



"But rather, you have come to Mount Zion, even to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless multitudes of angels in festal gathering, and to the church (assembly) of the Firstborn who are registered [as citizens] in Heaven, and to the God Who is Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous (the redeemed in Heaven) who have been made perfect." - Hebrews 12:22-23 (AMPC)

"For while we are still in this tent, we groan under the burden and sigh deeply (weighed down, depressed, oppressed)—not that we want to put off the body (the clothing of the spirit), but rather that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal (our dying body) may be swallowed up by life [after the resurrection]. Now He Who has fashioned us [preparing and making us fit] for this very thing is God, Who also has given us the [Holy] Spirit as a guarantee [of the fulfillment of His promise]. So then, we are always full of good and hopeful and confident courage; we know that while we are at home in the body, we are abroad from the home with the Lord [that is promised us]." - II Corinthians 5:4-6 (AMPC)

While on the Earth, each of us is consumed with our earthly life.

Our earthly, flesh and blood life is actually lived in the "land of dying."

"Heaven" is actually the "land of the living."

"Death" for the Christian is not a state – it is an act of transition.

At "death," the believer enters into a life that is larger, fuller, richer and more "real" than our physical, flesh/blood life.

Amazing things are happening right now in the Third Heaven, the Paradise of God, the presence of Jesus and His angels.

Jesus speaks of this in John 17:24 (TPT) - *"Father, I ask that You allow everyone that You have given to Me to be with Me where I am! Then they will see My full glory—the very splendor You have placed upon Me because You have loved Me even before the beginning of time."*

Every person who has experienced His salvation will at death enter into eternal life.

Before you "enter Heaven," Heaven must be "in you."

Matthew 22:32 (TPT) – *"I am the Living God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."*

His saints pass through death – they do not abide there, dwell there. It is simply a gateway to eternal life.

This we know:

- At death, the spirit/soul of the Christian goes immediately into God's presence.
- They are immediately in the presence of Jesus, His angels and God's Throne.
- They are very much alive and conscious as spirit-beings.
- It is called the Third Heaven, Paradise, where God directs the affairs of His Kingdom throughout the Universe.
- All believers present there are engaged in worship with His angels, joining those on Earth.

After transitioning from Earth to the Third Heaven, at death, every believer joins the activities of Heaven with a full, constant view of Jesus, face-to-face with Him.

There they experience and behold His glory – the glory of His divine nature, the glory of the God-Head (Father, Son and the throne, the beauty of His perfections, His great majesty, His almighty power, His infinite wisdom, His holiness and His grace).

"For now we see but a faint reflection of riddles and mysteries as though reflected in a mirror, but one day we will see face-to-face. My understanding is incomplete now, but one day I will understand everything, just as everything about me has been fully understood." - I Corinthians 13:12 (TPT)

Our spiritual conformity to His complete will begins here but is brought into perfect conformity there.

“By contrast, we have already come near to God in a totally different realm, the Zion-realm, for we have entered the city of the Living God, which is the New Jerusalem in Heaven! We have joined the festal gathering of myriads of angels in their joyous celebration!” - Hebrews 12:22 (TPT)

As soon as Jesus ascended back to the Third Heaven from Earth, this celebration has not stopped.

This “Festal Gathering” (assembly) brought together all the Old Testament saints along with the New Testament saints joining the angelic creatures of all kinds – angels, seraphims, cherubims, and messenger angels.

Notice the number – myriads, an indefinitely great number, a number that cannot be counted.

“Be careful that you not corrupt one of these little ones. For I can assure you that in Heaven each of their angelic guardians have instant access to My heavenly Father.” - Matthew 18:10 (TPT)

Today, there are approximately 1.8 billion children in the world, out of a population of 7 billion plus.

“The Angel of the Lord stooped down to listen as I prayed, encircling me, empowering me, and showing me how to escape. He will do this for everyone who fears God.” - Psalm 34:7 (TPT)

“And as members of the church of the Firstborn all our names have been legally registered as citizens of Heaven! And we have come before God who judges all, and who lives among the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect in His eyes!” - Hebrews 12:23 (TPT)

“Church” meant more than a church meeting, for it signified in Greek culture the governing assembly which had the authority to make decisions for the entire city.

In Christ, we are all “Firstborn Ones” and have all the rights and blessings that Jesus has.

Here in His presence, we become our full, true, divine-nature self. Our worship is joined to this assembly. It must be pure, Spirit-anointed, God-honoring, from the heart worship.

We are in fellowship with those who have gone before us – we come “to the spirit’s of righteous ones who have been made perfect.”

Discussion Questions:

- Heaven is the land of the _____ into eternal life.
- We pass through _____.
- In Heaven we behold the _____ of Jesus.
- Before you enter Heaven, Heaven must be in _____.
- Who is a part of the “Festal Gathering” in Heaven? _____ saints, _____ and angels.
- “Church” signified a _____ assembly with authority to make decisions for the entire city.
- In Christ we are all _____ ones.

Prayer:

Jesus, as I spend time in Your presence, help me to become my full, true, divine-nature self. As I worship You, let it be pure, spirit-anointed, God-honoring and from my heart.

Notes:
