

Things that Make You Go Hmmm...

Maybe you were sitting in church one Sunday morning and heard a sermon about heaven. Or perhaps you were reading the Bible in your own private devotional time and came across a passage regarding heaven. Maybe you were reading a passage in Matthew in which Jesus referred to “the angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22:30). Or you were reading Revelation 12:7 about a “war in heaven.” And then you said to yourself, “Hmmm... I wonder where heaven is.”

There are many “easy” answers to the question. Stop an average man on the street and ask him. Chances are he will extend his index finger and point it to the sky. Some might say that is where God and the angels live. Others might say it is a state of the mind. They would probably say the same thing about hell. The philosopher would make it an ethereal, nebulous, and imaginary place like the Land of Oz. Some well intentioned believers would say that it doesn't matter where it is; just that it is a place where they will go some day and that wherever it is Jesus will take them there one day.

But is heaven a real place and if it is, where is it really? Does the Bible tell us anything about where it is? Does it at the very least give us any clues? Hmmm!

If heaven is not a real place then Jesus, the Son of God, God manifested in the flesh (John 1:14), and was the exact image of God (Hebrews 1:3), was lying when He taught His disciples to pray, “Our Father which art in heaven” (Matthew 6:9). Heaven is a real place where God dwells. Our blessed Lord and Savior also referred to the “angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22:30). And so heaven is a place where the angels of God dwell.

And make no mistake, Satan knows where heaven is for it is a place in which he once lived but at some time a place from which he fell (Isaiah 14:12). Heaven is a place to which Satan, though he no longer dwells there, has access (Job 1:6, 2:7). And that access is given by permission from God to be the “accuser of our brethren” (Revelation 12:10). And so Satan in this very day still has access to heaven as that said accuser and having access to that place he knows where that place, i.e. heaven, is. And where does Satan live today? In Job 1:7, Satan answered the Lord's question, “Whence comest thou?” saying “From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” Ephesians 2:2 describes him as “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” Yes, Satan knows exactly where the place called heaven is.

But can we know where heaven is? Some time ago I read in a book (and my memory of which book and author has eluded me) that astronomers have said that there is a vast expanse in the northern sky where no celestial bodies can be found. No stars, no planets; nothing. Well, I said to myself, “hmmm, is that where heaven is?” And so I went to my Strong's Concordance and looked for passages that contained the word “north,” especially as it might pertain to heaven.

Here is what I found.

- I. In the 26th chapter of Job we read Job's response to his “friend” Bildad. In his response Job talks about the greatness and the goodness of God. In verse 7 Job makes this statement in reference to God's greatness in creation: “He stretcheth out of the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” There we see the north and the empty place in the same sentence. Reference to heaven?
- II. In the book of Ezekiel chapter one and verse one Ezekiel was “among the captives by the river Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.” In verse four of the same chapter Ezekiel “looked, and behold, a whirlwind came out of the north.” The rest of the chapter

deals with the description of the vision from/of God. From whence came this vision? Out of the north.

- III. In Isaiah chapter fourteen verse twelve a character named Lucifer is addressed. He is called "Son of the morning." He is asked "How art thou fallen from heaven?" Did anyone other than Satan (and his minions) ever fall from heaven? Then we see in verse thirteen these words: "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will set also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north."
- IV. Then in Psalm 75:6 I found this: "For promotion (meaning to raise up) cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south." Then where does promotion come from? It must come from the north.

Let me conclude this short dissertation with a few comments. First, since the word heaven occurs 565 times in the Bible it seems to be a really important subject. Second, I realize that someone may accuse me of "proof-texting." Guilty. But remember that I started with a question, not a proposition. Third, I cannot, nor can anyone, pinpoint the exact location of heaven. Fourth, from these Scriptures I can only say that I believe that heaven might well be somewhere in the northern sky. Fifth, and finally, I don't need a GPS or a State Farm atlas to get to heaven. I know how!

The gospel of Jesus Christ is clearly stated in I Corinthians 15:3-4, which says, "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures: and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." In Acts 16:31 the jailer was told, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." And now that I believe I know that one day I will be in heaven where Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God the Father where ever heaven is. Believe and join me and millions more who will never again have to say "hmmm."

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