

The Present Heaven  
Part 7

Six important things to  
remember  
6/6/2010

1. In Heaven, I will remember all about my life on Earth.

“Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.”  
Mal 3:16

Memory is a basic element of personality. If we are really ourselves in Heaven, there must be continuity of memory from Earth to Heaven.

That is why when someone suffers from amnesia, everything changes, and all we hope is that the individual's memory will return so that everything can return to the way it was. When you go to Heaven there will be no amnesia. In fact, your memory will be absolutely perfect.

2. People in Heaven, see what is happening on earth  
(to some extent)

Those on Earth may be ignorant about what is happening in Heaven, but those in Heaven are not ignorant of Earth. It seems unthinkable that those in Heaven would remain ignorant of the culmination of human history taking place on Earth.

King Saul wrongly appealed to the witch of Endor to call upon Samuel to come back from the afterlife, the medium was terrified when God actually sent Samuel.

Samuel remembered what Saul:

- A. had done before he died,
- B. what had happened since he died
- C. and what was about to happen.

“Samuel said, "Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has turned away from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David. Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the LORD has done this to you today. The LORD will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also hand over the army of Israel to the Philistines.”  
1 Sam 28:16-19

3. In Heaven people, are praying for me.

- Christ is praying for me.  
“Christ Jesus, who died...is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”  
Rom 8:34

- The Saints are praying for me.  
If the people in Heaven can see what we are going through here on Earth, then it would seem strange for them NOT to intercede in prayer for us.

4. Heaven is still Heaven, even though people are aware of evil that is happening on the Earth.

Some would argue that people who are in Heaven cannot see what is happening here on Earth because if they did see the suffering and evil that is going on, it would make them unhappy, and therefore, Heaven would not truly be Heaven.

Reason # 1: God knows exactly what's happening on Earth, Yet it doesn't diminish Heaven for him.

Reason # 2: The angels know what is happening on Earth  
And it is still Heaven for them. In fact, Angels can see the torment  
of Hell, but it doesn't make Heaven any less wonderful and  
amazing for them.

“A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone  
worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the  
forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's  
fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.  
He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy  
angels and of the Lamb.” Rev 14:9-10

Reason # 3: Abraham and Lazarus saw the rich man's agonies in  
Hell, but it didn't cause Paradise to cease to be Paradise.

Luke 16:23-26

5. It is possible for there to be periodic sadness in Heaven.

Jesus grieved for people when he was on Earth.  
“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone  
those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children  
together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you  
were not willing.” Matt 23:37

“When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along  
with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.”  
John 11:33

Does Jesus no longer grieve for His people just because He is in  
Heaven? Or does He still hurt for his people when they suffer? Acts  
9:4-5 gives a clear picture:

“He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul,  
why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.  
"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," Acts 9:4-5

6. The Joy of Heaven is inescapable both in the Present Heaven...  
“Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him  
glad with the joy of your presence...” Psalms 21:6

and to a degree, even here on Earth.  
“You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me  
with joy in your presence.” Acts 2:28

We will experience joy to the degree that we embrace His presence  
in our lives. It is also conversely true that we will experience the  
lack of joy in our lives as we ignore His presence.