

The Present Heaven  
Part 2

Is a physical place

4/25/2010

**I. I should see Earth as a derivative realm and Heaven as the source realm.**

1. The tabernacle

“They (the earthly priests) serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” Hebrews 8:5

“When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.” Hebrews 9:11

- Earth is like a cheap copy of the original.

I like the way Heaven is described in *Safely Home* by Randy Alcorn:

Compared to what he now beheld, the world he’d come from was a land of shadows, colorless and two-dimensional. This place was fresh and captivating, resonating with color and beauty. He could not only see and hear it, but feel and smell and taste it. Every hillside, every mountain, every waterfall, every frolicking animal in the fields seemed to beckon him to come and join them, to come from the outside and plunge into the inside. This whole world had the feel of cool water on a blistering August afternoon. The light beckoned him to give into with abandon to come join the great adventure.

This is the substance that casts all those shadows in the other world. The circles there are copies of the spheres here. The squares there are copies of the cubes here. The triangles there are copies of the pyramids here. Earth was a flatland. This...well, the inside is bigger than the outside, isn’t it? How many dimensions are there? Far more than you have seen yet,” the King said, laughing. This is the Place that defines and gives meaning to all places,” Li Quan said. “I never imagined it would be like this.”

**II. I should abandon the assumption that something existing in one realm cannot exist in the other.**

God = Spirit

“God is Spirit...” John 4:24

Angels = Spirits who can take on a physical form.

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

Although angels can take on a physical body, they do not become men or women, they remain spirits.

Jesus Christ = Spirit and Body

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

John 1:14

Man = Spirit and Body.

God did not create Adam as a spirit and place it inside a body.

Rather He first created a body, THEN breathed into it a spirit.

We cannot be fully human without both a spirit and a body.

Since humans cannot exist without a physical body and as physical body requires a physical environment we must therefore understand that the Present Heaven must be a physical place.

Things you will find in the Present Heaven...

### 1. Temple

“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power...” Rev 15:8

If Heaven is not a physical place, how can there be a “temple” or “smoke?”

“After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened.” Rev 15:5

“I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the LORD a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them.” 1 Chron 22:14

100,000 talents of gold and 1,000,000 talents of silver. Since a talent was about 34 kilograms, this would be 3.4 million kg of gold -- or about 120 million ounces. If you wanted to buy an ounce of gold, as of the close of the market on Friday, the cost would be about \$1,154.

The money used to build the temple in Solomon’s day was equal to, in today’s dollars

The value of the gold: \$1,154 x 120 million oz. = \$132 billion  
The value of the silver: \$18.22 x 1.2 billion oz. = \$21.86 billion

What kind of building could be built for \$150+ billion dollars? And if a \$150+ billion dollar were to be built, what would it be like? And if things on earth are but a derivative (or a cheap copy) of what is in heaven, imagine what the temple looks like in the Present Heaven?

### 2. Animals

“As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying...” Rev 8:13

“The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses...” Rev 19:14

### 3. People wearing robes

“They were wearing white robes...” Rev 7:9

### 4. Palm branches

“...and were holding palm branches in their hands.” Rev 7:9

### 5. Musical instruments

“Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.” Rev 8:6

We are also told there are scrolls, a throne, elders with faces, tears, lamp stands, and many other physical items which you would absolutely recognize.

## III. I should embrace Heaven as my real home.

If you could live anywhere, where would you want to live?

Have you ever wondered why you would like to live in the mountains, or on a tropical island or someplace unique and special?

Well, maybe it is because you were created to live in a garden, a paradise.

“Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43

Why did Jesus use the word “paradise”? Why did he not call it Heaven?

Paradise: “enclosed garden, or a walled park” Personally, I believe he was making reference to the Garden of Eden.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” Rev 2:7

What happened to the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve sinned? Did it get swallowed up by the curse and wither and die? I don't think so. At some point we know that God removed the tree of life and it is now residing in the New Jerusalem, the city that is sitting in Heaven waiting to descend up the earth but could be also be possible that God “transplanted” the entire Garden of Eden into Heaven? I think it is not only possible, it is probable.

We have not heard of the “tree of life” since Genesis...

“And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Gen 2:9