**R905\_Rumination for May 29, 2022 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **The** **New** **Heaven**  [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *I saw a* ***new heaven****… for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away* Rev. 21:1

The **T**hots:

1. **Heaven**
2. Its **C**onnotation in Scripture.
3. The Hebrew Word in the O.T**. –** *šāmayim = heaven or heavens.* 420 occ. Strong
4. Used of the **S**ky where the birds fly, and the atmosphere where the clouds are. Gen. 1:20; Jud. 5:4, etc.
5. Used of outer **S**pace where the **S**un, moon and **S**tars are. Gen. 1:14, etc.
6. Used of the dwelling place where God **S**tays. Psa. 2:4, etc.

* *Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God,*

*the earth also, with all that therein is.* Deut. 10:14

* *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have builded?* I Kgs. 8:27
* *The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath He given to the children of men.*

Psa. 115:16

1. The Greek Word in the N. T. – *Ouranos* = *air, heaven, sky* 284 occ. Strong
2. Literally, **H**eaven (as the abode of God). See #2a
3. Figuratively, **H**appiness, power, eternity; See #2b
4. Its **C**oncept.
5. It is a **P**lace:
6. Where God is: *Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool…saith the Lord.* Acts 7:49
7. Where Jesus is: *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands…*

*but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:* Heb. 9:24

1. Where those **B**egotten of God will **B**e:

*In My Father's house are many mansions…I go to prepare a place for you.* Jn. 14:2

*God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ…hath begotten us again unto a lively hope…*

*to an inheritance…that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.* I Pet. 1:3-4

1. It is **P**aradise – Cf. Jesus’ **P**romise to the thief on the cross: Lk. 23:43 cf. II Cor. 12:4; Rev. 2:7

*And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise.*

1. The **C**ity in Heaven *–* ***the New Jerusalem***. Rev. 21:2, 9-27

–the eternal habitation of the resurrected saints during the Millennium.J. Dwight Pentecost

1. It is a **L**iteral City inhabited by: Heb. 12:23-24
2. *The general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven*
3. *God the Judge of all,*
4. *The spirits of just men made perfect,*
5. *Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant…*
6. It is called the **L**amb’s Wife – *Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.* Rev. 21:9 cf. 19:8
7. It is **L**ike a costly Precious Stone – …*her light was like unto a stone most precious…*Rev. 21:9-**11**-21
8. The **L**ord God and the **L**amb are its Temple. Rev. 21:22

*I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

1. Its **L**ight is the **G**lory of the **L**amb, and the Triune **G**od. Rev. 21:23, 24

*And the city had* ***no need*** *of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it:*

*for the* ***Glory of God did lighten*** *it, and* ***the Lamb is the Light*** *thereof.*

*And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it:*

*and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

*And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be* ***no night*** *there.*

*And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.* Rev. 21:25-26

*And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.*

*And there shall be* ***no night*** *there; and they* ***need no*** *candle,* ***neither*** *light of the sun;*

*for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.* Rev. 22:4, 5

1. And the River of **L**ife flows freely through it with the Tree of **L**ife on either side. Rev. 22:1, 2

*And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there* ***the tree of life****, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

*And there shall be* ***no******more curse****: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.*

*And there shall be* ***no night*** *there; and they* ***need no candle****, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.* Rev. 22:3-5

*God shall wipe away all tears There’s no death, no pain, nor fears;*

*And they count not time by years, For there is no night there.* John R. Clements*,*

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK: R.905**

* 1. David Wittenberg, a Jewish Christian answered in his blog on Jun 15, 2018 a question related to an exclamation as follows:

*“****Heavens, No****!****”*** *is a particularly emphatic way of saying “No!”*

*You may be familiar with various “swear words” in English. The reason they are called swear words is because when someone would swear (make a solemn promise), the person would invoke (name) God to show how serious he was. Even today, in American court rooms, witnesses have to promise to tell the truth, “So help me God.”*

*The use of swear words spread far beyond solemn promises such as oaths taken in court. People now use such swear words simply to add emphasis to what they are saying. In addition to the more direct references to God and religious concepts, which are taken as blasphemous or grossly offensive by devout (religious) people, a set of bywords has been invented to make casual swearing less offensive.*

*“Heavens!” is one of these bywords. Other examples include “Darn!” “Zounds!” “by Jiminy!” “Jesus H. Christopher!” “Criminy!” and “Heck!”*

It can be considered blasphemous when an unbeliever calls on God or Heaven to witness to whatever he says as “truth” or right when he does not believe in God or Heaven. Indeed. God is real, and Heaven is real – one just has to look up into the sky at night!

The psalmist wrote in Psalm 19:1 –

*The* ***heavens*** *declare the* ***G****lory of* ***God****; and the firmament sheweth His handywork.*

Why mention, or worse, call upon *God* and the *heavens* to witness to what the person says when he does not even believe in God or heaven?

Whether he believes God or no, one day God will call on him to account for his sin for *it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:* (Heb. 9:27)

Then the God by Whom he swears will judge him and sentence him not to heaven but to hell because his sins have not been forgiven! Note: As there is an *earth* (which we can see is real, physical and literal) so are *heaven* and *hell* likewise mentioned in the same breath as stated in scripture. When Zophar Charged, Criticised and Condemned Job for being sinful, though not fully Correct, his Characterisation of God and Who God is was most Commendable –

*It is as high as* ***heaven****; what canst thou do? deeper than* ***hell****; what canst thou know?*

*The measure thereof is longer than the* ***earth****, and broader than the sea.*

Compare this with the statement of the Psalmist: Psalm 115:16

*The* ***heaven****, even the* ***heavens****, are the LORD'S: but the* ***earth*** *hath he given to the children of men. If I ascend up into* ***heaven****, Thou art there: if I make my bed in* ***hell****, behold, Thou art there.* Ps. 139:8

We live on an earth that is physical, literal and real – therefore, heaven and hell that are mentioned with earth in the same breath, must also be real. Think about it. **REFLECT**.

* 1. Note what Jesus warned the Jews and other people of His days concerning Hell –

Mk. 9:43(NKJV) – *If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to* ***hell****, into the fire that shall never be quenched--*

Mk. 9:45 (NKJV) – *And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into* ***hell****, into the fire that shall never be quenched*

Mk. 9:47, 48 (NKJV) *– And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter* ***the kingdom of God*** *with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into* ***hell*** *fire- where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'* **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *The* ***H****orror of* ***H****ell is too great for the* ***H****uman Mind to Comprehend.*