**LOGOS BIBLE STUDY**

**LESSON 107: HEAVEN AND HELL**

I. HEAVEN - Where To Set Your Sights - Colossians 3:1-3; and where your

 heart should be focused - Matthew 6:19-21.

NOTE: Scripture does not say much about heaven, nor give any description other than what Paul said that there are not words to describe it. Some first hand descriptions are available from Dr. Richard Eby's testimony in his two books: CAUGHT UP TO PARADISE and DIDN'T YOU READ MY BOOK.

 A. Heaven is a literal place with a specific location and is the dwelling place of God the

 Father - Matthew 5:34 & 6:9.

 1. It is also where Christ is NOW - Acts 1:9-11; 7:55-56, Romans 8:34 and

 Ephesians 1:20.

 a. This is where we go after death until the resurrection.

 2. Heaven is NOT a planet as has been misrepresented by some in the past.

1. Heaven is not an element of this existing universe – it transcends our universe and is in a superior dimension.

 B. Heaven is NOT the future eternal dwelling place of the saints as is traditionally

 taught - John 14:2-3.

 1. Heaven is the temporary dwelling place where we go to be with Jesus when we die

 - John 14:3.

1. That temporary dwelling place used to be called "Paradise" until Jesus took it from its old place beneath the earth and brought it with Him to heaven when he ascended - Ephesians 4:8.

 i. Those held captive in sheol/hell (paradise) - Luke 16:22-23; 23:43.

Note: don't confuse the current use of the word "hell" with what scripture calls hell which means that holding place of the departed saints within the earth.

 b. Heaven is the Father's place where Jesus now is and intercedes for us there,

 preparing us for the Father's abode - John 14:12 & 16:5.

 2. The Marriage Supper and Judgment Seat of Christ, handing out rewards and

 crowns, probably occurs there.

 a. It is where our spiritual citizenship (our heart and mind) is to be centered –

 Philippians 3:20, (Note: the word "conversation" = citizenship).

 b. The rewards and crowns are earned (not gifts) based on our obedience and

 walking in His righteousness having overcome Satan, sin and self (flesh).

 i. Many will make it to the marriage supper, but will not earn

 rewards and crowns.

 3. Where will Jesus be after Armageddon - here on earth to rule and reign.

 a. Who returns to earth with Him - the saints.

 i. To rule and reign with Him.

 b. The saints are no longer in heaven after His return to earth!

 4. Our heavenly abode is only temporary while He is there.

II. The mansions of John 14:1 are not literal buildings or houses.

NOTE: The word Mansion " comes from the word *monai* which refers to an "abode" as used also in John 14:23 *(moneen).* John 14:2 literally reads, "In my Father's dwelling place are many abiding places...".

 A. Our abode is in HIM and His abode is in us - John 17:21-23.

 1. Our dwelling is in the person of the Father - NOW.

 2. Jesus was returning to the Father to prepare room for us in and with

 the Father to function as our Great High Priest representing us to Him

 and making intercession (pleading for us) as we accept Him and call

 Him.

 a. Jesus is also preparing us as an abode for the Father and sent the

 Holy Spirit to do that work in us - 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20.

 i. If we abide (continue our abode) in Him, the Vine, then He

 prepares a place of abiding (abode or mansion) for us in the

 Father; great blessings are a result - John 15:1-7.

 aa. Our mansion (dwelling or abode) is in the Father, in His

 "**house**" – John 14:2.

 ii. It does not say "in heaven"!

NOTE: The traditional view of "making it to heaven" is a distortion of what Jesus was saying in John 14. We have been focusing on a future change of our EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT where Jesus as actually referring to a present change of our INTERNAL RELATIONSHIP with the Father. Moving us from a relationship with Jesus only, to a relationship with both HE and HIS FATHER - John 14:23 note "our abode". Jesus desires to introduce s to His Father. He laid down His life so we could experience a relationship with the Father; the same kind of relationship He had with the Father while on earth.

III. There are three heavens - 2 Corinthians 12:2-4.

 A. First Heaven is the physical one which we see with our natural eye.

 1. It consists of the atmosphere around earth and extends all the way out

 into space encompassing our solar system, the stars and other galaxies.

1. These are the physical heavens that compose what he call the universe.
2. See appendix A on the stars and zodiac as used by man as a source of knowledge – Psalm 19: 1-3 and Romans 1:19-21

 2. The Second Heaven is the **spirit realm** which is not seen by the

 natural eye.

 a. It covers the exact same area that the first heaven does; it has been

 referred to in the past as the Fourth Dimension.

 b. This is the heaven in which the demons, angels, (both of God and of

 the devil), and Satan himself operates in.

1. This is the realm of the unseen.

Note: Lucifer, now called Satan was cast out of the Third heaven which is God's place - Luke 10:18. Satan was then limited to the second and first heavens but will soon be cast out of the second one too - Revelation 12:7-9, 12. Then He will be mad because he will not be able to conceal himself from man by hiding in the unseen second heaven. This is when the anti-christ begins his severe activities working in and through a man, it is Satan at work being fully exposed and revealed operating in the first heaven - this earth.

 3. The Third Heaven is God's place.

 a. It is where His throne is.

 b. It is where Jesus is preparing a place (paradise) for His own.

 c. It is where the New Jerusalem is being built - Revelation 21:1-3,

 and 9-10.

IV. HEAVEN IS IN ANOTHER DIMENSION – (it is not a planet out in

 space).

 A. Whereas the "second" heaven is the unseen or fourth dimension, the

 "third" heaven is in a dimension beyond.

 1. The first heaven, space is unlimited, without end; likewise the second

 heaven, invisible to us in this limited 3-dimensional life.

1. Subject to the limitations of time and space (distance).

 2. The third heaven is a whole different dimension that completely

 surrounds, envelops and encompasses our 3-dimensional physical

 universe.

 a. From the dimension God is in, He can observe the entire scope of the

 first and second heaven all at the same time.

 b. Thus he can see the beginning of events and the end of events (or

 time) all at the same time.

 c. Einstein and other physicists have theorized that there are multiple

 dimensions beyond our customary three.

1. Dimensions where time and space (distance) do not apply and are not items that can be measured.

 B. His heaven will be revealed - Revelation 6:14

 1. The first and second heaven are eliminated as we are brought into the

 realm of God's heaven or dimension.

 a. The first heaven that is visible (sky and space with stars, etc. will be

 peeled back to reveal the dimension of God - Revelation 6:14.

 2. God brings us into His dimension where all things a new and different.

NOTE: Theory of Rotation - the center of the physical universe. We know that all stars, planets and moons are round or circular. We also know that they all rotate, most around their own axis or another heavenly body. We also see that whole galaxies appear to rotate about a point in their center. Rotation seems to the standard of movement of heavenly bodies. Therefore, theoretically, it could be concluded that all the heavens are in a state of rotation about a central point. However, this is not possible to observe since in order to determine such movement or rotation there must be a fixed point of reference to compare movement to. But since all heavenly bodies are in rotation simultaneously we are not able to find that unmovable fixed point of reference. That fixed point would have to be the center of the universe which would be a most interesting place to find.

V. WHAT ABOUT HELL ?

1. The Old Testament Hebrew word **SHEOL** and the New Testament

 Greek word **HADES** both refer to **HELL.**

NOTE: this is not the grave, the resting place of the dead body which is typically in the ground. The *hell* referred to here is for the departed soul and spirit that has separated from the body.

1. Hell is the unseen realm of departed souls of the unjust or

 unrighteous.

 a. Those who have died without faith in Jesus Christ.

 2. Where their souls are kept in a conscious state of torment until their

 resurrection at the end of the seventh millennium –

 Revelation 20:5-6.

 a. The righteous experience their resurrection a thousand years

 earlier.

 B. Hell is a retaining compartment within the heart of the earth -

 Matthew 12:40.

 1. Is there fire in hell ? YES ! Luke 16:24.

 a. It is a foretaste of the "lake of Fire" which is the eternal destiny of

 both death and hell and all that is in them - Revelation 20:14-15.

 i. Hell is like the trash pit for the refuse of humanity.

 b. Since souls are immortal, they are not annihilated or eliminated but

 are enveloped in torment.

 i. What kind of fire does not consume - Exodus 3:2.

 C. Hell was not made for man, but for the devil and his angels -

 Matthew 25:41.

 1. God made provision for all mankind to avoid hell and the second

 death.

 a. By the terms of the Law established under the Old Testament Blood

 Covenant.

 b. By faith in Jesus after His atoning sacrifice and resurrection –

 Romans 10:9-10.

 c. All who end up in hell have had their sins paid for but they didn't

 acknowledge, accept or receive the gift of life.

 2. Angels - Those who rebelled with Lucifer are the rightful inhabitants of

 hell with their leader.

 3. There is a special compartment (lower hell) for certain angels who

 worked with Satan to pervert the human race in effort to stop the

 promised seed of the woman from coming - 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 4.

 a. Their sin is listed in Genesis 6:1-4 and will be covered in a later

 lesson.

 i. These are probably a certain level or rank of angels that had

 specific abilities; (more later).

 b. This hell is called Tartarus, (translation from 2 Peter 2:4); the abyss

 or the bottomless pit - Revelation 9:1-2; 11:7; 17:8 and 20:1-3.

NOTE: A good description of hell is available from Dr. Richard Eby. Read his testimony of when he died and went to Heaven, and year later when Jesus showed him hell. Dr. Richard Eby P.O. Box SVL 8155 Victorville, CA 92392

VI. HELL IS NOT THE LAKE OF FIRE

 A. The "Lake of Fire" is located in "outer darkness" - Matthew 8:12.

 1. Called outer darkness because of its separation from God who is

 LIGHT.

 2. Hell is located in the heart or core of the earth.

 B. Hell itself will be cast into the Lake of Fire - Revelation 20:14.

 1. With all of its inhabitants - Revelation 20:15.

 C. Hell (sheol in Greek) is where the wicked await their resurrection to

 appear before the Great White Throne Judgment - Revelation 20:13.

 1. The bottomless pit appears to depict this holding place of torment; they

 may be one and the same - Revelation 9:1-2; 11:7; 17:8 and 20:1-3.

 a. This will be Satan's address for 1000 years.

 D. The Lake of Fire is known as Gehenna (Geenna) to the Jews.

 1. It is named after the Jerusalem's trash dump outside the city in the

 Valley of Hinnom.

 a. The trash fires burn day and night and never seem to go out, (burn

 forever).

 2. The Lake of Fire is the eternal spiritual trash pit for all the enemies of

 God.

 a. For all that reject Him or oppose Him.

 3. Is it possible that this Lake of Fire is also in another dimension?

VII. THE ULTIMATE DESTINY OF CHRIST'S ENEMIES

 A. Death and hell are cast into the Lake of Fire.

 1. Both are enemies of Christ and represent all that is contrary to our

 righteous God – 1 Corinthians 15:26.

 a. No more death, SEPARATION from GOD forever!

 B. Satan gets a new permanent address - Revelation 20:7-10.

1. The unrighteous get some nasty company for eternity.

VIII. View The Video - 23 Minutes in Hell – by Bill Wiese

1. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLxtJYI7NpE>

1. Visit this web site: www.23minutesinhell.com for addition information.