their Spiritual sight are able to see, what is going on in Heaven. And that is why others are unable to see any Heavenly visions.

Moody quote, "I have been inside the gates for I have seen Mother and little Irene. The world recedes, Heaven opens, God is calling me."

Jane Pithy shouted "If this is death, I want to be always dying."

Fred Douglas cried in triumph, "Swing low, sweet chariots, coming to carry me home."

Wesley with the last breath, "The best of all is God is with us".

Now let us see how near Heaven is to us. Heb. 6:19. With hope we have as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast which enterth in within the veil. Again in Heb. 9:24, For Christ hath entered into the Holy place, made with hands. But into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

So according to the Word, Heaven is only separated by a thin veil

It might be illustrated by the fogs of England. When the morning sun comes through, the fog lifts. The coastline is visible and how refreshing. Dear Friends, the fogs of doubt, mysteries are heavy as you make this voyage through life. Then the Son of Righteousness breaks through and the mist is gone. And the Spiritual Body must have a Spiritual Home. Everything material grows old. But Heaven is the abiding place. Eternity will be one thing that makes Heaven, Heaven.

Another consideration exactly how Heaven looks. I cannot tell. But I can illustrate it with this rich English Lord who goes into the country and marries a poor but a beautiful young lady. They return to England. He took her to a



wonderful mansion. And as they climbed the marble steps, he said, this my dear is all yours. The interior was grand. Passing description. As they stood alone, he said, all of this I have made for you. Now take possession of your own. The change was so great, she could hardly realize it. Why did you keep it a secret, she asked. I loved you too well to tell you before. So I think that God desires to give us some surprises. But I know it is going to be supremely grand.

Now it didn't take God long to create the world. Nor to make man.

It took him 32 years to complete the plan of redemption.

But it has taken over 1900 years since Jesus said, let not your heart be trouble, ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself. That where I am, there ye may be also.

It will be over powering in brightness and glory. The human eye when seeing Moses and Elijah talking with the disciples James and John had to hide their faces. When the angel appeared to the young man at the tomb, to the Roman soldiers, they became as dead men, overpowered by his glory. Heaven must be a bright place.

Now figuratively speaking, it won't be the pearly gates, nor the walls of jasper, nor the streets paved with gold, that will make it Heaven for us. I read the story of a child who was carried to a neighbors home during the Mother's illness. The child was homesick and cried to be taken back. Two weeks after the Mother's funeral, they took the child to its home. They had not told it of the Mother's death. As they entered the house, the child went from room to room calling Mama. Receiving no answer, it went into every room in the house calling, Mama, Mama. Then going to the neighbor, the little child pleaded, carry me back

~~to your house. Mama is not here. I don't want to stay - for Mama is gone.~~  
So Heaven, would not be Heaven, without Jesus.

O they tell me of a King,  
In his beauty there  
And they tell me mine eyes shall see  
And behold where he sits on the throne  
That is whiter than snow  
In a city that is made of pure gold.

Friends will be there I have loved long ago  
Joy, like a river, round me will flow  
Yet just one smile from my Saviour I know  
Will through the ages be glory for me.

Now some ask will I know my loved ones there Now I like the answer that one has given. We certainly will not know less there than we do here. If we know here, then we should have some better knowledge when we get there. Because of Spiritual power, now it is called the Father's House. Now shall not the family know each other. Death often is spoken of as (sleep). Now if you know a person when he goes to sleep, shall you not know him when he wakes up. Do you not recall after the resurrection, Jesus met Mary. He talked to her about things that happened on the other side of his death.

In the story of Abraham and Dives, son remember if the lost and exiled remember, will not the saved remember.

I John 3:2, Beloved, now are we the sons of God. But it doth not appear what we shall be. But we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like Him. We shall see him as he is. If he knows us now, and if we shall be like Him, shall we not know Him.

I think in Heaven there will be some great music. A wonderful choir in Rev. 7 - John saw a great multitude which no man can number. Of all nations, kindreds, peoples, and tongues. Clothed in white robes, palms in their hands, and they cried with a loud voice. Salvation to our God who sitteth on the Throne.

The congregation of saints, John says, shall hunger no more, thirst no more, neither suffer from the heat - for the Lamb will be in the midst and feed them, and be a living fountain of waters. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

In that 14th Chapter, Verse 3, you see that great choir. I heard a voice from Heaven, as the sound of many waters. And as the great voice of thunder, and I heard the voice of harps harping. My soul (what a great Gospel) The Christian singers and composers of all ages to join in chorus. Mozart, Beethoven, Lowell Mason.

Remember the days of old. Continue the years of many generations. Ask thy fathers and he will show thee, thine elders and they will tell thee.

Though art worthy to be praised, for thou hath redeemed us and hath washed us from our sins in thine own blood. How marvelous the archangels and the angels and the ransom will sing through the ages.

Come beloved and go with me. I would love to go and hear that orchestra and be in His palace, and go to the banquet. And to witness the great Host that God has invited to come and drink.

*Handwritten note:*  
Auntie told me about Daddy's wife - she called children in one of mine, told, die, go to heaven - Baby son - But I want to do it now I want to leave me - you will be so (far away) - No son, I'm going to be with Jesus & the dearer you live to Jesus, the dearer you be to me!