

**Realms of the Supernatural by Todd Bentley By Todd Bentley**

*This article is taken from "The Reality of the Supernatural World" book written by Todd Bentley*

**Realms of the Supernatural**

As I spent time with the Lord while on a ministry trip in Georgia, I suddenly felt myself caught up into the spiritual realm. As I passed through the second heaven, I heard the sound of shattering glass. Floating before me, opposing me, was a Tibetan Buddhist monk with his legs crossed. As far as my eyes could see there was only darkness, yet a shaft of light surrounded me. Fear washed over me and the monk's presence kept me from getting into the third heaven.

This experience reminded me of the story of Gabriel eventually getting through to Daniel after the Prince of Persia held him up for 21 days (see Dan. 10). Sometimes we face spiritual warfare before we can enter into the supernatural world because the devil and his demons don't want anyone to have visions, dreams, or any supernatural experiences. They don't even want you to hear God's voice and will do everything they can to keep you from living in the supernatural realm of God.

I described my experience to Bob Jones, a mature prophet and friend of mine. "Was it that old Tibetan monk guy? That's the spirit of the Dalai Lama. He opposes people all the time," he said.

I asked Bob what I should do, and he said "Before you make yourself available, take authority over demonic powers that want to come against anything that God wants to give you."

Now I take authority over demonic hindrances before I wait on the Lord and enter into the experiences He has for me. If I do come across an opposing spirit, I rebuke it in Jesus' name.

This experience is one of many I've had in the second heaven as the Lord teaches me how to live as a naturally supernatural being. In Scripture, Joshua had a similar experience to mine where satan opposed him in the third Heaven as he came to the Lord: "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord and satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the Lord said to satan, 'The Lord rebuke you, satan!'" (Zech. 3:1-2a). Here we see Joshua, a human being like us, allowed into the heavenly court system before God the Judge and satan the accuser. I believe that we too can come "boldly to the throne of grace" (Heb. 4:16). We can participate in the proceedings of Heaven and have free access into God's council room as friends of God.

In this chapter, we'll take a whirlwind tour of the supernatural world and examine the different realms or places that exist there. Heaven and hell will become more real to you, and I believe that God will give you a greater passion for intimacy with Him, as well as a greater compassion for the lost. Get ready to walk in a deeper reality of life as a supernatural being residing in a natural body.

**Heaven**

When we read the first chapters of Genesis, we think about God creating the earth, animals, and humans. When did He create Heaven? In Genesis 1:7-8 God created the firmament, and I believe He created the heavens and the earth at the same time:

Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

Note that the heavens and the earth were created simultaneously. "Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished" (Gen. 2:1). In addition to creating Heaven and earth at the same time, God created all the heavenly hosts at this time too. God created the angels at the same time He created the earth, animals, and people.

Do you know why god created Heaven? Was it for His benefit? Remember, the Heaven of heavens can't contain Him. "But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him" (2 Chron. 2:6a). (Notice that this verse differentiates between "heaven" and the "heaven of heavens," which we will examine later.) The earth was originally an earthly Paradise created for us. God visited Paradise to Fellowship face-t-face with Adam and Eve. At that time, He didn't speak in parables and was never far away; however, when the pair fell into sin, everything changed. Death entered in, defiling the earth, so no longer could it be called "Paradise." Heaven therefore became the dwelling place for believers after death.

**HEAVENS ARE SUPERNATURAL REALMS**

Heaven is more than an eternal residence we will go to one day, for the heavens are also supernatural realms. The Bible refers to "heavenly places." Notice it's plural, more than one heavenly place: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Often people think that "heavenly places" refers to the second heaven where the demons dwell. Yes, the phrase can refer to this realm, but it's more than this, because Scripture tells us that Jesus is seated in the heavenly places (plural) (see Eph. 1:20), and He's not dwelling with the demons.

I believe that in Genesis, God created the sky and atmosphere of the universe (the visible realm), the second heaven where god rules on His throne (also the invisible realm), and the third Heaven where God rules on His throne (also the invisible realm). Apostle Paul says this: "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him" (Col. 1:16). Paul also speaks of these invisible heavenly places in Ephesians 6:12: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Although heavenly places in this verse refers to the second heaven, the phrase can't always refer to just the second heaven. Earlier in Ephesians we read that God "made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6). In this case, "heavenly places" speaks of the third Heaven. It seems that in Scripture heavenly places refers to the many places in the invisible realm, including the second and third heavens, the abyss, Hades, and Paradise. We will examine these different places in this chapter.

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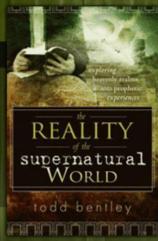
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