

THE HEAVENLY ENVIRONMENT



INTRODUCTION: “**For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior,** the Lord Jesus Christ, **who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,** according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”(Philippians 3:20,21)

Heaven is a beautiful place. There Jesus, the Sun of righteousness, forever reigns. **There’s no sin, sickness,**

pain and death in heaven, for where Jesus is, these things can't possibly exist. Now we should pray, like never before, that the kingdom of righteousness can be established in the earth, and we dwell with Jesus in the Peace, Joy and happiness **which no one but Him can offer.** Let's begin our study by looking at,

God's dwelling place.

Since the Scriptures say, **"The LORD's throne is in heaven"** from where **"His eyes behold...the sons of men."**(Ps 11:4), and since His throne is said to have been **"established...in heaven"**(Ps 103:19), then truth is Clear that **the Almighty dwells in heaven.** Whenever God's people were to confess their sins and pray to God, Solomon bade the Lord, **"...hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive.."**(1 Kings 8:39). God, you see, **is a Personal Being, not a force, and He dwells in heaven.** Though he has access to every part of the universe, **yet he's not personally present everywhere.** He's only omnipresent by His Spirit. Furthermore, we don't pray, "Our Father which art everywhere." But rather **"Our Father which art in heaven."**

What is the Heavenly Environment Like?

The Psalmist says, “**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.**”(Ps 89:14). And since it has been shown that God’s throne is established in heaven, and from there He rules the entire universe, **then heaven itself is filled with Righteousness, Justice, Mercy and Truth.** And the Praise “**Holy holy holy, Lord God Almighty**”(Rev 4:8) indicates how Holy He is, and how his holiness fills Heaven. Writes the apostle, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**”(2 Peter 3:13). Since the new heavens and a new earth will be nothing **but the extension of the Heavenly righteous environment,** then not only can we further prove from this scripture that Heaven is a righteous place, but also we can see that **wherever God dwells, there the heavenly environment is, for God doesn’t cease to be God by changing His location.**

The Establishment of His Will in Heaven

and on earth.

“**The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.**” (Ps 103:19). Notice that not only is God’s throne **established in heaven**, but also that **it is the throne of “His kingdom”** which “**rules over all**”, for the existence of a throne necessitates the existence of a kingdom, and vice versa. A kingdom, you know, basically comprises A King, His Law, His Territory and His subjects. God is the king, His character is the Law, and **He rules over “heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is.”**(Ex 20:11), and His created beings are His subjects. “**The heavens are the LORD’s heavens, but the earth He has given to the children of men.**”(Ps 115:16). Since this is the case that **the territory of God’s eternal kingdom includes the whole universe**, then it signifies that it is His will **that the heavenly environment of righteousness and holy and peace should be extended to all parts of the universe especially the earth** where humans dwell. The kingdom of heaven, you see, doesn’t just mean something that is located in heaven. There can be the kingdom of heaven on

earth, as long as the heavenly atmosphere is here and God himself.

“Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”(Matthew 6:9,10)

The statement **“Your kingdom come”** is a prayer to Ask God **to extend** His Heavenly Government, atmosphere and kingdom **to this earth**, so that sin, death, and sorrow can be swallowed up in immortality. And, **“Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”** Is largely an emphasis on the same point, that as it is God’s will that the angelic beings can abide by his laws in the righteous kingdom in heaven, so should it be with humans on the earth.

The Heavenly Kingdom on Earth, When?

One fundamental truth from Scripture is that the heavenly environment, the heavenly kingdom, **is not going to be fully extended to this earth until the Second coming of Christ**, when **“the tabernacle of God”** shall be **“with**

men”[all righteous, on earth”] “**and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**”(Revelation 21:3).

Yes, When “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom **under the whole heaven** [that is throughout the earth, not just some parts], shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, **whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.**”(Daniel 7:27).

“But **the full establishment** of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world. ‘The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom **under the whole heaven,**’ is to be given to ‘the people of the saints of the Most High.’ Daniel 7:27.. “(MB 108.1). Notice that the “full establishment” necessitates a prior “partial establishment.” This heavenly kingdom, the heavenly environment, you see, can begin [partially] on earth **among God’s people.** And while the Bible teaches that The subjects of the kingdom can receive it by faith and indwells them (Luke 17:20,21), it also teaches or depicts

the heavenly environment/kingdom among God's people

During the Loud Cry.

“For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns. The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory.”(Isaiah 62:1,2)

“...say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’”(Isaiah 51:16). Zion, you see, represents God's people, the Church. And though the Church has completely lost her way and has **“sadly failed to meet the expectations of her Redeemer.”** Yet the Loving Lord is not going to rest **until she shall be exalted back to the heights of the apostolic church.** Then it is that the rest of the world will see her righteousness and glory, and they shall be converted.(Compare with Isa 60:1-4)

“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! **For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,**’ says the Lord. **‘Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst.** Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. And the Lord will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, **and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!**”(Zechariah 2:10-13)

Notice that the Lord will come to Zion, the church (see also Isa 59:20) and establish “**a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain**”.(3SM 385, 5T 80) **He will dwell with His people during the loud cry,** the time “**Many nations shall be joined to the Lord**” because of the final gospel message (Rev 18:4). His coming to dwell with His Church **is what will bring the heavenly environment among His people.**

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: **‘I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.’**

Thus says the Lord: **‘I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain.’** Thus says the Lord of hosts: **‘Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age. The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.’** Thus says the Lord of hosts: **‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?’** Says the Lord of hosts. Thus says the Lord of hosts: **‘Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east And from the land of the west; I will bring them back, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.’**”(Zechariah 8:2-8)

He will gather His people to Jerusalem, and “In truth and righteousness” they shall be His people and He will be their God among them. The Church at this time shall be called **“the City of Truth”** and **“the Holy mountain.”**(Compare with Micah 4:1,2)

“For then I will take away from your midst [Zion] Those who rejoice in your pride, And you shall no longer be haughty In My holy mountain. I will leave in your midst A meek and humble people, And they shall trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness And speak no lies, Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, And no one shall make them afraid.”(Zephaniah 3:11-13)

The Lord’s coming, and His purifying of the Church, brings sin and sinners to an end in the Church. Thus the heavenly kingdom, the heavenly atmosphere, is extended to this earth before the full extension “at the last trump”

“In the last days of this earth’s history, God’s covenant with His commandment-keeping people is to be renewed. ‘In that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

And I will betroth thee unto Me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto Me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord. **And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the Lord, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;.”**(PK 299.1.2, see Hosea 2:18-21)

“It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. **They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth..”**(CCh 39.5)

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”(Matthew 24:14), **“For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.”**(Rom 9:28)

This, you see, is God's program for the finishing of the gospel work. When the work shall thus be completed, Probation will come to an end, and Christ will come to fetch his own, and to fully establish His glorious kingdom, where sin and sinners will never exist.

May the Lord Help His People

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